

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Date of Meeting: April 14, 2025

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

Members Absent: Chair Nicole Blakley

Others Present: Tara Lautzenhiser, Nicole Foulks, Kevin Goshe, Sarah Soliday, La'Shaun Reuer, Fred Schuster, Recording Secretary Amy Hackedorn

Others Absent:

The regular monthly Board meeting was held on Monday, April 14, 2025, in the Board Conference Room at Richland County Children Services. Acting Board Chair Jim Nicholson called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. of Board members present and representing a quorum.

INTRODUCTIONS

The Board members and RCCS staff members present introduced themselves to guest Fred Schuster and welcomed him to the meeting. Schuster was appointed by the Richland County Commissioners to fill the Board seat being vacated by outgoing member Nicole Blakley, effective in May of this year. Schuster gave a brief synopsis of his personal and professional background.

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

On a motion by Pore, seconded by Hope, the Board unanimously approved the March 10, 2025, regular Board meeting minutes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Lautzenhiser reported on the multitude of events that she attended in the month of March. She attended Richland Newhope's annual bowling event for Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, and it was a lot of fun. She also brought back the pinwheels this year because they have such a visual impact in the community. Thankfully the Mansfield YMCA agreed to let us use their property next to Lexington Avenue for this purpose. There are 1,120 pinwheels, each of which represents one case that was investigated by RCCS in 2024. Lautzenhiser, Foulks and Soliday have been meeting with RCCS staff for revisions to the RCCS Program Manual procedures so that they have input into this process. Lautzenhiser offered to show the Board members the CAC facility after the May Board meeting. Several Board members present showed interest in this. Lautzenhiser also met with the state regarding the CAC. Akron Children's took measurements to see what changes they will need made to this space for their purposes. The carpet would need to be removed, and they would also need some locking cabinets. However, Akron

Children's has several grants that they can probably use for these renovations if necessary. Lautzenhisser identified three large RCCS events that she would like to have staff participation in: the RCCS Christmas party, the RCCS Staff picnic, and a community-wide Agency event held here at our building. Nicholson commented on the seven caseworker vacancies. Soliday informed the Board that we just hired one, so we will be down to six vacancies. There are also two other potential new hires pending.

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

Executive Committee Report

No report at this time.

Finance Director Report

March Finance Report

Goshe distributed and reported on the March 2025 Final Financial Report regarding the revenues and expenditures. This included a beginning balance of \$6,762,945.42, \$777,439.85 in revenue, \$1,032,017.01 in expenses, and an adjustment of \$601.02 for a voided check with an ending balance of \$6,508,969.28. The ending fund balance reflects 44.2% or about 5.3 months of the 2025 budget.

Goshe stated that total revenue was 12.1% lower than budgeted (which is normal for this time of year), and total expenses were 3.3% lower than budgeted at the end of March. All expense lines were lower than budgeted. No contracts were signed during the month of March. The \$601.02 check was lost in the mail, so this had to be voided. A new staff member at the Auditor's office opened the closed month of January when re-issuing the check instead of just issuing a new check. The Financial Report had to be adjusted to reflect this. Heydinger asked if Goshe has received any information from the state about future funding. PCSAO (the Public Children Services Association of Ohio) is tracking some of this. So far, everything that the Governor put in his budget regarding children services funding survived the House, so that is good. We should receive about \$2.7 million in April from the first local levy payment.

On a motion by Pore, seconded by Heydinger, the Board unanimously accepted the March 2025 Final Finance report.

CORSA Coverage

CORSA (County Risk Sharing Authority) is the risk management coverage entity for Richland County. Goshe inquired as to whether the Board would be interested in having a CORSA representative come in and explain some of the different kinds of coverage that they offer. This involves liability insurance, fire, property, auto, etc. The County pays for this out of the general fund. Jenny Phelps (the County Risk Manager) said that the rest of the agencies in Richland County typically have a car totaled or significantly damaged every few years. Hope doesn't like the \$25,000 deductible that we have on auto coverage, but this is set by the County. We do not pay anything for this, so we really have no say in the coverage options. The Board members present did not think there was need to speak with a representative at this time. Heydinger asked about our health insurance. Goshe stated that our health insurance is through CEBCO (the County Employee Benefits Consortium of Ohio).

Finance Committee Report

No report at this time.

Personnel Committee Report

No report at this time.

Services and Program Report

2nd Half 2024 PQI Report

S&P Committee Chair Jim Nicholson informed the Board that the Committee met on 3.24.2025 to review the 2nd Half 2024 PQI Report. Nicholson said that the incentive program passed by the Board in 2023 continues to drive improvement with RCCS staff. The State gives us money to use toward this incentive, so that is helpful. The mentoring program for new employees has been eliminated, and this function is back in the hands of the individual teams. Nicholson commented on the fact that 57% of RCCS staff have been here less than 4 years. Custody terminations are trending in the right direction; in 2024, we only placed 66 youth, and we had 79 terminations. The CAC will also start generating some data moving forward in 2025.

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 Snay, seconded by Stentz, the Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jim Nicholson, RCCS Acting Board Chair

Amy Hackedorn, Recording Secretary