

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Date of Meeting: February 10, 2025

Members Present: Chair Nicole Blakley, Vice Chair Jim Nicholson, Secretary Mary Stentz, Jerry Snay, Randy Pore, Bennie Allen

Members Excused: Treasurer Bill Hope, Pat Heydinger, Judy Forney

Members Absent:

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

Others Absent:

The regular monthly Board meeting was held on Monday, February 10, 2025, in the Board Conference Room at Richland County Children Services. Chair Blakley called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. of Board members present and representing a quorum.

AGENDA

On a motion by Snay, seconded by Nicholson, the Board unanimously approved the agenda as presented by all Board members in attendance.

MINUTES

On a motion by Allen, seconded by Stentz, the Board unanimously approved the January 13, 2025, regular Board meeting minutes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Lautzenhiser reported on all of the meetings that she attended in the month of January, both alone and with Nikki Harless. Nikki had obtained some signatures for the Child Advocacy Center Memorandum of Understanding, but Tara is still working on completing this. Akron Children's Hospital representatives are going to tour the CAC at the end of February to meet all of the other entities involved. Lautzenhiser attended the breakfast meeting with Senator Mark Romanchuk and Representative Marilyn John. This went well. Lautzenhiser also met with all of the Core Team members in the month of January. Lautzenhiser discussed moving Brigitte Coles up in the pay scale (from Pay Range 2 to Pay Range 7) and making her a supervisor. Paula Caldwell will continue to assist her with community events and foster parent recruitment.

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

Resolution 02-10-25-01: Reclassifying a Position

Soliday put forth Resolution 02-10-25-01, in which the Agency management staff requested to reclassify the Agency's one (1) Community Engagement Specialist position to one (1) new Community Engagement Supervisor position, to be maintained in Pay Range 7.

On a motion by Nicholson, seconded by Snay, the Board members present unanimously agreed by roll call vote and signature to approve the position reclassification as outlined in Resolution 02-10-25-01.

Executive Committee Report

No report at this time.

Finance Director Report

December Finance Report

Goshe distributed and reported on the December 2024 Final Financial Report regarding the revenues and expenditures. This included a beginning balance of \$7,991,011.04, \$1,219,125.18 in revenue, and \$1,110,303.96 in expenses with an ending balance of \$8,099,832.26. The ending fund balance reflects 56.5% or about 6.8 months of the 2024 budget.

Goshe stated that total revenue was 7.9% higher than budgeted and total expenses were 5.7% lower than budgeted at the end of December. All expense lines were lower than budgeted except the Adoption line (which was 5.4% higher than budgeted) and the Placement line (which was 6.2% higher than budgeted). The fund balance decreased \$863,387.37 during 2024. A contract with Weldon, Huston and Keyser was signed during the month of December for provision of legal services to kinship caregiver families. They did not raise their rates from the last contractual agreement we had with them.

On a motion by Nicholson, seconded by Allen, the Board unanimously accepted the December 2024 Final Finance report.

January Finance Report

Goshe distributed and reported on the January 2025 Final Financial Report regarding the revenues and expenditures. This included a beginning balance of \$8,099,832.26, \$202,422.11 in revenue, and \$1,062,184.54 in expenses with an ending balance of \$7,240,069.83. The ending fund balance reflects 49.1% or about 5.9 months of the 2025 budget.

Goshe stated that total revenue was 6.7% lower than budgeted (which is normal for this time of year) and total expenses were 1.1% lower than budgeted at the end of January. All expense lines were lower than budgeted except the Placement line (which was exactly on budget at the end of January). A contract with Maurer Architectural Design for provision of design/engineering services for the restroom remodeling project was signed during the month of January. Goshe and Lautzenhiser had a preliminary meeting with Maurer in January, but there is not an anticipated start date yet at this time.

On a motion by Snay, seconded by Nicholson, the Board unanimously accepted the January 2025 Final Finance report.

Vehicle Disposal

Goshe reminded the Board that one of our new vehicles with 604 miles on it was involved in an accident in May of 2024. The repair estimate is \$19,000. We were not cited, but Progressive still denied our claim since the owner's sister was technically the one driving. Goshe would like to dispose of the vehicle, as it is still sitting in the body shop. Since we have a \$25,000 deductible, our insurance company will not touch this. Apparently the current value of the vehicle is below \$25,000, so even if we had totaled the vehicle it

still would not be covered. The only recourse at this point is to convince the Prosecutor's Office to sue the owner of the other vehicle.

On a motion by Nicholson, seconded by Allen, the Board unanimously authorized Goshe to approach the Commissioner's to obtain permission to dispose of the aforementioned vehicle.

Finance Committee Report

No report at this time.

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 Snay, seconded by Pore, the Board unanimously approved payment by signature of the Agency bills.

Nicholson asked Lautzenhiser about the outcome of the "Stay" interviews. Nikki Harless started doing this last year. Both stay interviews went well, and Lautzenhiser will continue to schedule these moving forward. Nicholson also asked about the Agency's current foster homes. Foulks explained that there are really only 7 homes who are not providing any type of service(s) to our children at this time, but we still need many more of our own homes in order to lower our placement costs.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Nicholson, seconded by Allen, the Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Nicole Blakley, RCCS Board Chair

Amy Hackedorn, Recording Secretary