

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Date of Meeting: May 11, 2020

Members Present: Chair Jim Kulig, Vice Chair Pat Heydinger, Secretary Deanna West-Torrence, Rick Grega, Nicole Blakley, Jim Nicholson, Renee Bessick (via phone)* (4:02 p.m.)

Members Excused: Treasurer Jason Murray

Members Absent:

Others Present: Nikki Harless, Chris Zuercher, Kevin Goshe, Nicole Foulks, Recording Secretary Amy Hackedorn, Dennis Rickett, Doug Neighbors, Monroe Trombly (3:43 p.m.)

Others Absent:

The regular monthly Board meeting was held on Monday, May 11, 2020, in the Board Conference Room at Richland County Children Services. Chair Kulig called the meeting to order at 3:31 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.

“On March 27, Gov. Mike DeWine signed into law House Bill 197, allowing members of public bodies to hold and attend meetings, and to conduct hearings, by teleconference, video conference or any similar electronic technology. Such meetings are legal for as long as the governor’s coronavirus emergency remains in effect, up until Dec. 20, 2020.

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

Kulig proposed revising the agenda by moving the Executive Session up to the time slot immediately following the April 2020 Finance Director report.

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

MINUTES

On a motion by Heydinger, seconded by Grega, the Board unanimously approved the April 13, 2020 regular Board meeting minutes.

On a motion by Grega, seconded by Nicholson, the Board unanimously approved the April 28, 2020 emergency Board meeting minutes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director's Report and Comments

Harless discussed the reimbursement check that the Agency received following the Michael Stoffer lawsuit. Heydinger asked how much the Agency had to spend on attorney fees for this case; the total for this service was \$25,000. In her report, Harless highlighted the fact that we have a staff retention issue, and she mentioned that all four of the caseworkers who left the Agency in the month of April chose to pursue a position outside of the child welfare field. Kulig commended Country Fabrics for donating 100 cloth masks to the Agency. West-Torrence stated that the 2019 Annual Report looks very well done.

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

Monroe Trombly from the Mansfield News Journal joined the meeting at this point (3:43 p.m.).

Nominating Committee Report

Kulig reminded the individuals present that there is currently a vacant seat on the RCCS Board. He asked the Board members whether there are any other nominations, or if they should submit Doug Neighbors as the applicant to the Commissioners. The Commissioners have the final say on whether Neighbors can join the RCCS Board or not.

On a motion by Grega, seconded by Nicholson, the Board unanimously agreed to submit the information from Doug Neighbors to the Commissioners for review.

Finance Director Report

April Finance Report

Goshe distributed and reported on the April 2020 Final Financial Report regarding the revenues and expenditures. This included a beginning balance of \$5,131,623.60, \$2,927,086.47 in revenue, and \$787,916.47 in expenses with an ending balance of \$7,270,793.60. The ending fund balance reflects 64.5% or 7.7 months of the 2020 budget.

Revenue for the year is up to \$4,188,688.23 total so far, which is 9.2% higher than budgeted. In addition to real estate tax and public utilities property tax payments, we also received the State Child Protection Allocation as a normal quarterly advance from JFS in the amount of \$290,691.17. For expenses, every category is currently lower than budgeted except for the Adoption line (which is 7.9% higher than budgeted). There were no expenditures in the month of April from the capital replacement budget.

On a motion by Heydinger, seconded by West-Torrence, the Board unanimously accepted the April 2020 Final Financial Report.

Executive Session

At 3:59 p.m., Chair Kulig recommended an Executive Session. On a motion by Grega, seconded by Blakley, the Board voted unanimously to move into Executive Session by roll call vote in order to consider the compensation of public employees. At that time, each Board member responded as follows: Kulig, “yes”; Blakley, “yes”; Nicholson, “yes”; West-Torrence, “yes”; Grega, “yes”; and Heydinger, “yes.” Kulig asked Harless, Zuercher, Goshe, Foulks, and Hackedorn to stay. *Bessick joined the meeting at 4:02 p.m., after the Executive Session had started.*

On a motion by Grega, seconded by West-Torrence, the Board voted unanimously to return to open session at 4:40 p.m.

Best Practices Funding Discussion

Following the Executive Session, Blakley put a motion forward to accept “Scenario 3” from the list of possible recommendations presented to the Board for use of the Best Practices funding source. Scenario 3 includes (among other things) a plan to spend \$102,800 in state funds (received as the Best Practices allocation) on foster parents and kinship providers. Each foster and kin parent would receive a \$200 check for each child placed in their home no less than 20 days during the month of April, and a \$200 check for each child placed in their home no less than 20 days during the month of May. Scenario 3 also includes providing one-time lump sum payments to non-exempt RCCS staff in the amount of \$500. This would equal \$35,000 for the 70 non-exempt staff members.

On a motion by Blakley, seconded by Bessick, the Board voted on this matter with 6 affirmatives and 1 negative. Motion carried. *Grega left the meeting at this point (4:50 p.m.).*

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 Bessick, the Board unanimously approved payment of the Agency bills.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by West-Torrence, seconded by Blakley, the Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jim Kulig, RCCS Board Chair

Amy Hackedorn, Recording Secretary