

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Date of Meeting: April 6, 2020

Members Present: Chair Jim Kulig, Vice Chair Pat Heydinger, Treasurer Jason Murray, Nicole Blakley, Jim Nicholson, Renee Bessick (via phone)*

Members Excused: Secretary Deanna West-Torrence, Rick Grega

Members Absent:

Others Present: Nikki Harless, Chris Zuercher, Kevin Goshe, Recording Secretary Amy Hackedorn, Marsha Coleman (via phone), Ben Chapman (via phone)

Others Absent:

An emergency Board meeting was held on Monday, April 6, 2020, in the Board Conference Room at Richland County Children Services for the purpose of discussing the Supplemental Policy regarding the Family First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 that was approved at the Board meeting on 3.31.2020. 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

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

Supplemental Policy

RCCS HR Manager Chris Zuercher discussed the supplemental policy that was approved at the Board meeting on 3.31.2020 regarding the Family First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020. In response to this legislation, the Board put the supplemental policy in place to address the Emergency Sick Leave Act and the Expanded FMLA benefits (to include COVID-19 related issues). Based on new guidance received from the Department of Labor (categorizing child welfare workers as emergency responders) and precedent set by the Richland County Commissioners based on advice from the County Commissioners Association (CCAO) and the Prosecutor's Office (exempting all JFS employees), Agency management is requesting that the Board **void** the Supplemental Policy enacted at the March Board meeting regarding the Family First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020. The Department of Labor considers the work of Agency employees to be essential even during the coronavirus pandemic and categorizes child welfare workers with other emergency responders such as law enforcement and medical personnel. As such, our employees would be exempt from the additional benefits.

On a motion by Blakley, seconded by Murray, the Board unanimously agreed to void the supplemental policy effective at the end of business on 4.6.2020 and exempt all RCCS staff from the provisions provided by the Family First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020, under the understanding that management will bring forward any further concerns to the Board for additional discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Nicholson, seconded by Heydinger, the Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jim Kulig, RCCS Board Chair

Amy Hackedorn, Recording Secretary