

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Date of Meeting: April 10, 2017

Members Present: Chair Renee Bessick, Vice Chair Jim Kulig, Secretary Pam Siegenthaler, Dr. Michelle Kowalski, Lynn Friebel, Deanna West-Torrence, Stacy Jackson-Johnson (4:06)

Members Excused: Treasurer Jason Murray, Richard Grega

Members Absent:

Others Present: Patty Harrelson, Kevin Goshe, Chris Zuercher, Tim Harless, Carl Hunnell, Tiffany Rouse, Alyssa Stine, Recording Secretary Amy Gosser

Others Absent:

The regular monthly Board meeting was held on Monday, April 10, 2017, in the Board Conference Room at Richland County Children Services Board. Chair Bessick called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m. of Board members present and representing a quorum.

NEW HIRE INTRODUCTIONS

Zuercher introduced a new Ongoing caseworker, Alyssa Stine. Stine started at the Agency on 3.23.2017 as part of Terrie Sgro-Perdue's team. She graduated with a BSW from the Ohio State University a few years ago, and came here from Catalyst. The Board introduced themselves and welcomed Stine to the Agency.

AGENDA

Harrelson requested the addition of several discussion topics to the beginning of the Executive Director's report, including the reading of several thank you cards that the Agency has received along with presentations by both Tim Harless and Carl Hunnell.

On a motion by Siegenthaler, seconded by Kowalski, the Board unanimously approved the proposed agenda with the suggested additions by all Board members in attendance.

MINUTES

On a motion by West-Torrence, seconded by Kulig, the Board unanimously approved the March 13, 2017 Board meeting minutes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director's Report and Comments

Harrelson read three (3) thank you cards that the Agency has received recently. The first was from the Area Agency on Aging, thanking RCCS for participating in their annual Socks for Seniors sock drive. The second card was from Mary Kay Pierce of NAMI, thanking RCCS for participating in their annual dinner/fundraiser. Harrelson also commented on the fact that Board Vice Chair Kulig was recognized at that dinner as well with a Lifetime Mental Health Service award. Kulig stated that it was significant that RCCS was represented there because it was a great community event. The final card was from the Mansfield Police Department, thanking RCCS for helping them in their fight against child pornography.

Hunnell passed out a list of events that are planned within the community during April to draw attention to Child Abuse Prevention month. The annual Swim/Bike/Run event is coming up April 21st and 22nd. This is a way to remind people that the Agency takes calls regarding child abuse and neglect 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The pizza party last Thursday was successful for the child who won the billboard contest.

Harless recognized Hunnell for all of his hard work and effort during the month of April. He also thanked the Board for the turning point that we have come to with the Kinship program. It continues to be valuable, and Richland County is recognized around Ohio as one of the leaders in this field. Harless did morning and afternoon training sessions on this topic in Mahoning County recently. He acknowledged the hard work of Brianne Kindinger and Rhonda Marsh (his two Kinship Navigators). Kulig recognized that without Harless' passion, dedication and responsiveness to families this program would not be as successful as it is. Harless reported on the Agency's relationship with D.R. Court. Both sets of attorneys feel like we could eventually bridge the gap to ease these relations. There is also a new referral process in place for these cases. One of the reasons that we utilize D.R. Court is because we can go right to Legal custody for the family, and this affects the amount of funding that we have access to in order to provide them with assistance. The new Kinship Navigator Hubs are going to work with the entire state of Ohio. Harless is going to discuss this topic in Columbus with Representatives Rezabek and Romanchuk. He also created a spreadsheet (to be presented at the waiver meeting in June) that details some of the savings created by placing children with kin instead of in foster care.

Regarding visitation space, Harless has been looking at possible facilities. The building across from Richland Public Health sat open for a long time, but someone else is leasing it now. He looked at the Balgreen office building (across from Ashland Nursing College on the corner of Marion & Trimble) several years ago, and even back then it would have cost about \$300,000 to renovate. The third option is the Healing Hearts house across from Rite Aid on Lexington Avenue. Harless talked to DeWayne Lee (the Executive Director of Healing Hearts). They would be willing to let us lease the house for our visitation since they do not use it. It is handicap accessible and has about 12 parking spaces total. It has Wi-Fi and some televisions as well. They redid the garage with carpet, so meetings can also be held in there. The lease payment would be \$750/month (all utilities included). On May 4th, Harless is going with Harrelson, Dr. Kowalski, and Brianne Kindinger to tour Patchworks House in Tiffin.

