

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Date of Meeting: September 9, 2024

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

Members Excused: Vice Chair Jim Nicholson

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, September 9, 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

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

MINUTES

On a motion by Hope, seconded by Allen, the Board unanimously approved the August 12, 2024, regular Board meeting minutes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Harless reported on the "Supporting and Working with African American Families: A Non-Stereotypical Approach" diversity training. Back in 2022, the RCCS Board voted on the creation of a policy where staff must obtain 6 credit hours of diversity training annually. The training this year was through CORTC (the Central Ohio Regional Training Center). The Core Team will be conducting an all-staff training with staff in October on the finalized list of Fundamentals. Harless reminded the Board that these are a list of behaviors that will set the expectation we have of the Agency culture moving forward.

Harless finally got the Child Advocacy Center Memorandum of Understanding signed by everyone, including law enforcement. Nikki is going to go with Richland County Prosecutor Jodie Schumacher to Clark County JFS on Thursday this week. Clark County JFS employs the coordinator and the forensic interviewers for their CAC. It may be more appealing to individuals to apply for these positions if it is a county position instead of a 'grant' position. They will also be meeting with the Clark County Prosecutor to hear their opinion on how the CAC process meshes with prosecuting cases. Nikki's recent meeting with a foster parent was the result of an appeal. The foster parent is transferring her license to the Village Network because she felt like she was not being given enough teenage boys for placement in her home.

However, she disrupts a lot of them due to their behaviors or conflicts with the court, so there currently aren't many teenage boys in our custody who she is willing or able to take back into her home.

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

Executive Committee Report

No report at this time. The Executive Director position will be posted on 9/16/2024.

Finance Director Report

August Finance Report

Goshe distributed and reported on the August 2024 Final Financial Report regarding the revenues and expenditures. This included a beginning balance of \$8,112,080.02, \$2,337,195.01 in revenue, and \$1,100,929.70 in expenses with an ending balance of \$9,348,345.33. The ending fund balance reflects 65.2% or about 7.8 months of the 2024 budget.

Goshe stated that total revenue was 13.2% higher than budgeted at the end of August, primarily due to receipt of the second real estate tax settlement and the second Public Utilities Property tax payment of 2024. Total expenses were 4.1% lower than budgeted at the end of August, and all expense lines were lower than budgeted except the Adoption line (which was 6.0% higher than budgeted) and the Placement line (which was 2.9% higher than budgeted). There were no new contracts signed during the month of August.

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

Dash Cams

Goshe reminded the Board that dash cams were discussed at the July Board meeting following discussion of numerous recent accidents involving Agency vehicles. The Prosecutor's Office told Goshe that it is probably unlikely that we could blur the images of children in the vehicles, although there are exceptions to that. Although we deal with a lot of confidential information, video taken inside a county vehicle would not in itself constitute an exemption to the public records request act. Images will be overwritten after 20 hours since these are saved on an SD card, so it may not even be an issue if the image is not retained. If we would retain incident footage for any reason, that would then be subject to public records disclosure. Verizon has a contract available to public entities that would give us reduced pricing. The main benefit to this specific technology is that it turns on automatically when the car is started. This would have video and audio inside the car, and video only outside the vehicle. Blakely stated that if we go this route we would need some sort of written repercussions. Snay asked about defensive driving. The Sheriff's Office no longer offers this in person, but we do still have a mandatory training. There was some discussion about insurance as it pertains to using personal vehicles while on the clock. Hope recommended collecting data for 6 months before implementing any sort of discipline or creating a new disciplinary policy. Blakely believes that 6 months is plenty of time for data collection to see the extent of the problem, and discipline can be considered after that point.

Stentz left the meeting at this point (4:00 p.m.).

The initial cost would be \$500 per camera, which may be waived if special pricing is still available, and then \$48.95/month/car moving forward for the service. We currently have 17 vehicles. We would have to sign a 12-month agreement, and early termination fee is \$75/vehicle.

On a motion by Hope, seconded by Pore, the Board unanimously agreed to purchase 17 dash cams for the 12-month commitment period.

Finance Committee Report

No report at this time.

Personnel Committee Report

Additional 2024 Personnel Manual Revisions

Soliday stated that there is one additional proposed revision to the 2024 Personnel Manual. This was discussed at the July Board meeting and consists of removal of the Mentoring compensation section from Section 4.5 (Salary Administration).

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

Resolution 09-09-24-01: Reclassifying a Position

Soliday put forth Resolution 09-09-24-01, in which the management staff of RCCS requested the reclassification of one (1) vacant Family Support Specialist position in Pay Range 2 to one (1) new Family Support Coordinator position in Pay Range 7 for purposes of managing the workload of the FSS staff.

On a motion by Forney, seconded by Hope, the Board members present unanimously agreed by roll call vote and signature to approve the resolution outlined above in order to reclassify the vacant FSS position to a new Family Support Coordinator position.

Services and Program Report

No report at this time.

BILLS

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

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Pore, seconded by Hope, the Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

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