

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Date of Meeting: August 14, 2023

Members Present: Vice Chair Nicole Blakley, Treasurer Jason Murray, Bill Hope, Mary Stentz, Randy Pore, Bennie Allen-Stanford

Members Excused: Chair Pat Heydinger, Secretary Jim Nicholson, Judy Forney

Members Absent:

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

Others Absent:

The regular monthly Board meeting was held on Monday, August 14, 2023, in the Board Conference Room at Richland County Children Services. Vice Chair Blakley called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m. of Board members present and representing a quorum.

### AGENDA

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

### MINUTES

On a motion by Murray, seconded by Hope, the Board unanimously approved the July 10, 2023, regular Board meeting minutes as presented. *Allen-Stanford arrived at this point in the meeting (3:34 p.m.).*

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Harless commented on the foster care crisis article that was included with her report. She pointed out that we have never had an issue with finding a placement for children entering Agency custody, but this is always a potential problem. It happens frequently in other counties throughout Ohio. Our workers call and set up short-term placement options for some of our kids when necessary, but many other counties do not have the resources to do the same.

Harless also mentioned the recent discussions regarding development of a CAC (Child Advocacy Center) here in Richland County. This has been an ongoing process. The main issue historically has been getting all entities on the same page with using the CAC for services (such as local law enforcement, the Prosecutor's office, medical facilities, etc.). Locating this in a hospital could be an issue since there are two main hospitals here in Mansfield, so housing the CAC in a standalone facility may be the best option. Summit, Wayne, and Lorain County all have CACs. They are staffed full-time by SANE nurses, forensic examiners, a medical professional, etc. The concept behind this is that the child only has to tell their story once instead of being interrogated numerous times.

Hope asked about the newly vacant attorney position. One of the main difficulties in recruiting for this position is pay, and the other is getting candidates to relocate here if they already live elsewhere. Murray explained that most of the younger attorneys go to larger markets such as Cleveland and Columbus instead of staying in this area. This has been a common problem locally, especially within the past few years. We have plenty of magistrates, but not enough attorneys. Soliday has sent the posting to all of the law schools in Ohio, in addition to posting this on Indeed.com and the county job website.

Harless commented on some of the personnel changes that have occurred lately. We added another Program Manager in July on an interim basis. A copy of the most recent Teams List was included in the Board packet. The hope is that another Program Manager will help reduce the number of children in care and reduce their total number of days in care.

On a motion by Hope, seconded by Stentz, 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 2023 Final Financial Report regarding the revenues and expenditures. This included a beginning balance of \$9,096,974.55, \$601,328.02 in revenue, and \$907,275.87 in expenses with an ending balance of \$8,791,026.70. The ending fund balance reflects 65.3% or about 7.8 months of the 2023 budget.

Goshe stated that revenue for the year was 1.8% lower than budgeted and expenses were 9.2% lower than budgeted at the end of July. Our levy ballot language still needs to be approved by the Secretary of State. Goshe will keep the Board informed regarding this process.

On a motion by Murray, seconded by Pore, the Board unanimously accepted the July 2023 Final Financial Report.

#### **Vehicle Disposal Proposal**

Goshe stated that a vehicle in our fleet (a 2013 Ford Focus sedan with 91,850 miles on it) was recently diagnosed by two repair facilities with a faulty transmission. This would cost a minimum of \$5,447.50 to replace, which exceeds the current total value that we could reasonably recoup from that vehicle.

Goshe has been individually posting the other four Agency vehicles that were approved by the Board for disposal at the regular July Board meeting. Each is being posted individually so that we aren't competing with ourselves for funding. We received \$4,700 for the first vehicle that was posted. The second one is posted now, and it is currently at \$1,525 with a week still in the auction.

On a motion by Murray, seconded by Pore, the Board unanimously approved allowing RCCS administration to dispose of the identified 2013 Ford Focus sedan in whatever manner decided upon by the Richland County Commissioners.

## **Finance Committee Report**

No report at this time.

## **Personnel Committee Report**

No report at this time.

## **Services and Program Report**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Half 2023 PQI Report**

Blakely stated that there were three main take-aways from the Services & Program Committee meeting. Foulks explained the first take-away, which detailed the graduation party we hosted for five (5) youth in Agency custody. Each graduate received a laptop from the Agency (we receive funds specifically for this purpose). The second take-away was the new incentive tracking, and the third was the Best Practices incentive money that RCCS received from the State. Blakely explained that the Services & Program Committee would also like to propose moving the location and time of the November 2023 Board meeting. If this was held at the New Store here in Mansfield with a start time of 3:00, theoretically the Board members could then stay and help with the coat distribution in order to help bring positive attention to RCCS out in the community. Last year there were almost 800 children who received winter coats that day.

On a motion by Allen-Stanford, seconded by Hope, the Board members present unanimously approved moving the location and time of the November Board meeting. This meeting will be held in a conference room TBD at the New Store on 11.13.2023 at 3:00 p.m.

## **BILLS**

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Hope, seconded by Pore, the Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Nicole Blakley, RCCS Board Vice Chair  
Amy Hackedorn, Recording Secretary