

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Date of Meeting: August 14, 2017

Members Present: Chair Renee Bessick, Vice Chair Jim Kulig, Treasurer Jason Murray, Secretary Pam Siegenthaler, Richard Grega (3:32 p.m.), Deanna West-Torrence (3:39 p.m.), Dr. Michelle Kowalski (3:39 p.m.)

Members Excused: Lynn Friebe, Stacy Jackson-Johnson

Members Absent:

Others Present: Patty Harrelson, Nikki Harless, Marsha Coleman, Kevin Goshe, Chris Zuercher, Tim Harless, Tiffany Rouse, Jacqueline Johnson, Scott McGohan, Anthony (Tony) Lombardo, Recording Secretary Amy Gosser

Others Absent:

The regular monthly Board meeting was held on Monday, August 14, 2017, in the Board Conference Room at Richland County Children Services Board. Chair Bessick called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m. of Board members present and representing a quorum.

NEW HIRE INTRODUCTIONS

Zuercher introduced new hire Jacqueline (Jacki) Johnson. Johnson started at the Agency on 8.10.2017 as a caseworker on Terrie Sgro-Perdue's Ongoing team. She has a BSW from Mount Vernon Nazarene University. The Board introduced themselves to Johnson and welcomed her to Richland County Children Services.

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

On a motion by Murray, seconded by Grega, the Board unanimously approved the July 10, 2017 Board meeting minutes.

MINI-TRAINING

Scott McGohan and Tony Lombardo presented from McGohan Brabender (the Agency health insurance broker). About 1.5 billion dollars is spent on healthcare every year in the United States. Healthcare costs are confusing and burdensome for employers and individual employees as well. We need to understand the problem in order to deal with it. Who is to blame? Governments, the country, the legal system?

- Is our country to blame? We used to produce more goods than any other country on the planet for decades, but we lost that achievement decades ago. We now produce more disease than any other nation on earth, and our country has the highest infant mortality rate. We were also just recognized as the heaviest country on earth about a month ago.
- Is the prescription drug industry to blame? There were 3.5 billion prescriptions filled in the U.S. last year for 150 billion pills total, but we make up only 5% of the world's population. One in 5 people take a sleeping drug every night. One in 4 take an antidepressant every day. The drug for Hepatitis C actually cures the disease, but it costs \$100,000 for a 90-day treatment. Half of the people on prescription drugs could be off medication with simple lifestyle changes.
- Is our government to blame? If our government does anything really well, it is their ability to buy Medicare for people over age 65. We would lose 11 million jobs if we switched to Medicare tomorrow. Medicaid pays about 11 cents on the dollar, and Medicare pays about 30 cents on the dollar. Costs from healthcare professionals are passed along to all of us. An OBGYN quit his practice recently because his malpractice insurance was over \$300,000 annually.
- Is it the American people who are to blame? We have lifestyle issues that play a role in our health. There is a theme among employees that their healthcare is none of anyone else's business. It is 20% of our economy. In the closest country to us, it is only 8% of their economy. What is reasonable for this country? Most people know that smoking is bad, fast food is bad, exercise is good, etc. Four of our biggest issues are food consumption, exercise, smoking and stress. If we just fix the first 3 we could eliminate 80% of heart disease and 40% of most cancers. It costs employers \$6000 per year for employees who smoke. There are also more MRI's done annually in Pittsburgh, PA than in the whole country of Canada.
- The victim is us, all of us! Healthcare costs today cost us about \$5 per employee per day. Was the ACA good or bad? Implementing it when we did was better than doing nothing at all, because there were 55 million people who previously did not have any insurance. We needed a system that provided access to everyone, but we never found out who was going to pay for it. They only asked age (not gender) and had everyone pay the same rate regardless of history to make it fair for all.
- Everyone is to blame, including ourselves. Blame doesn't fix anything; we need full transparency in healthcare costs. We need to start taking care of ourselves. If we change our life, they have to change their system. The solution lies in our voice.

Next week representatives from McGohan Brabender are going to meet with our Agency Benefits team to discuss Core Beliefs surrounding health insurance. They need to find out what is important to us and will ask thought-provoking questions. The meeting will take about an hour and a half.

Kulig asked whether or not there a prediction that they can make about our utilization so far. Through June we were about 12% over budget, a huge part of which is pharmaceutical costs. We are well above where we should be. To keep costs down, other organizations require employees to undergo biometric screening. Metabolic syndrome is where disease grows in the body, but it is not always obvious. Individuals are 700% more likely to incur a claim over \$10,000 if they are metabolic. We discriminate with our eyes, in that we see someone smoking and say they are not healthy. After getting biometric screening, 44% of the people who are metabolic fall out of that status. This would allow us to reduce costs about \$6000 per employee. The only other ways to reduce costs are to cover fewer people, find more effective ways to access healthcare, and help employees become healthier.

