

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Date of Meeting: February 9, 2026

Members Present: Treasurer Bill Hope, Secretary Mary Stentz, Randy Pore, Jessica Luttrell, Judy Forney

Members Absent: Chair Jim Nicholson, Vice Chair Jerry Snay, Fred Schuster, Bennie Allen

Others Present: Tara Lautzenhiser, Nicole Foulks, Drew Miller, Sarah Soliday, Recording Secretary Amy Hackedorn

Others Absent: La'Shaun Reuer

The regular monthly Board meeting was held on Monday, February 9, 2026, in the Board Conference Room at Richland County Children Services. Treasurer Bill Hope (serving as Chair) called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. of Board members present and representing a quorum.

### **AGENDA**

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

### **MINUTES**

On a motion by Pore, seconded by Stentz, the Board unanimously approved the January 12, 2026, regular Board meeting minutes.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Lautzenhiser commented on some of the structural changes and goals that she is planning for 2026. Assistant Director Foulks is spearheading a new foster home recruitment campaign moving forward, so hopefully this will yield some new Agency homes in order to reduce our placement costs. Lautzenhiser spoke with the state about our CPOE review; we traditionally have always done well with these since we are one of the top counties in the state as far as performance is concerned. We will meet with our state TAS in March. Lautzenhiser met with ONCAC to discuss our progress toward the CAC development onsite. She is going to rewrite the sublease that we currently have with Family Life Counseling. We will also be converting one of our existing FSS positions to a DV Advocate position. This is a requirement for CAC operations, and the state confirmed that the Agency can employ the DV Advocate as long as they are not directly involved in case-related decisions. Currently these cases are still being worked at Family Life Counseling with our CAC Coordinator. The bathroom remodeling project is slowly progressing. They have selected the office that they will use to store their supplies and will start the project once all materials have been received. There is a 45-day deadline once they actually start construction. Hope asked about the resignation of attorney Lindsey Saltz. We are currently operating with only two attorneys. Hope heard that the Youth and Family Council leader is leaving and asked if this will affect us. She will be in her role through the end of February. The appointing authority is the Commissioners, and they will begin a search for the next person to fill this role.

Hope asked about the foster parent recruitment campaign. Foulks is hoping for a 3-month campaign, where the first month is dedicated to presentations given to churches and other local organizations. Month two would be more in-depth informational events where prospective foster parents could meet with existing foster parents. We currently have 53 homes, but many of these are on hold or cannot accept any additional children. There will always be a need for specialized care and residential care, but many of our kids do not need a high level of care. Foulks is hoping for an additional 10 homes, but any increase in the number of foster homes is a success. She has done research on how to customize presentations utilizing statistics from each specific neighborhood or town. She would like to utilize social media to post something every week.

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

#### **Resolution 02-09-26-01: Reclassifying a Position**

Resolution 02-09-26-01 was proposed for purposes of reclassifying one (1) vacant Family Support Specialist position to one (1) DV Advocate position on Agency Pay Range 2. Soliday explained that this would be a hybrid role in which the DV Advocate could also help with some family support specialist functions. Lautzenhisser stated that the DV Advocate portion of this role would take about 6-8 hours per week, depending on caseload.

On a motion by Forney, seconded by Hope, the Board unanimously approved Resolution 02-09-26-01 by roll call vote and signature.

#### **Executive Committee Report**

No report at this time.

#### **Finance Director Report**

##### **December Finance Report**

Finance Director Drew Miller distributed and reported on the January 2026 Final Financial Report regarding the revenues and expenditures. This included a beginning balance of \$6,967,368.16, \$165,589.12 in revenue, and \$1,271,149.82 in expenses with an ending balance of \$5,861,807.46. The ending fund balance reflects 37.3% or about 4.5 months of the 2026 budget.

Miller stated that total revenue was 7.0% lower than budgeted and total expenses were 0.2% lower than budgeted at the end of January. The bulk of the revenue received was a \$154,265.43 reimbursement for November's placement costs and \$2,575.00 received from the sale of a 2013 Ford Focus from the Agency's fleet. Each area of expense was lower than budgeted at the end of January except for the Placement line (which was 1.3% higher than budgeted) and the Adoption line (which was 5.0% higher than budgeted). A contract with Studer-Obringer for the restroom remodel project was signed during the month of January.

On a motion by Pore, seconded by Stentz, the Board unanimously accepted the January 2026 Final Finance report.

#### **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.

Hope stated that the property tax repeal issue is a hot topic down in Columbus. They are a long way away from getting enough signatures to put this on the November ballot. They cannot submit signatures, fall short, and then submit the same signatures again. This may not have as much support as they originally thought. One of the legislators from Mount Vernon stated that Ohio has more than double the amount of organizations that use tax money than the next highest state. Miller stated that \$4.6 million of our \$13 million comes from local property taxes.

### **BILLS**

**Payment of Agency Bills** - On a motion by Pore, seconded by Stentz, the Board unanimously approved payment by signature of the Agency bills.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Hope, seconded by Pore, the Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bill Hope, RCCS Board Treasurer

Amy Hackedorn, Recording Secretary