

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Date of Meeting: August 8, 2016

Members Present: Chair Renee Bessick, Vice Chair Jim Kulig, Secretary Pam Siegenthaler, Dr. Michelle Kowalski, Attorney Jason Murray, Lynn Friebel, Stacy Jackson-Johnson (4:08)

Members Excused: Treasurer Robert Kirkendall

Members Absent:

Others Present: Patty Harrelson, Nikki Harless, Marsha Coleman, Kevin Goshe, Chris Zuercher, Recording Secretary Amy Gosser, Olivia Brewer, Nicole Foulks, Sarah Kulesa

Others Absent:

The regular monthly Board meeting was held on Monday, August 8, 2016, in the Board Conference Room at Richland County Children Services Board. Chair Bessick called the meeting to order at 3:38 p.m. of Board members present and representing a quorum.

NEW HIRE INTRODUCTIONS

Harrelson introduced a new RCCS caseworker:

- Olivia Brewer, BA, is a new Intake caseworker who was hired on 7/18/16. She recently graduated college with a degree in Social Work from the University of Akron; her internship was completed at Wayne County.

The Board introduced themselves and welcomed Brewer to Richland County Children Services. Brewer excused herself from the meeting at this point.

AGENDA

Bessick added Resolution 08-08-16-01 to the agenda for recommendation during the Executive Committee's report. The mini-training was also moved further down the agenda, as presenter Kulesa would not be able to attend the meeting until after finishing a training session at 4:00 p.m. today.

On a motion by Siegenthaler, seconded by Kulig, the Board unanimously approved the proposed revised agenda by all Board members in attendance.

MINUTES

On a motion by Murray, seconded by Kowalski, the Board unanimously approved the July 11, 2016 Board meeting minutes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director's Report and Comments

Harrelson reported on the resignation of Board member David Leitenberger. A card was passed around for the remaining Board members to sign, and a presentation may be made to the Commissioners regarding his service. Harrelson also passed around cards for the Board to sign for Sarah Owen Hammad, Dennis Rickett, Tim Harless, Rhonda Marsh, and Phillip Graves. Each of those RCCS employees had received some form of recognition in the last month from members of the community for their dedication to children and families. Harrelson then read a card that the Agency received from one of our trainers, Dr. Robin Tener.

Adam Brown from NYU (New York University) has agreed to continue consulting with us for free regarding the Trauma Systems Therapy (TST) project. The Annie E. Casey Foundation may continue to fund this for a while, but we haven't heard anything from them yet confirming that. The Agency will find some way to continue this project regardless.

Dan Varn wants to change the Richland County United Way policies. Several organizations that are requesting funding are also receiving money from Medicaid. He is trying to address gaps in the community. They are going to focus more on funding programs instead of facilities. Smaller agencies and nonprofits might not be able to show outcomes (due to lack of access to data tracking and management systems), but they still may be doing good work.

Regarding the Catalyst Helpline changes: the issue is that their crisis team (the people who respond in a crisis) has diminished. They are trying to hire people, but this shouldn't affect us unless a child who is on our caseload becomes suicidal. They have stated to Harrelson that they will still be able to respond in those instances.

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

MINI-TRAINING

The subject of the August Board mini-training was the Signs of Safety (SOS) program. Sarah Kulesa from Minnesota presented. Kulesa works at Carver County in Minnesota and is one of about 35 social workers there. They have had Andrew Turnell (one of the creators of the SOS program) come there twice a week for 5 years. After implementing

this method, their placements were cut almost in half. They haven't had a repeat maltreatment case in over 4 years, their costs have been reduced, and staff turnover has also decreased. Caseworkers there have also reduced their sense of responsibility in the safety of children, so they are more comfortable and satisfied with their jobs; the responsibility is on the family's safety network instead.

This is Kulesa's third trip to the Agency as a trainer. The focus this week was trajectory training. Trajectories are a way for caseworkers to become more plan oriented with clients. The Agency is starting this with custody cases, but the long-term goal is to eventually pass the trajectories to the Ongoing team as the case progresses. Kulesa will do two more specialized trainings tomorrow. She will then also meet with the Agency facilitators for the last 3 days this week. Michelle Esch (another trainer from Minnesota) will be here in November to work with all of the RCCS new hires on the SOS concepts.

