

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Date of Meeting: April 12, 2021

Members Present*: Chair Jim Kulig, Vice Chair Pat Heydinger, Treasurer Jason Murray, Nicole Blakley, Jim Nicholson, Bill Hope, Scott Gatchall

Members Excused: Secretary Deanna West-Torrence, Renee Bessick

Members Absent:

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

The regular monthly Board meeting was held on Monday, April 12, 2021, in the Fuddy Training & Learning Center at Richland County Children Services. Chair Kulig called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. of Board members present (both in person and by 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**.

**Update: 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*

AGENDA

On a motion by Nicholson, seconded by Hope, the Board unanimously approved the proposed agenda by all Board members in attendance. *Board Vice President Pat Heydinger joined the meeting at this point (3:32 p.m.).*

MINUTES

On a motion by Hope, seconded by Nicholson, the Board unanimously approved the March 8, 2021 regular Board meeting minutes. *Board Treasurer Jason Murray joined the meeting at this point (3:33 p.m.) in addition to a member of the public (Adriana Suter).*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director's Report and Comments

Harless commented on her March Board report. Youth & Family Council is hosting a job fair on May 6th to match youth in the community aged 14 to 18 with summer employment opportunities. The program also needs local adults to supervise the youth. Kulig commented on the winners of the 8th Annual Calendar Contest and recognized those students for that achievement. Harless explained the Child Fatality Review meeting that she attended. These meetings are held every year with pertinent individuals from the community (Health Department personnel, local law enforcement, mental health organizations, etc.). None of the children who passed away in 2020 perished due to sleep-related issues, and none died by suicide. Both of those are very promising findings. The Mansfield Lions Club just recently started meeting again (they had taken a break due to COVID-19) and they chose RCCS as their signature project for 2021. They want to help acknowledge each child in Agency foster care throughout the year so that those youth know they are loved and cared for. Jeraca Barnett is the Agency's Placement supervisor, and she will work closely with the Lions Club to ensure that all children in Agency custody are represented. Kulig asked if we have any updates regarding our health insurance usage. The balance in the fund is very sporadic; Goshe stated that we are scheduled to have another conversation with McGohan Brabender later this month to see why this is so volatile. Blakley would like to receive periodic updates on children who age out of Agency custody. These children have access to our Independent Living resources (finding an apartment, applying for a job, setting up utilities, etc.) until age 21. However, these kids can also currently reach out to Agency caseworker Dennis Rickett up until age 26 if they need any additional assistance.

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

Executive Committee Report

Kulig reminded the Board that the Executive Committee recently began the assessment and evaluation of Nikki Harless in her role as Agency Executive Director. They identified through this process five points which will lead to the presentation of a full evaluation at the May

meeting. Point 1: The Executive Committee members asked Nikki to complete a self-assessment electronically via Survey Monkey by March 31st. This has been completed. Point 2: The Executive Committee members were then asked to complete the Board assessment report by April 15th, and this was completed as of today. Point 3: Nikki and the Executive Committee members will independently review the assessments between April 15th and April 30th. Point 4: Nikki and the Executive Committee members will then meet and have a discussion in order to compile a report for presentation to the full Board at the May Board meeting. For those who are unaware, the Board began working on an assessment instrument, and this has been tweaked numerous times. The assessment process includes written statements where the Executive Director is assessed on a 3-point scale in addition to written comments. The goal is to be both subjective and objective. Point 5: Expect a report to the full Board at the May Board meeting.

Finance Director Report

March Finance Report

Goshe distributed and reported on the March 2021 Final Financial Report regarding the revenues and expenditures. This included a beginning balance of \$6,107,538.26, \$620,855.58 in revenue, and \$848,012.12 in expenses with an ending balance of \$5,880,381.72. The ending fund balance reflects 50.8% or 6.1 months of the 2021 budget.

Goshe stated that revenue for the year is about 13.8% less than budgeted. It is still early in the year, however, so once we receive the first tax payment of 2021 in April we should be back in the black. Expenses for the year are currently 1.8% lower than budgeted. All expenditure categories are lower than budgeted except for the Purchased Services line (due to the Agency's contribution to Youth & Family Council earlier in 2021). This percentage should continue to decrease as the year progresses.

Hope asked Goshe if our millage is an absolute dollar amount. The short answer to this is yes. Goshe stated that if the voters vote on an increase or if there is new construction, we would get an increase. Otherwise our millage is scaled down so that we collect the set dollar amount.

On a motion by Hope, seconded by Murray, the Board unanimously accepted the March 2021 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 Heydinger, seconded by Blakley, the Board unanimously approved payment by signature of the Agency bills.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Nicholson, seconded by Hope, the Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jim Kulig, RCCS Board Chair

Amy Hackedorn, Recording Secretary