

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Date of Meeting: October 7, 2024

Members Present: Chair Nicole Blakley, Vice Chair Jim Nicholson, Treasurer Bill Hope, Secretary Mary Stentz, Jerry Snay, Pat Heydinger, Bennie Allen, Randy Pore (3:43 p.m.)

Members Excused: Judy Forney

Members Absent:

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

Others Absent:

The regular monthly Board meeting was held on Monday, October 7, 2024, in the Board Conference Room at Richland County Children Services. Chair Blakley called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. of Board members present and representing a quorum.

AGENDA

Blakley stated that there is need to amend the agenda and proposed the addition of “2025 Insurance” as a topic of discussion under the Finance Committee section.

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

MINUTES

On a motion by Heydinger, seconded by Stentz, the Board unanimously approved the September 9, 2024, regular Board meeting minutes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Harless reported on progress toward our CAC (Child Advocacy Center) development. Harless is trying to schedule a new date and time to go visit Clark County's CAC because they have special recording equipment there that allows participants to view interviews electronically. The gentleman that Harless and Goshe met with on 9.27.2024 at the proposed CAC location (Mental Health and Addictions state committee representative Christopher Mazzola) explained the funding process to Dr. Burggraf and Colleen Rice. Everyone involved with the CAC will need to commit to providing services for 20 years in order for this to be approved. We wouldn't need to create a separate CAC Board since we already have one, but we would have to create a separate committee for this at the very least.

Hope asked if we record interviews with parents. Foulks explained that the only time we do this now is with incarcerated individuals who are being interviewed via phone. Caseworkers are required to meet with parents face-to-face at least once a month. The state provides Microsoft Teams for us to use for

family meetings. Goshe, Harless, and other local leaders had a good meeting down in Columbus to hear from the Department of Children and Youth. This will be an annual summit to promote teamwork throughout Ohio. Commissioner Tony Vero met with Nikki, councilman Aurelio Diaz and the director of Wayfinders (Miles Parsons) to discuss a recent case issue involving a homeless family in Richland County. We now have custody of the children, although immediately afterwards the mother found a way back to Sandusky (where they are from). *Pore arrived at this point in the meeting (3:43 p.m.).*

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

Executive Committee Report

No report at this time.

Finance Director Report

September Finance Report

Goshe distributed and reported on the September 2024 Preliminary Financial Report regarding the revenues and expenditures. This included a beginning balance of \$9,348,345.33, \$777,008.26 in revenue, and \$1,014,716.54 in expenses with an ending balance of \$9,110,637.05. The ending fund balance reflects 63.6% or about 7.6 months of the 2024 budget.

Goshe explained that the Auditor's Office is short-staffed (one employee is out on leave and one walked out with no prior notice), so this is still a Preliminary Report. Goshe stated that total revenue was 11.5% higher than budgeted and total expenses were 5.3% lower than budgeted at the end of September. All expense lines were lower than budgeted except the Adoption line (which was 5.2% higher than budgeted) and the Placement line (which was 3.1% higher than budgeted). The dash cam contract with Verizon Wireless was signed during the month of September.

Due to the fact that this was a Preliminary Financial Report, further discussion and a formal vote will be tabled until the finalized report can be reviewed at the regularly scheduled November Board meeting.

Finance Committee Report

2025 Insurance

Goshe distributed a handout containing proposed Agency health insurance premium rates for 2025. Hope stated that the Finance Committee did not have any objections to this, and that it would be their recommendation to adopt these rates, especially since a 5.7% increase over 2024 premiums is very favorable to employees. Staff are used to the 10%/90% split (where the Agency pays 90% and the employee pays 10%), so the recommendation is to retain this as well.

On a motion by Hope, seconded by Allen, the Board unanimously approved the 2025 insurance rates as presented.

Personnel Committee Report

No report at this time.

Services and Program Report

No report at this time. The next Committee meeting will be held at 2:00 on Tuesday, October 15th.

BILLS

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

Blakley reminded the Board that the next Agency Executive Director will be selected at the November meeting, so members should allot at least 2 hours for this meeting. Soliday has received four (4) applications for that position to date.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Nicholson, seconded by Allen, the Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Nicole Blakley, RCCS Board Chair

Amy Hackedorn, Recording Secretary