Signs of Safety is basically just a different approach to working with families. It gets the family's voice out there and puts the work and responsibility of child safety back on the family and their network. It allows the family to decide what they need to do to keep their kids safe. Today Kulesa is working with employees on laying out a trajectory (plan) for what the family needs to do to make sure that children in the home are safe. Tomorrow they will review Words & Pictures. This is a way to describe to kids why things are the way that they are (why dad is in jail, why mom is in the hospital, etc.). RCCS employees will also work on their questioning skills; they will learn how to ask skillful questions in order to get the information that they need in a short amount of time. Kulesa will meet with the facilitators because they are agents of change within the agency. She was very encouraged by what the workers have been trying since the last time the nine Minnesota coaches were here (Mapping, Safety Houses, Words and Pictures, scaling questions, 3 Houses, etc.). It is very exciting for her to be able to see the progress that has been made.

Foulks stated that the Agency currently has a good balance of teams who are slowly understanding the process and teams who are early adopters. She is pairing them off right now accordingly for Supervision.

Foulks and Kulesa excused themselves from the meeting at this point.

Executive Committee Report

- Resolution 08-08-16-01 (Resolution Authorizing Executive Director to Sign Documents to Release Funds to/Accept Funds from Another County):

Money has become available from Columbiana County (\$7,000) that RCCS could receive for ESAA needs as long as we have the money to match it. Resolution 08-08-16-01 will permit Harrelson to use her best judgment to accept this offer in addition to others like it for the rest of 2016 as opportunities arise.

On a motion by Murray, seconded by Siegenthaler, the Board unanimously accepted Resolution 08-08-16-01 by roll call vote and signature.

Finance Director Report

Finance Report

Goshe distributed and reported on the July 2016 Final Financial Report regarding the revenues and expenditures. This included a beginning balance of \$6,824,502.53, \$163,168.87 in revenue, and \$714,449.84 in expenses with an ending balance of \$6,273,221.56. The ending fund balance reflects 64.3% or 7.7 months of the 2016 budget.

Goshe provided information on revenue. We are about 4% behind right now, but we will receive another tax payment this month, along with payments from JFS and Medicaid. We are about 2.8% below what was budgeted for expenses. A few line items are running high (specifically ESAA and Intensive Purchased Foster Care).

On a motion by Friebel, seconded by Kowalski, the Board unanimously accepted the July 2016 Final Financial Report.

Finance Committee Report

- Protect OH Update:

There has been another change to Protect Ohio recently. We will need to figure out where/how to spend the money that we receive from this program. They will extend our waiver an additional 3 years but we will have to spend our matching money; if we do not, we will not receive as much money next time. The Federal government pays 60% of our placement costs, and this comes out of the Protect Ohio funds. This will essentially deplete our reserve. Protect Ohio funds must be spent on placement costs or prevention of placement.

- Budget Reallocation Approval:

The ESAA line item is almost over budget, as well as the line for Intensive Purchased Foster Care. We have set aside \$200,000 for emergency children's expenses. Goshe proposed moving that money into those two line items (\$100,000 to each).

On a motion by Murray, seconded by Jackson-Johnson, the Board unanimously approved the budget reallocation as recommended by Goshe.

Levy Committee Report

No report at this time.

Personnel Committee Report

No report at this time. The next meeting will be held at 2:30 on September 12th (right before the Board meeting).

Services and Program Report

- 2016 2nd Quarter PQI Board Summary Report:

There were no work-related injuries in the 2nd Quarter of 2016. The Monthly Report overview numbers are lower this year than they were last year. There was considerable discussion during the Services and Program Committee meeting about the Utilization Review findings, and the Committee identified that this is due to a supervisory issue that will be dealt with accordingly. The State Personnel Board of Review also upheld our termination of an employee.

On a motion by Kulig, seconded by Kowalski, the Board unanimously approved the 2016 2nd Quarter PQI Board Summary report as presented.

BILLS

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board did not convene an Executive Session on this date.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Murray, seconded by Kowalski, the Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Renee Bessick, Chair

Amy Gosser, Recording Secretary