

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Date of Meeting: April 15, 2024

Members Present: Chair Nicole Blakley, Vice Chair Jim Nicholson, Treasurer Bill Hope, Secretary Mary Stentz, Jerry Snay, Pat Heydinger, Judy Forney, Randy Pore

Members Excused: Bennie Allen

Members Absent:

Others Present: Nikki Harless, Nicole Foulks, Kevin Goshe, La'Shaun Reuer, Recording Secretary Amy Hackedorn

Others Absent: Sarah Soliday

The regular monthly Board meeting was held on Monday, April 15, 2024, in the Board Conference Room at Richland County Children Services. Chair Blakley called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m. of Board members present and representing a quorum.

AGENDA

On a motion by Snay, seconded by Forney, the Board unanimously approved the proposed agenda by all Board members in attendance.

MINUTES

On a motion by Hope, seconded by Snay, the Board unanimously approved the March 11, 2024, regular Board meeting minutes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Harless informed the Board that she attended the annual Richland County child fatality review hearing in March. Co-sleeping is becoming a trend again for child fatalities (there were 3 incidences in 2023). We had the opportunity to meet our new State caregiver coach. The position will work with our current foster parents on grievances and resolving issues as a type of mediator. Harless also mentioned the fact that we completed our 2023 Annual Report. The RCCS DEI Enrichment committee has come up with fun activities for staff lately. Blakley thanked Stentz for donating donuts to RCCS staff for Social Work Appreciation Month.

On a motion by Nicholson, seconded by Stentz, the Board unanimously accepted the Executive Director's report.

Executive Committee Report

No report at this time.

Finance Director Report

March Finance Report

Goshe distributed and reported on the March 2024 Final Financial Report regarding the revenues and expenditures. This included a beginning balance of \$8,020,797.31, \$555,436.79 in revenue, and \$984,539.92 in expenses with an ending balance of \$7,591,694.18. The ending fund balance reflects 53.0% or about 6.4 months of the 2024 budget.

Goshe stated that total revenue was 10.8% lower than budgeted at the end of March, although that is a typical occurrence every year until the first real estate tax settlement is received. This was received (in the amount of about \$2.7 million) in April, so that revenue source will show up in the April Financial Report. Expenses were 3.8% lower than budgeted at the end of March, and all expense lines were lower than budgeted except the Adoption line (which was 4.1% higher than budgeted).

Hope asked about the vehicles that were purchased. We are still waiting on 3 vehicles from Lindsay Honda in Columbus. The Agency bathroom remodeling project was discussed briefly. The Board of Commissioners put out a Request for Qualifications for architects recently. They selected an architect but have not yet been able to work out the details. Hope and Forney agreed that we should wait to revisit this topic again next month to see how/if the Commissioners get this issue finalized on their end. If our projects cannot be done concurrently, we may need to go with another entity anyway. Goshe will ask to receive copies of the qualification packets that were submitted so that the Finance Committee members can start to review the information prior to the May Board meeting.

On a motion by Hope, seconded by Stentz, the Board unanimously accepted the March 2024 Final Financial Report.

Finance Committee Report

No report at this time.

Personnel Committee Report

No report at this time.

Services and Program Report

2nd Half/End of Year 2023 PQI Report

Nicholson stated that the Committee met on 3/14/24. The main takeaway is to find additional ways to recruit more foster homes, which would help with many different facets of Agency operations (disruptions, foster care cost, etc.). It takes at least 6 months for new homes to become certified, so we need more inquiries to turn into homes. This is a chronic issue throughout Ohio, so we are not unique in this. Foulks stated that QRTP placement restrictions have even caused many group homes to close. The State is trying to push counties to work together for treatment homes, but this has not gone over well. We have also been working with Fostering Ministries to give them information to present to their congregations on the benefits of fostering. Caseworker backlogs are down, which can probably be contributed to the incentive programs that the Board put in place. These programs seem to have improved staff productivity, especially in the Intake department. We received Best Practices incentives

again this year, which is a great reflection of the Agency. The Committee also discussed longevity payments. Sixty percent of RCCS employees did not receive a longevity payment, so that is fairly significant in that it indicates that 60% of our employees have been with the Agency less than 5 years.

Foulks shared the Federal Placement Stability graph with the Board, which was received after the Committee met. The Governor of Ohio said that State employees can theoretically get one hour paid for mentorship, although Nicholson still needs to find the State employees who would qualify for this incentive. We may see a grant in the biennium budget next year.

On a motion by Pore, seconded by Heydinger, the Board unanimously accepted the S&P Committee report.

BILLS

Payment of Agency Bills - On a motion by Nicholson, seconded by Hope, the Board unanimously approved payment by signature of the Agency bills.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Nicholson, seconded by Stentz, the Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:
Nicole Blakley, RCCS Board Chair
Amy Hackedorn, Recording Secretary