

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Date of Meeting: August 9, 2021

Members Present: Chair Jim Kulig, Secretary Deanna West-Torrence, Nicole Blakley, Jim Nicholson, Bill Hope, Renee Bessick (3:55 p.m.)

Members Excused: Vice Chair Pat Heydinger, Treasurer Jason Murray, Scott Gatchall

Members Absent:

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

The regular monthly Board meeting was held on Monday, August 9, 2021, in the Board Room at Richland County Children Services. Chair Kulig called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. of Board members present and representing a quorum.

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

On a motion by Blakley, seconded by Hope, the Board unanimously approved the July 12, 2021 regular Board meeting minutes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director's Report and Comments

Harless commented on the opiate taskforce meeting that she attended recently. At the meeting, Harless and Foulks presented information on each of our recent drug-positive child cases. Richland County Prosecutor Gary Bishop asked Harless for hard-copy documentation on all of the cases from 2021, and she has already compiled the necessary information. Bishop now wants to meet with Harless on Friday (8.13.2021) to discuss the specifics of each case individually. One concern expressed by local law enforcement was the lack of available officers to address the situation. Board member Bill Hope asked whether or not the 15 children aged 0-5 who have tested positive in 2021 are in safe situations right now. Harless explained the process of how these children are initially tested. The hope is that the threat of repercussions other than just losing their children (a child endangering charge, etc.) will help parents get into a treatment scenario and/or go to jail to help them get clean. West-Torrence stated that Third Street has the majority of community health workers in Richland County (from the CHAP

program). We also have two peer mentors through the START program who can work with the involved parents if they are willing to obtain treatment. Harless will know more about this after meeting with Bishop on Friday.

Kulig commented on the opioid lawsuit settlement proposal. Harless stated that we have not received the packet of information yet regarding this, so she is going to talk to the attorney involved in the case to find out if there is an update on this issue. Goshe stated that we will discuss later in the meeting whether or not the Board will authorize whatever settlement is proposed.

Board member Renee Bessick arrived at this point in the meeting (3:55 p.m.).

West-Torrence asked about the kinship program. JFS has a significant amount of TANF funds (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) to distribute, so Harless is going to ask them if we can submit requests for kinship hits in addition to court liaison hits. This would allow us to draw down more money to help assist kinship families involved with the Agency.

On a motion by West-Torrence, seconded by Nicholson, 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. There is no report from the meeting today, other than the fact that the Executive Committee will continue to discuss visitation issues, community/staff surveys, and Agency strategic goals. Harless stated that we are going to tour the Century Link building tomorrow along with other community partners. Goshe has also been in conversation with Dan Seckel about a potential revised estimate on the building project we previously discussed.

Finance Director Report

July Finance Report

Goshe distributed and reported on the July 2021 Final Financial Report regarding the revenues and expenditures. This included a beginning balance of \$7,606,579.07, \$607,629.68 in revenue, and \$1,091,184.02 in expenses with an ending balance of \$7,123,024.73. The ending fund balance reflects 61.5% or about 7.4 months of the 2021 budget.

Through the end of July our revenue for the year was 4.2% lower than budgeted. August is generally a large revenue month, though, since that is when the second half of property taxes are received. Expenditures were higher than normal for July since it was a 3-pay month. Hope asked how the State budget affects us. Goshe stated that anything color-coded orange in the finance report is considered state funds, and we can use the majority of that as a match for federal funds. The SCPA (State Child Protection Allocation) amount increased by \$103,824.47 for the year, so that is about a 10% increase. We also will probably receive more Ohio START funding for that program as well. Children Services Best Practices and Foster Recruitment funds will stay in Columbus this year, so we won't receive any of the amount we initially

budgeted for this. If we place a child in a residential facility that isn't QRTP-certified after October 1st of 2021, we will no longer be reimbursed for any of that money. Goshe stated that we will receive more information later this week on that subject. There is also additional training that we will receive regarding the QRTP process and implementation on 8.18.2021.

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

OneOhio Participation Form

Harless was contacted by a representative from Napoli Shkolnik law firm in New York regarding a settlement agreement in the opioid lawsuit. They have not sent us any information regarding the settlement terms yet, so we are not sure what is being offered. We will need to sign and return the OneOhio Participation Form to the law firm no later than Friday, 8.13.2021, if we are in agreement with the terms of the settlement agreement.

On a motion by West-Torrence, seconded by Blakley, the Board unanimously approved authorization for Harless to sign and submit the OneOhio Participation Form if it will prove to be beneficial to Richland County Children Services.

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. The next meeting is scheduled for later this week (8.12.2021) in order to discuss the 1st and 2nd Quarter PQI report information.

BILLS

Payment of Agency Bills - On a motion by West-Torrence, seconded by Hope, the Board unanimously approved payment by signature of the Agency bills.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Nicholson, seconded by Blakley, the Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jim Kulig, RCCS Board Chair

Amy Hackedorn, Recording Secretary