Harrelson answered questions pertaining to the Executive Director's report. Wood Pointe is the Mental Health housing that is being built. Harrelson is going to Lima to finalize the process of sharing Hunnell's services with them. He would work here 80% of the time, and help them 20% of the time. West-Torrence asked about the child fatality review. This happens by law at least once per year. The committee is looking at doing a review at least twice a year, though. This is a collaborative effort between agencies within Richland County. They look at whether or not the death was preventable, and if so, what could be done to eliminate/reduce the issue (co-sleeping, etc.) The Pack-n-Play grant was discussed during that meeting, along with premature deaths from smoking and opiate use. Rashes of suicides/homicides are also analyzed. Ohio Health has been helpful by providing them with the medical records of the child(ren) involved. The Health Department compiles all of the data and prepares the final report that is sent to the State if there are findings that will be addressed. They shred everything related to the review once it is done.

Kulig commented that the Board looked at data in January where an upward trend was reversing. All of the graphs have been consistently going down since then, so that seems promising. Three months' worth of corroborating data is a good sign.

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

Executive Committee Report

Harrelson has an opportunity to sign RCCS onto a class action lawsuit against the opiate industry (to include various pharmaceutical companies). There is evidence that they misled doctors in order to sell more drugs, even though they were aware of the addictive qualities. There is no liability to the Agency, but having our name associated with it may good for our public image and may help to raise awareness of this issue within our community. Kulig stated that doctors are largely responsible for this epidemic, and they are thankfully starting to take responsibility for this.

On a motion by Kulig, seconded by Siegenthaler, the Board unanimously approved adding Richland County Children Services to the class action lawsuit.

Finance Director Report

Finance Report

Goshe distributed and reported on the March 2017 Final Financial Report regarding the revenues and expenditures. This included a beginning balance of \$6,590,766.79, \$684,873.81 in revenue, and \$983,698.69 in expenses with an ending balance of \$6,291,941.91. The ending fund balance reflects 63.9% or 7.7 months of the 2017 budget.

Goshe provided information on revenue. We are about 6.6% behind the budget. This is normal until our first property tax payment comes in. We did get our first TPP tax replacement payment. It is reflected on the revenue page. That is the one that is being

phased out. Our Protect Ohio payment came in, along with another KPI payment. Starting July 1st those will come directly from the State. Our JFS contract was renewed, so staff have been submitting their RMS hits. Expenses were about 1.0% lower than budget overall, but the adoption subsidy line is about 8.9% higher than budgeted.

On a motion by Friebel, seconded by Jackson-Johnson, the Board unanimously accepted the March 2017 Final Financial Report.

Finance Committee Report

No report at this time. This committee will meet at some point in the next 30-60 days to discuss the type of levy that we should pursue.

Levy Committee Report

No report at this time.

Personnel Committee Report

The Personnel Committee met on Thursday (4/6/2017) to discuss three things. One topic of discussion was an update to Harrelson's employment contract. There were no substantive changes to that document. The second topic was the creation of a new position within the Agency (the Kinship Case Court Assessor) in order to address the needs of court relations and legal reviews. This would be in the caseworker line. The third topic was the addition of another position to the T.O. for a second paralegal employee. This would be created by eliminating a Support position.

- **Resolution 04-10-17-01: Resolution To Create One (1) Additional Paralegal Position**

On a motion by West-Torrence, seconded by Jackson-Johnson, the Board unanimously approved Resolution 04-10-17-01 by roll call vote and signature.

- **Resolution 04-10-17-02: Resolution To Create One (1) Kinship Case Court Assessor Position**

On a motion by Kowalski, seconded by Siegenthaler, the Board unanimously approved Resolution 04-10-17-02 by roll call vote and signature.

Services and Program Report

No report at this time. The next meeting of the Services and Program Committee will be held on April 26, 2017, at 1:30 to review the 1st Quarter PQI report.

BILLS

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:01 p.m., Chair Bessick recommended an Executive Session. On a motion by Kulig, seconded by Friebel, the Board voted unanimously to move into Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal matters by roll call vote. At that time, each Board member responded as follows: Kulig, “yes”; Kowalski, “yes”; Bessick, “yes”; Siegenthaler, “yes”; Friebel, “yes”; Jackson-Johnson, “yes”; and West-Torrence, “yes”. The Board asked Harrelson to stay.

On a motion by Siegenthaler, seconded by Kulig, the Board voted unanimously to return to open session at 6:39 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by West-Torrence, seconded by Friebel, the Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Renee Bessick, Chair

Amy Gosser, Recording Secretary