

## **RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

Date of Meeting: August 11, 2025

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

Members Absent:

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

Others Absent:

The regular monthly Board meeting was held on Monday, August 11, 2025, in the Board Conference Room at Richland County Children Services. Chair Jim Nicholson called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m. of Board members present and representing a quorum.

### **AGENDA**

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

### **MINUTES**

On a motion by Hope, seconded by Allen, the Board unanimously approved the July 14, 2025, regular Board meeting minutes.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Lautzenhiser reported on the meeting she attended with the concerned citizen of Richland County. He is the head of the Roseland Neighborhood Watch and is very vocal about sex abuse (especially involving children) and the number of sex offenders moving into the Roseland area of Mansfield. RCCS Program Manager Heather Swanson is going to attend their neighborhood watch meeting this week to explain signs of sex abuse and the criteria we use for screening in referrals. Lautzenhiser also explained the free hour-long Mandated Reporter trainings that we conduct in local schools and daycare facilities.

Senator Romanchuk told Lautzenhiser that he can help us secure \$100,000 in funding for the CAC. This amount was initially given to Colleen Rice due to the fact that the CAC was going to be housed in a property owned by the DV Shelter. The contract is going to be rewritten so that the money will come to us directly now. Akron Children's Hospital sent Lautzenhiser a draft MOU that is similar to what they use in Medina County. Total cost for renovations to our existing space is estimated around \$70,000. Lautzenhiser has already mentioned all of this to Commissioner Cliff Mears.

Someone relayed information to the media about an RCCS employee who brought a gun to her child's daycare facility. This referral was given to Knox County Children Services to investigate in order to

eliminate any conflict of interest. The main issue is that the information initially relayed to the media was not accurate, and the misinformation has still not been fully corrected publicly.

The employee semi-annual reviews went well. The next step is for the supervisors to meet with their employees to discuss these further. Hackedorn sent out a staff survey during the month of July to obtain feedback from employees. The top three items identified by employees as Agency strengths were communication, our open-door policy, and the amount of increased volunteerism. The top three issues identified were the lack of training (especially onsite training) opportunities, employee retention, and additional food options for meetings. Seventy-six percent (76%) of respondents described the current Agency culture as “positive.”

Hope asked about the vehicle situation. Commissioner Tony Vero is going to try to work with Jenny Phelps to see if RCCS can get a lower deductible since we are not in law enforcement. Allen asked about the CAC. Lautzenhisser explained that in order to accommodate the medical aspect of the exam, we would like to move the CAC to our basement here at 731 Scholl Road. Akron Children’s Hospital believes that the space here will work well for their needs with only some minor changes to the layout and restrooms.

Nicholson stated that the Agency golf outing is going to be held at Forest Hills on September 5<sup>th</sup>.

On a motion by Snay, 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**

Finance Director Kevin Goshe distributed and reported on the July 2025 Final Financial Report regarding the revenues and expenditures. This included a beginning balance of \$7,702,199.58, \$833,481.15 in revenue, and \$1,124,378.12 in expenses with an ending balance of \$7,411,302.61. The ending fund balance reflects 50.3% or about 6.0 months of the 2025 budget.

Goshe stated that total revenue was 0.3% higher than budgeted and total expenses were 4.3% lower than budgeted at the end of July. No contracts were signed during the month of July. Nicholson asked about the overall budget projection. Goshe said that we budgeted a fairly large deficit of \$2.3 million. Goshe does not foresee us hitting that number, but we will definitely end the year with a deficit. Hope asked about the bathroom project. Architect Brad Maurer has not put the project out for bid yet, so Hope would like to see if he can facilitate progress toward this. Goshe will inform Maurer that the Board Finance Committee would like to meet with him so that we can determine whether we need to budget anything toward this project next year.

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

#### **Finance 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 Snay, seconded by Allen, the Board unanimously approved payment by signature of the Agency bills.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Allen, seconded by Snay, the Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jim Nicholson, RCCS Board Chair

Amy Hackedorn, Recording Secretary