

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Date of Meeting: December 11, 2023

Members Present: Chair Pat Heydinger, Treasurer Jason Murray, Secretary Jim Nicholson, Mary Stentz, Bill Hope, Judy Forney, Randy Pore, Bennie Allen-Stanford

Members Excused: Vice Chair Nicole Blakley

Members Absent:

Others Present: Nikki Harless, Nicole Foulks, Kevin Goshe, Sarah Soliday, La'Shaun Reuer, Recording Secretary Amy Hackedorn

Others Absent:

The regular monthly Board meeting was held on Monday, December 11, 2023, in the Board Conference Room at Richland County Children Services. 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 Allen-Stanford, the Board unanimously approved the proposed agenda by all Board members in attendance.

MINUTES

On a motion by Murray, seconded by Pore, the Board unanimously approved the November 13, 2023, regular Board meeting minutes as presented.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Harless informed the Board that the CAC (Child Advocacy Center) committee had another meeting today. Chief Porch was present this time, but the Prosecutor's Office could not make it. Colleen Rice (from the Domestic Violence Shelter) was also present for the meeting. Rice has spoken with OhioHealth, and they are excited to be a part of this. The goal of the committee is to form an independent CAC using the 501(c)(3) from the DV Shelter (so that it isn't tied to only one healthcare entity). RCCS would provide some forensic interviewers from our staff to provide that type of support. The house that the DV Shelter is willing to provide will need soundproofing and recording equipment installed, although Rice supposedly already has funding for this. Acute cases will still be treated and assessed at local hospitals (we are allowed to have 25% of the interviews occur somewhere other than the CAC facility, so we would still be in compliance for accreditation).

While discussing high employee turnover rates within the first year of employment, Hope asked why caseworkers do not realize what they are getting into when they first apply to work here. Harless explained that we often hire individuals straight out of college. Unless they have been exposed to the child welfare

environment previously, they often do not fully understand what types of situations they will encounter, and they also often underestimate their own ability to cope with the unique challenges that this job poses on a daily basis.

Since it is Board member Jason Murray's last official meeting, Harless expressed thanks to Murray for his years of service to our Board. She stated that she really appreciated his support of the Agency during some of the harder times over the years. She appreciates the fact that he was always open and transparent with his thoughts, in addition to the unique perspectives that he brought as both an adoptive parent and as a legal professional within the community. Heydinger thanked Murray for being a mentor to him as well and stated that he valued Murray's expertise in many matters over the years. Harless presented Murray with a plaque of recognition, and everyone present gave him a round of applause.

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

Executive Committee Report

Heydinger stated that the Committee has been unsuccessful with finding a replacement candidate for Murray's seat on the Board. We will now need to rely solely on the Richland County Commissioners to find an appointee. Harless will ask them if they have any candidates available.

2024 Board Officers

The Nominating Committee has recommended the slate of 2024 Board Officers as follows: Nicole Blakley as Chair, Jim Nicholson as Vice Chair, Bill Hope as Treasurer and Mary Stentz as Secretary.

On a motion by Murray, seconded by Pore, the Board unanimously approved the 2024 slate of RCCS Board Officers as presented.

Finance Director Report

November Finance Report

Goshe distributed and reported on the November 2023 Final Financial Report regarding the revenues and expenditures. This included a beginning balance of \$9,256,548.60, \$889,649.46 in revenue, and \$1,018,769.03 in expenses with an ending balance of \$9,127,429.03. The ending fund balance reflects 67.8% or about 8.1 months of the 2023 budget.

Goshe thanked Murray for his leadership on the Board Budget & Finance Committee. He also stated that total revenue for the year was 2.8% higher than budgeted and total expenses were 12.7% lower than budgeted at the end of November. Goshe is not sure if we will finish in the black at the end of the year, but it will be close.

On a motion by Forney, seconded by Murray, the Board unanimously accepted the November 2023 Final Financial Report.

Resolution 12-11-23-01: Authorization to Sign Documents

Resolution 12-11-23-01 was proposed for purposes of authorizing specific agency staff to perform the various functions necessary to process payroll, pay bills, and be the point of contact to the Auditor's office. These authorizations must be approved annually by the RCCS Board.

On a motion by Hope, seconded by Murray, the Board unanimously approved Resolution 12-11-23-01 by roll call vote and signature.

Finance Committee Report

No report at this time. Hope asked how the Agency's contracting procedure works. Harless will send an email to the listserv of other PCSA agency directors to find out whether they have a threshold for their Board to approve contractual agreements.

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 Nicholson, seconded by Allen-Stanford, the Board unanimously approved payment by signature of the Agency bills.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Murray, seconded by Hope, the Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Pat Heydinger, RCCS Board Chair
Amy Hackedorn, Recording Secretary