

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Date of Meeting: December 9, 2024

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

Members Excused:

Members Absent:

Others Present: Nikki Harless, Nicole Foulks, Kevin Goshe, Sarah Soliday, Tara Lautzenhiser, Recording Secretary Amy Hackedorn

Others Absent: La'Shaun Reuer

The regular monthly Board meeting was held on Monday, December 9, 2024, in the Board Conference Room at Richland County Children Services. Chair Blakley called the meeting to order at 3:27 p.m. of Board members present and representing a quorum.

### AGENDA

On a motion by Snay, seconded by Allen, the Board unanimously approved the agenda as presented by all Board members in attendance.

### MINUTES

On a motion by Snay, seconded by Stentz, the Board unanimously approved the November 18, 2024, regular Board meeting minutes.

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Harless reported on the bathroom remodeling project. Goshe sent the finalized contract to the architect today for his signature, and then he will send it back to us for our signature. Once all parties have signed, then the architect can meet with us to discuss a start date for the project. Harless stated that the CAC is now open and ready for use. We conducted our first interview there today, although it wasn't law-enforcement involved. There was a meeting on November 25<sup>th</sup> with Senator Romanchuk to discuss him helping to get some of the local hospitals on board. The plan is to get all of the CEOs in one room. Avita is going to donate some of their old exam equipment, so at this point we are just waiting on a nurse. If OhioHealth or Avita aren't interested, we could also partner with Nationwide Children's. They have already expressed interest in providing a SANE nurse part-time for this purpose. We will have at least two internal forensic interviewers who will conduct the interviews. Interview footage is saved to the cloud with the software company we contracted with, and we can download the videos and send them to law enforcement or the Prosecutor's Office for viewing. As far as physical security is concerned, there will be a member of law enforcement there, and participants must be let into the building.

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

## **Executive Committee Report**

### **2025 Board Meeting Schedule**

The Board schedule for 2025 was proposed, with regular meetings remaining on the second Monday of every Monday at 3:30 except for the meeting in October, which will be at 3:30 on Tuesday (10/14/25) due to a Monday holiday.

On a motion by Heydinger, seconded by Snay, the Board unanimously approved the 2025 Board Meeting Schedule as presented.

### **2025 Board Officers**

The proposal is to have Blakley continue to serve as Chair until she leaves the Board in June, with Nicholson continuing to serve as Vice Chair, Hope serving as Treasurer, and Stentz serving as Secretary.

On a motion by Heydinger, seconded by Allen, the Board unanimously agreed to retain the same officers in 2025 as in 2024 (specifically: Blakley as Chair, Nicholson as Vice Chair, Hope as Treasurer and Stentz as Secretary).

### **2025 Board Committees**

Since none of the Board members present stated a desire to serve on a different committee, the proposal is to retain the same committee memberships in 2025 as in 2024.

On a motion by Nicholson, seconded by Snay, the Board unanimously agreed to retain the same committee memberships in 2025 as in 2024.

## **Finance Director Report**

### **November Finance Report**

Goshe distributed and reported on the November 2024 Final Financial Report regarding the revenues and expenditures. This included a beginning balance of \$8,669,510.20, \$649,143.32 in revenue, and \$1,327,642.48 in expenses with an ending balance of \$7,991,011.04. The ending fund balance reflects 55.8% or about 6.7 months of the 2024 budget.

Goshe stated that total revenue was 5.8% higher than budgeted and total expenses were 5.1% lower than budgeted at the end of November. All expense lines were lower than budgeted except the Adoption line (which was 6.1% higher than budgeted) and the Placement line (which was 5.7% higher than budgeted). The lease agreement with Family Life Counseling for CAC office space was signed during the month of November. Heydinger asked about the supplemental SCPA allocation. Goshe stated that we have never before received a supplemental advance.

On a motion by Hope, seconded by Pore, the Board unanimously approved the November Final Financial Report as presented.

### **Finance Committee Report**

Hope stated that the Committee met last Tuesday for the purpose of approving the recommendations to the full Board regarding the 2025 budget and its components. All Board members present agreed to vote once to approve all aspects of the 2025 budget and its components.

### **2025 Purchased Services**

RCCS Finance Director Kevin Goshe commented on the 2025 purchased services budget. The main change was the removal of the \$100,000 earmarked for an internal law enforcement investigator. Other than that, this is fairly similar to 2024.

### **2025 Foster Rate Chart**

Goshe stated that the proposal is to raise the per diem for our Agency foster homes by \$1.00 from the 2024 rates. The rates were last increased January 1, 2023, by \$1.00 per day, and this has traditionally always been increased on a biennial basis. This would only cost approximately an additional \$25,000 for all of 2025. PCSAO (Public Children Services Association of Ohio) is proposing changes at the state level to try to negotiate a flat rate for placements. Administrative costs for the private agencies would also be lower because they would only have to handle one RFP versus 88 of them.

### **2025 Pay Scale**

In an effort to maintain consistency, the proposal is to increase the maximum amount for pay range 1 from \$21.83 to \$24.33 so it is only 5% less than the maximum for pay range 2.

### **2025 Pay Increases for RCCS Staff**

The proposal is to give a 5% cost of living pay increase to staff (barring anyone going past the maximum of their respective pay range) effective in the first pay period of 2025. The effect to wages would be approximately \$263,000 (plus contributions to PERS and Medicare).

### **2025 Asset Replacement Budget**

Goshe explained that this document allocates funding for Agency assets that may or may not need maintenance. Our access control system was initially purchased in 2014, so this is proposed for replacement along with the Fujitsu scanners that staff use to scan in documents for electronic access. Some funds are budgeted in the line items for potential repairs to the air conditioning condensing unit, furnaces and the sprinkler system air compressor (although hopefully these will not need repaired).

### **2025 Budget**

Budgeted revenue for 2025 is currently \$12,410,533 and the budgeted expenses for 2025 are \$14,738,760. This would result in a negative budgeted net income of \$2,328,227. The asset replacement budget is proposed in the amount of \$76,520. For 2024, we budgeted a negative net income of approximately \$2.6 million and ended up negative only around \$800,000, so the effect to net income in 2025 may not be the whole \$2.3 million. Placement costs will continue to rise, so this is an ongoing concern. We pay around \$15,000 each month for adoption subsidies as well.

On a motion by Hope, seconded by Stentz, the Board unanimously approved the 2025 overall budget and its components as presented in its entirety.

### **Personnel Committee Report**

No report at this time.

### **Services and Program Report**

No report at this time.

## **BILLS**

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

Blakley thanked Harless for all of her work on the CAC over the past 1.5 years. Harless stated that this hasn't been an easy or quick process, but it will be good for Richland County.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Nicholson, seconded by Stentz, the Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Nicole Blakley, RCCS Board Chair

Amy Hackedorn, Recording Secretary