

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Date of Meeting: August 8, 2022

Members Present: Chair Pat Heydinger, Vice Chair Nicole Blakley, Renee Bessick, Scott Gatchall, Bennie Allen-Stanford, Mary Stentz, Bill Hope

Members Excused: Treasurer Jason Murray, Secretary Jim Nicholson

Members Absent:

Others Present: Nikki Harless, Nicole Foulks, Kevin Goshe, Chris Zuercher, Sarah Soliday, Recording Secretary Amy Hackedorn

The regular monthly Board meeting was held on Monday, August 8, 2022, in the Board Room at Richland County Children Services. Chair Heydinger officially called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. of Board members present and representing a quorum.

### AGENDA

On a motion by Blakley, seconded by Allen-Stanford, the Board unanimously approved the proposed agenda by all Board members in attendance.

### MINUTES

On a motion by Hope, seconded by Bessick, the Board unanimously approved the July 11, 2022, regular Board meeting minutes.

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

#### Executive Director's Report and Comments

Harless commented on the resignation of RCCS MIS Manager Pam Hinton-Groves. We can obtain technical assistance through the State (which is what most of the other Ohio counties do), but it has been helpful having someone on-site for the last 14 years. We promoted our current Records/Risk Manager Angie Poth to fill that role internally. Hope asked how we store our confidential electronic data. ODJFS stores most of our electronic information for us. While we have our own servers, we do not save sensitive data in-house. Heydinger asked how much of our information is public record. Zuercher stated that any specific case-related information is confidential, and there is not much that can be released even with a signed release of information. Harless commented on the fact that we currently have two (soon to be three) caseworker vacancies. However, at one point we had 15 caseworker vacancies, so 3 is not bad in comparison.

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

## **Executive Committee Report**

No report at this time.

## **Finance Director Report**

### **July Finance Report**

Goshe distributed and reported on the July 2022 Final Financial Report regarding the revenues and expenditures. This included a beginning balance of \$8,954,816.22, \$527,244.62 in revenue, and \$1,081,518.24 in expenses with an ending balance of \$8,400,542.60. The ending fund balance reflects 69.0% or about 8.3 months of the 2022 budget.

Goshe stated that revenue for 2022 through the end of July was 0.7% lower than budgeted, although we are due to receive our second-half tax payment at the end of August. Regarding expenses, we were 5.5% lower than budgeted for the year at the end of July. Heydinger asked Goshe if he foresees any large expenditures before the end of the year. Goshe stated that we had to replace one condensing unit last month, but that everything else is running smoothly so far. Hope asked why the Placement line would be 9.0% higher than budgeted. Goshe said that we often cannot control where children in Agency care must be placed, and higher levels of care equate to higher placement costs. Another issue is often the length of time that children stay in foster care (as opposed to being adopted). Zuercher informed the Board that there is one local attorney (Rebecca Thomas) who handles most of our adoptions for us. Barriers to adoption finalization include fitting these cases into her schedule, working through the appeals process, obtaining reference checks from potential adoptive parents, obtaining a court date, etc.

On a motion by Allen-Stanford, seconded by Stentz, the Board unanimously approved the July 2022 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.

## **BILLS**

**Payment of Agency Bills** - On a motion by Bessick, seconded by Blakley, the Board unanimously approved payment by signature of the Agency bills.

*Allen-Stanford left the meeting at this point (3:59 p.m.).*

Heydinger asked about the data included with Harless' report. This was briefly discussed. Nothing in the data was identified as being abnormal or unexpected. Stentz asked who establishes the 2-year waiting period before children can legally be adopted. Harless responded that this timeframe is set by the State of Ohio. Hope asked if we have a lot of contact with the local Amish communities. Harless stated that we rarely ever get referrals regarding these families.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Blakley, seconded by Stentz, the Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Pat Heydinger, RCCS Board Chair  
Amy Hackedorn, Recording Secretary