McGohan, Lombardo, and Johnson left the meeting at this point (4:30 p.m.).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director's Report and Comments

Tim Harless discussed Protect Ohio. He recently went to Washington D.C. for a meeting regarding this. The politicians stated that they are ending the waivers in 2019, but they thanked us for all of our hard work (Ohio is a legacy state). Title IV-E is tied to local and state dollars. We wanted to provide front end services, and the waivers allow us to use Title IV-E funding for this. That flexibility is vital to some of the services that we provide on a voluntary basis. The current heroin crisis has affected us. Harless told them that coming up with child welfare reform should not be that difficult, and that if the waivers end it will put the Agency behind 20 years. We would have to go back to the way we operated in 1997. It will also cost the Agency \$800,000 a year if we go back to the old method. The last thing he said to them was that someone needs to put forth a bill that allows us to utilize IV-E services again. Harless firmly believes that the waivers should continue. We get calls periodically to speak to the media there, and we have. Harless and Goshe were recently interviewed for an article that will be published in the Roll Call newspaper in Washington, D.C. Generations United (housed in Washington D.C.) frequently contacts Harless here in Richland County. When Roll Call publishes that article, Harless will pass it along to the Board. He has spoken to Portman and Brown about this issue, but it is not one of their priorities right now. Thirty states have waivers and the government is claiming that they haven't heard from them about how they feel. However, Harless has spoken to representatives repeatedly on this matter, and Patrick Donovan from Muskingum County also has a voice in this.

Harrelson reported on foster homes. The Agency has only obtained one new home since May. It typically takes 6-8 months to get new homes licensed. Kulig reported on the recent substitute care strategies being developed. After the first meeting of that group, Kulig was impressed by the quality of the RCCS staff who were at the meeting, especially their passion and knowledge. There was a second meeting last Friday to deal with 3 issues: recruitment of foster homes, retention of foster homes, and permanency for kids. Kulig and West-Torrence were invited as community members. The discussion centered on which other community members should be around the table. Several other potential participants were identified, based on the belief that they should have a voice in these issues as well.

Murray and Kowalski left the meeting at this point (4:50 p.m.).

Harrelson reported that part “vi” of the Continuing Relationship Activities section in her report is inaccurate. It involves a meeting on 7.24.17 which Harrelson was unable to attend due to a conflicting appointment.

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

Executive Committee Report

No report at this time.

Finance Director Report

Finance Report

Goshe distributed and reported on the July 2017 Final Financial Report regarding the revenues and expenditures. This included a beginning balance of \$7,509,610.59, \$256,970.83 in revenue, and \$784,610.64 in expenses with an ending balance of \$6,981,970.78. The ending fund balance reflects 70.9% or 8.5 months of the 2017 budget.

Goshe provided information on expenditures. Every line was lower than budgeted except adoption expenditures. Our monthly subsidies are occurring close to budget; it is our one-time expenditures that are higher than what we had anticipated. Individuals who adopt a child can apply for a subsidy every year. Examples of items that the subsidy payments can be used for include respite care (babysitting), therapy that Medicaid does not pay for, etc. A payment was just received today for levy collections. Goshe believes that we will be within \$50,000 of what we budgeted in that line for the year.

On a motion by West-Torrence, seconded by Grega, the Board unanimously accepted the July 2017 Final Financial Report.

Finance Committee Report

No report at this time.

Levy Committee Report

No report at this time.

Personnel Committee Report

No report at this time.

Services and Program Report

No report at this time. The committee did not have time to review the 2nd Quarter PQI Report and so will not be making a recommendation at this time. Harless, Coleman, Gosser, and Hinton met to prepare a new document for their review, to include narratives and graphs. The committee will defer their recommendation until the 3rd Quarter, at which time they will present a single document to the full Board that highlights data which is meaningful and relevant for all nine individuals in their role as members of the Richland County Children Services Board.

BILLS

Payment of Agency Bills - On a motion by Siegenthaler, seconded by West-Torrence, 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

Prior to adjournment, Grega stated that Carl Hunnell did an excellent job with the Agency booth at the Richland County fair.

On a motion by Siegenthaler, seconded by West-Torrence, the Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Renee Bessick, Chair

Amy Gosser, Recording Secretary