

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Date of Meeting: December 14, 2020

Members Present*: Chair Jim Kulig, Vice Chair Pat Heydinger, Secretary Deanna West-Torrence, Nicole Blakley, Renee Bessick, Jim Nicholson, Scott Gatchall

Members Excused: Treasurer Jason Murray, Rick Grega

Members Absent:

Others Present: Nikki Harless, Kevin Goshe, Nicole Foulks, Recording Secretary Amy Hackedorn, Bill Hope

Others Absent:

The regular monthly Board meeting was held on Monday, December 14, 2020, in the Board Conference Room at Richland County Children Services. Chair Kulig called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m. of Board members present (via phone) and representing a quorum. *Please note that RCCS is following Federal and State guidance related to social distancing in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and conducted this meeting via teleconference as authorized by temporary changes to the Open Meeting law in Ohio.

**Please Note: The Open Meetings Act exception allowing public bodies in Ohio to hold virtual meetings and hearings has been extended until at least July 1, 2021 through the passage of House Bill 404. The exception was originally set to expire in December of 2020 under House Bill 197. The General Assembly passed H.B. 404 as an emergency measure, and it became effective on 11.22.2020 upon Governor Mike DeWine's signature. The following rules will continue to govern virtual public meetings:

"The details:

- *Members attending the meeting through the body's chosen electronic method count as present and count toward a quorum. They are permitted to vote on any issues that come before the body.*
- *Any resolution, rule or other formal action taken or adopted by the public body during such a session will have the same effect as one taken during an in-person meeting.*
- *The public body is required to give notice of the meeting to the media and other parties requiring notice at least 24 hours before it takes place. In an emergency situation, the public body must give notice as soon as practical.*
- *Members of the public must be provided access to the public body's discussions and deliberations conducted via the electronic method to the same extent that they would get from attending in person. That includes the ability for the viewer/listener to hear every member participating in person or electronically. Examples of electronic methods that afford public access (and that are cited in the law) include live-streaming via the internet; local radio, television, cable or public access channels; and calling in to a teleconference.*
- *For a public hearing, the electronic method the public body uses for the meeting must be widely available to the public and must permit the public to converse with witnesses and receive documentary testimony and physical evidence." - Ohio Attorney General's website*

As the first order of business, Kulig introduced newly appointed Board member Bill Hope. Hope stated that he lives in the Bellville area and that he is excited to serve on our Board.

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

On a motion by Nicholson, seconded by Blakley, the Board unanimously approved the November 9, 2020 regular Board meeting minutes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director's Report and Comments

Harless commented on her November Board report. Kulig asked if there are any additional updates regarding visitation space. Harless stated that we moved the facilitators out of the visitation area and into the secure area. We are now using their old offices to conduct family visits, which gives us seven (7) rooms total to use here at the Agency. That entire corridor in the building is now available for visitation usage. Heydinger asked if Harless will be setting up a monthly meeting with Commissioner Marilyn John. The assumption is that the monthly breakfast meetings among area leaders will continue, with Commissioner John taking the place of Representative Mark Romanchuk. Blakley asked Harless to identify some of physical attributes that would be present in her ideal visitation space. Close access for clients in the central Mansfield area is important, along with ample parking, a one-story building without stairs, unrestricted access for our workers, and the ability of Agency staff to make minor cosmetic changes as necessary (installing baby changing stations in restrooms, etc.).

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

Nominating Committee Report

2021 Board Officers

The Nominating Committee identified last month that all four current Board officers were willing to accept another term if that is the will of the full Board. If there are additional nominations from the Board members present, those will be entertained at this point in the meeting. Hearing no other nominations, the motion was proposed to continue the terms of all existing officers for at least one more year.

On a motion by Bessick, seconded by Nicholson, the Board unanimously approved the slate of 2021 Board Officers as proposed.

Kulig mentioned that Rick Grega is leaving the Board effective 12.31.2020. Grega will be presented with a plaque to thank him for his years of service. Harless read the plaque aloud, and Kulig thanked Grega for his dedication to the children and families of this community.

Executive Committee Report

2021 Board Committee Members

Kulig confirmed the committee memberships for each Board member. He will send out a finalized document before the January Board meeting. Kulig encouraged everyone to figure out a way to safely resume Board committee meetings moving forward into 2021 for instances when committee issues warrant discussion.

Finance Director Report

November Finance Report

Goshe distributed and reported on the November 2020 Final Financial Report regarding the revenues and expenditures. This included a beginning balance of \$7,416,523.90, \$616,713.45 in revenue, and \$774,411.79 in expenses with an ending balance of \$7,258,825.56. The ending fund balance reflects 64.4% or 7.7 months of the 2020 budget.

Total revenue for the year is currently 11.3% higher than budgeted. Total expenditures for the year are currently 8.6% lower than budgeted, and we are lower than budgeted in each of the expense categories. Goshe does not anticipate any major surprises for the end of 2020.

On a motion by West-Torrence, seconded by Heydinger, the Board unanimously accepted the November 2020 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 Nicholson, seconded by Bessick, the Board unanimously approved payment by signature of the Agency bills.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Nicholson, seconded by West-Torrence, the Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jim Kulig, RCCS Board Chair

Amy Hackedorn, Recording Secretary