

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Date of Meeting: September 13, 2021

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

Members Excused: Chair Jim Kulig, Treasurer Jason Murray

Members Absent:

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

The regular monthly Board meeting was held on Monday, September 13, 2021, in the Board Room at Richland County Children Services. Vice Chair Heydinger called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. of Board members present and representing a quorum.

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

On a motion by West-Torrence, seconded by Hope, the Board unanimously approved the August 9, 2021 regular Board meeting minutes.

Blakley arrived at this point in the meeting (3:33 p.m.)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director's Report and Comments

Harless commented on the Agency's 2022 health insurance situation. She informed the Board that the Richland County Commissioners accepted RCCS employees back onto the County health insurance plan. This will be discussed in greater detail later in the meeting. Harless has also continued to meet with local law enforcement and the Prosecutor's office about the child-positive drug cases. Our goal is to encourage the parents to seek treatment for their drug addiction and to raise awareness of this issue within the community. Heydinger requested that Hackedorn make another presentation to the Board regarding this topic. This will be completed at an upcoming meeting. Soliday stated that the Agency still has a significant number of vacancies, although there are currently two potential new hires (we are awaiting the

results of their background checks) and a couple of other applicants awaiting interviews. The issues of staff retention and recruitment have always been an issue in the field of child welfare, but we are actually doing better than many other Ohio counties in these areas.

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

Executive Committee Report

Heydinger stated that the Executive Committee met immediately prior to this meeting. They were briefed on the Agency's health insurance situation, which Goshe will discuss further during the Finance portion of the meeting. Current Board Chair Jim Kulig will cycle off of the RCCS Board at the end of December, so we will need to identify another community member to submit to the Commissioners for consideration in filling his seat. Heydinger stated that we may need to find another female member in order to ensure that the Board demographic is balanced. Heydinger tasked the Board members present to start thinking about this issue and to bring their recommendations to the October Board meeting.

Finance Director Report

August Finance Report

Goshe distributed and reported on the August 2021 Final Financial Report regarding the revenues and expenditures. This included a beginning balance of \$7,123,024.73, \$2,135,552.47 in revenue, and \$839,619.23 in expenses with an ending balance of \$8,418,957.97. The ending fund balance reflects 72.7% or about 8.7 months of the 2021 budget.

Goshe stated that revenue is 6.2% higher than budgeted, primarily due to receipt of the second real estate tax settlement. We are down slightly from revenue at the same time last year, although this is not a concerning amount. Goshe cannot say for certain if this is due to an economic slowdown or prepayment of taxes by individuals earlier this year. The Agency's expenditures are currently 5.2% lower than budgeted. Hope stated that some of the local schools received a significant amount of money from the pipeline project. Goshe will ask Auditor Pat Dropsey if this will affect our Agency at all. Heydinger asked about Protect Ohio funding. Goshe stated that we received an email several weeks ago informing us that we would receive over \$1 million to help offset placement costs due to FFPSA implementation. We would have until October 2026 to spend that amount.

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

2021 Health Insurance

Heydinger reiterated that the Commissioners voted to allow RCCS employees back onto the County health insurance plan. Goshe explained that our current plan will have run-out claims through Jefferson Health Plan after December 31st. JHP has informed us that they will require a deposited amount of \$375,000 for the run-out claims. On top of that, we have a current

deficit with them of \$120,000. Goshe does not need any action from the Board at this time regarding this matter.

Deductions for the current health insurance plan will come out of employee paychecks in December, in addition to deductions for the new County health insurance. Goshe stated that the request would be to have the Board vote whether or not they will pay one of the deduction amounts (preferably the old premium) for staff (in the amount of approximately \$20,000) and allow them to only pay the amount for the new plan's premium. There are three pays in December, though, so the Board could elect to have employees pay both premiums themselves.

On a motion by Nicholson, seconded by West-Torrence, the Board unanimously voted in favor of having the Agency pay the employees' share of health insurance payroll deductions for the Jefferson Health Plan in the month of December.

Bessick arrived at this point in the meeting (4:09 p.m.).

2022 Health Insurance

Goshe handed out a sheet with breakdowns for the three County employee sections (non-union employees, union employees, and all Engineer employees). We need to decide if we want to utilize one of the three current employer/employee splits or come up with our own. Goshe recommends going with the rate utilized by Engineering department employees, where employees pay 10% of the premium across the Board. Heydinger stated that the new plan is a significant savings for both the Agency and its employees with no real loss of benefits.

On a motion by Nicholson, seconded by Blakley, the Board unanimously accepted the 2022 health insurance recommendations as presented by Goshe, where the Agency will adhere to the rate utilized by all County Engineer employees in 2022 and maintain a 10%/90% employee/employer split for all monthly premiums.

West-Torrence left at this point in the meeting (4:30 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

1st & 2nd Quarter PQI Report

Blakley stated that the S&P Committee met on 8.12.2021. There were three main take-aways that they found from their review of the 1st and 2nd Quarter PQI report, specifically trends involving children placed with kin, agency phone calls/visitors, and FTM/TDM fidelity. Harless stated that we do not need to track fidelity as closely as we had been since we are no longer under Protect Ohio regulations. Father engagement is something new that is being tracked, and Blakley believes this will be interesting for the S&P Committee to look at moving forward. Father engagement is also important from a legal aspect. Zuercher stated that we obtain a lot of our information from CSEA (Child Support Enforcement Agency) regarding paternity and possible paternity (as opposed to vice versa).

On a motion by Blakley, seconded by Bessick, the Board unanimously accepted the 1st & 2nd Quarter PQI report.

BILLS

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

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Hope, seconded by Blakely, the Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Pat Heydinger, RCCS Board Vice Chair

Amy Hackedorn, Recording Secretary