

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Date of Meeting: July 12, 2021

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

Members Excused: Secretary Deanna West-Torrence

Members Absent:

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

The regular monthly Board meeting was held on Monday, July 12, 2021, in the Fuddy Training & Learning Center at Richland County Children Services. Chair Kulig called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m. of Board members present and representing a quorum.

INTRODUCTIONS AND DISCUSSION

Murray informed the Board of an upcoming event being held in honor of Doug Castle. The Doug Castle Legacy Project and Scholarship Benefit will be held at the Mansfield Liederkrantz on Saturday, August 7th from 5:00-10:30 p.m. The guest speaker will be Jim Tressel, current President of Youngstown State University and former head coach of the Ohio State Buckeyes. There will be a silent auction consisting of five (5) Big Ten title rings, a watch from a Rose Bowl victory, and other items in addition to a 50/50 drawing. All funds raised during the event go toward the scholarship awarded in Doug Castle's honor to Mansfield City seniors.

The Board members and RCCS staff members present formally introduced themselves due to the fact that this was the first in-person meeting since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Kulig stated that his final term is up on December 31st of this year, and that it has been an honor to serve on the RCCS Board for the last 10 years.

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

On a motion by Nicholson, seconded by Hope, the Board unanimously approved the June 14, 2021 regular Board meeting minutes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director's Report and Comments

Harless commented on the fact that we have been very busy as an Agency. It has been nice working with Mark Abrams (from the Mansfield Parks and Recreation Department) on all of the community events being held this summer at local parks. Harless informed the Board that we did terminate our contract with Jefferson Health Plan on 6.30.2021 so that the Agency did not incur \$375,000 worth of fines (in addition to all of our claims). We are trying to join in with CEBCO (the County Employee Benefits Consortium of Ohio), but we do have a back-up plan in place. CEBCO said that they will have enough information about the county's claims by September of this year in order to identify how much they would require from plan participants both with and without our staff. We have been off of the county's plan since 2017. Adding more people to their pool should help them long-term, although they would have to factor in our claims before making a final decision. Kulig would like to formally acknowledge Berean Baptist Church, Love on a Mission, On Everything I Love, the Mansfield Art Center, and the Mansfield Parks and Recreation Department for their continued efforts in working with kids within Richland County. Blakley's organization (Be the Light) is having an upcoming community event at Liberty Park.

Harless commented on the drug testing of minors. Most individuals in the community (including those who do drugs) don't realize that this is an issue. We may need to start charging parents with child endangerment if they continue exposing their young children to drugs such as cocaine, meth, and fentanyl. Richland County Prosecutor Gary Bishop scheduled a meeting for next week to discuss this issue. Harless and Hackedorn will provide periodic updates to the Board on this matter.

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

Executive Committee Report

Kulig stated that the Executive Committee met at 2:30 p.m. today immediately prior to the Board meeting. Committee members identified issues that were important for them to address in some manner before the end of 2021. The first item discussed was the issue of visitation. Murray stated that this has been an ongoing topic of conversation over the years. The Executive Committee would like to revisit the possibility of building a facility on-site to use for this purpose. This project may need to be re-bid due to the length of time that has passed. Several members of the Executive Committee have ties to various funding sources throughout Richland County, and they are willing to pursue those avenues prior to presentation to the Commissioners for final approval. Even the court has requested that we develop a better space for visitation purposes, so the Committee is going to evaluate options in order to identify a permanent solution to this issue. Hope stated that we could also see if there is space available to lease in the Century Link building.

Kulig said that the committee will also discuss staff retention issues, the possibility of launching a community and/or staff survey, short-term and long-term planning, and the development/updating of strategic Agency goals. No action is needed at this time.

Finance Director Report

June Finance Report

Goshe distributed and reported on the June 2021 Final Financial Report regarding the revenues and expenditures. This included a beginning balance of \$7,788,458.29, \$742,803.75 in revenue, and \$924,682.97 in expenses with an ending balance of \$7,606,579.07. The ending fund balance reflects 65.7% or about 7.9 months of the 2021 budget.

Revenue at the end of June was 1.3% less than budgeted. We received \$64,682.42 from the Ohio Department of Taxation for real estate tax settlements for homestead and rollback reimbursement. All expense lines were lower than budgeted except for Purchased Services (which is still high due to the contribution made to the Youth & Family Council pooled fund account at the beginning of the year). We owe them another \$27,000, which should be transferred sometime in July or August. The fund balance is up by an increase of \$302,402.59.

Heydinger asked about the Ohio START expenses and whether we have had to hire new staff for this purpose. Part of this funding goes to Family Life Counseling to pay the salaries of our two peer mentors.

On a motion by Heydinger, seconded by Bessick, the Board unanimously accepted the June 2021 Final Financial report.

Finance Committee Report

No report at this time.

Levy Committee Report

No report at this time.

Personnel Committee Report

2021 RCCS Personnel Manual Revisions

Board members were given a synopsis of all of the revisions being recommended by the Personnel Committee. Bessick asked about allowing workers to wear flip flops. Foulks stated that we have reminded staff about safety issues (being able to run, stepping on broken glass/dirt/needles, etc.), and they are also aware that they need to wear appropriate footwear to court and to other meetings. Soliday stated that we used to have group offenses in the Progressive Discipline policy but that they were removed several years ago. The goal is to just add them back in for the purpose of promoting consistency in discipline. Hope felt like the revisions were a good balance between items that benefit employees and those that benefit the Agency.

On a motion by Gatchall, seconded by Hope, the Board unanimously accepted the revisions to the RCCS Personnel Manual for 2021 as recommended.

Services and Program Report

No report at this time.

BILLS

Payment of Agency Bills - On a motion by Bessick, seconded by Nicholson, the Board unanimously approved payment by signature of the Agency bills.

Harless asked if the Board members would like to move future meetings back down to the Board Room. Consensus among those present was that future Board meetings can and will be held in the Board Room starting with the August meeting (unless unforeseen circumstances dictate otherwise).

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Bessick, seconded by Hope, the Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jim Kulig, RCCS Board Chair

Amy Hackedorn, Recording Secretary