

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Date of Meeting: July 8, 2024

Members Present: Chair Nicole Blakley, Vice Chair Jim Nicholson, Treasurer Bill Hope, Pat Heydinger, Randy Pore, Bennie Allen

Members Excused: Secretary Mary Stentz, Jerry Snay, Judy Forney

Members Absent:

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

Others Absent:

The regular monthly Board meeting was held on Monday, July 8, 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

There is need to amend the agenda in order to add an Executive Session under the section for the Executive Committee.

On a motion by Heydinger, seconded by Pore, the Board unanimously approved the agenda as revised by all Board members in attendance.

MINUTES

On a motion by Hope, seconded by Nicholson, the Board unanimously approved the June 10, 2024, regular Board meeting minutes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Harless reported on the Child Advocacy Center. The CAC team went to Dr. Burggraf's facility at 222 Marion Avenue. This building is currently being under-utilized, so we would be able to use half of the building for housing the CAC. There is plenty of parking and it is well situated. Senator Romanchuk was able to obtain \$100,000 in state funding for the necessary improvements to be made to the building. Colleen Rice presented the proposal to him on the CAC's behalf, and it was a nice surprise that this was approved. Law enforcement representatives from the CAC team would like to meet with Senator Romanchuk regarding any stipulations that may be associated with the funding. Harless spoke with Romanchuk, and he is willing to meet with the CAC members. We were already going to use Dr. Burggraf's staff for the mental health portion of the CAC services, so he has already been somewhat involved with this process. Harless is trying to schedule another meeting with the Ohio Network of Children's Advocacy Centers to help obtain further guidance on next steps. We could eventually serve Ashland and Crawford counties as well if this project proceeds to fruition.

Harless mentioned that three of the six RCCS youth who graduated in June are already enrolled in college. A new caseworker just started today, so there are currently five casework vacancies.

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

Executive Committee Report

Executive Session

At 4:00 p.m., Chair Blakley recommended an Executive Session. On a motion by Heydinger, seconded by Nicholson, the Board voted unanimously to move into Executive Session by roll call vote in order to consider matters concerning Agency personnel, specifically, the compensation of a public employee or official. At that time, each Board member responded as follows: Nicholson, "yes"; Allen, "yes"; Hope, "yes"; Heydinger, "yes"; Pore, "yes"; and Blakley, "yes." Blakley advised Harless, Hackedorn, Goshe, Soliday and Reuer that they could remain present.

On a motion by Nicholson, seconded by Heydinger, the Board voted unanimously to return to open session at 4:14 p.m. The lobby was checked, and there were no members of the public waiting to be admitted.

Resolution 07-08-24-01: Resolution to Approve Settlement Agreement

Following discussion in Executive Session, Blakley put forth Resolution 07-08-24-01, in which the Board approved a settlement agreement with an RCCS staff member. The settlement agreement (which was drafted by RCCS legal counsel and the terms of which were negotiated during mediation between the parties) provides for a one-time payment of \$9,120.15 to the employee plus required OPERS contributions in addition to crediting the staff member an additional 24 hours of sick leave and 24 hours of vacation leave. Acceptance of this settlement agreement requires the staff member to dismiss with prejudice their case against RCCS that is pending with the Ohio Supreme Court.

On a motion by Nicholson, seconded by Hope, a majority of the Board members present (Heydinger, Hope, Nicholson, Pore and Blakley) agreed by roll call vote and signature to approve the settlement agreement as outlined above. Board member Allen abstained for reasons of conflict of interest.

Finance Director Report

June Finance Report

Goshe distributed and reported on the June 2024 Preliminary Financial Report regarding the revenues and expenditures. This included a beginning balance of \$8,920,810.67, \$828,717.43 in revenue, and \$1,243,227.87 in expenses with an ending balance of \$8,506,300.23. The ending fund balance reflects 59.4% or about 7.1 months of the 2024 budget.

Goshe stated that this is a preliminary report due to the fact that the VoIP system expense line (costs for the County phone system) is not correct, so the books are not balanced. Goshe informed the Board that we took delivery of the last two Honda Civics a few weeks ago, so we now have all 8 vehicles. One of the new Honda Accords was already involved in a head-on collision (where the other driver was at fault) which resulted in \$19,000 worth of damage. Luckily no one was injured. Our deductible is \$25,000, and the vehicle only had 604 miles on it total at the time of the accident.

Finance Committee Report

No report at this time. Goshe stated that we received a proposal in the amount of \$17,500.00 from the architect (Brad Maurer) for design services for the Agency bathroom remodel project. The proposal is currently being reviewed by the Prosecutor's Office. Maurer believes he can start within 2-3 weeks of receiving the signed contract and 10% retainer fee. If the contract is received back prior to the next Board meeting, the Board agreed that the Agency should proceed with obtaining Maurer's services.

Personnel Committee Report

2024 Personnel Manual Revisions

Soliday stated that there were very few minor changes made to the Agency Personnel Manual this year, most of which pertained to employee training and the retention of training records. Soliday read through the brief list, which included changes to Sections 3.2, 3.3, 3.4 and 7.4.

On a motion by Hope, seconded by Nicholson, the Board unanimously approved the 2024 revisions to the Agency Personnel Manual as presented.

Services and Program Report

No report at this time.

BILLS

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

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Nicholson, seconded by Pore, the Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Nicole Blakley, RCCS Board Chair
Amy Hackedorn, Recording Secretary