

**Roundtable Meeting #51 - 2024
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
November 5, 2024**

Review Meeting

The Commissioners met at 1:00 p.m. at 4465 Coonpath Road NW, Carroll, OH. Commissioner Levacy called the meeting to order, and the following Commissioners were present: Jeff Fix, Steve Davis, and Dave Levacy. County employees present: County Administrator, Aundrea Cordle; Deputy County Administrator, Jeff Porter; Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, Rochelle Menningen; Communications & Information Coordinator, Bennett Niceswanger; Budget Director, Bart Hampson; FCFC Manager, Tiffany Wilson; Facilities & EMA Director, Jon Kochis; Deputy HR Director, Abby Watson; Dog Warden, Leighann Adams; Utilities Director, Tony Vogel; Sheriff, Alex Lape; Chief Deputy Treasurer, Michael Kaper; Deputy Parks Director, Jimmy Springer; JFS Director, Corey Clark; ADAMH Executive Director, Marcy Fields; Interim MCU Commander, Scott Duff; Recorder, Lisa McKenzie; Deputy Recorder, Holly Librock; Clerk of Courts, Branden Meyer; Soil and Water Manager, Nikki Drake; Urban Specialist, Chad Lucht; Career Navigator, Karie Stone; IT Director, Dan Neeley; Deputy Director of Operations, Jason Grubb; Economic & Workforce Development Director, Rick Szabrak; Health Commissioner, Joe Ebel; Coroner's Assistant, Kelly Brown; Coroner's Administrator, Luann Davidson; Judge, Terre Vandervoort; Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown; Economic Development Specialist, Anthony Iachini; Interim RPC Director, Holly Mattei; and Angela Krile.

Welcome

Commissioner Levacy opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance.

County Administration Update

End of 2024 and 2025 Dates

Administrator Cordle highlighted the end of 2024 and 2025 dates and noted that the 2025 State of the County Address will be held at the new Sheridan Center in Lancaster. She added that the CRMS and Resolution Training will be held January 29th.

Economic and Workforce Development Update

Director Szabrak provided an update on the Hicks Partners agreement for grant writing services. He summarized some of the grants that county agencies, municipalities, and townships have received this year. He encouraged everyone to use their services.

Human Resources Update

Deputy Administrator Jeff Porter stated that open enrollment is complete. This coming year, each department will be given a spreadsheet of employee benefit elections for budgeting purposes. Performance evaluation training went well and continues to be an integral component of the compensation schedule. An email with deadlines for performance evaluations has been distributed. Lastly, the employee cookbook will be released the week before Thanksgiving.

Abby Watson spoke on the county's Empower workgroup. She mentioned an upcoming event at the Liberty Center in March.

Strategic Plan Update Exercise

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Administrator Cordle stated that the purpose of today's roundtable would be to discuss and receive feedback on the next phase of the Strategic Plan.

Angela Krile stated the purpose of the exercise would be to determine what should remain included in the plan and what should be changed or added. She encouraged people to use their perspective, as it relates to their agency, and consider the different ways they could impact the Strategic Plan pillars. She summarized the goals of the Strategic Plan pillars, as well as their respective objectives.

Attendees were asked to break into groups and rotate through each Strategic Plan pillar to consider which elements should remain in the plan and what should be changed or added.

Report Out

Directors Vogel and Kochis provided a summary of the suggested changes for infrastructure. Suggestions included upgrades to broadband, multi-use paths, better access to limited transportation areas, increased funding to relieve traffic congestion, and promoting mixed use development.

Director Clark provided a summary of the suggested changes for social services. Suggestions included emphasis on a proactive versus reactive approach to addressing social issues, increased awareness of other organization's services for better referrals, opportunities for funding that have long-term sustainability, breaking the stigma, and finding additional ways to support professionals who are providing these services in the community.

Deputy Administrator Porter provided a summary of the suggested changes for housing. Suggestions included converting existing structures instead of building new structures, training zoning officials and boards to be better versed in the model zoning code, improved inspection processing, a regional approach to housing, and adopting a model zoning code.

Director Szabrak provided a summary of the suggested changes for workforce development. Suggestions included tailoring initiatives to specific areas of the county, assuming a leadership role with at-risk youth, support of small businesses, identifying output jobs, helping people with barriers to entering the workforce, and connecting with FFA's.

Anthony Iachini provided a summary of suggested changes for economic development. Suggestions included collaboration with regional partners, assistance to existing businesses, addressing new community authority incentives, tools for minority and women-owned businesses, and land acquisition by the county to facilitate development.

Directors Hampson and Neeley provided a summary of suggested changes for county operations. Suggestions included work across all political subdivisions, training newly elected officials, use of AI technology, review of county facilities and ADA accessibility, coaching and development of county officials, and explaining centralized purchasing.

Next Steps

Angela Krile stated the suggestions would be synthesized to determine how they can be incorporated into the Strategic Plan. The final plan will be presented during the February Roundtable.

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