

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Date of Meeting: January 10, 2022

Members Present: Chair Pat Heydinger, Vice Chair Nicole Blakley, Treasurer Jason Murray, Secretary Jim Nicholson, Bill Hope, Scott Gatchall, Renee Bessick, Bennie Allen-Stanford

Members Excused:

Members Absent:

Others Present: Nikki Harless, Nicole Foulks, Drew Miller, Sarah Soliday, Marsha Coleman, Chris Zuercher, Recording Secretary Amy Hackedorn

The regular monthly Board meeting was held on Monday, January 10, 2022, in the Board Room at Richland County Children Services. Chair Heydinger called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m. of Board members present and representing a quorum.

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

On a motion by Nicholson, seconded by Murray, the Board unanimously approved the December 13, 2021, regular Board meeting minutes.

MINI-TRAINING

RCCS Oral Drug Testing – 2021 Recap

RCCS Supervisor of Administrative Services Amy Hackedorn presented information to the Board on the oral drug testing process, changing trends regarding drug usage, financial repercussions to the Agency, and overall outcomes for the year 2021. For oral drug testing, RCCS uses Forensic Fluids Laboratories in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Their standard 10-panel screen costs \$25, although the Agency pays \$1.00 extra per test to include fentanyl standard as well. The money spent on drug tests is not reimbursable at the federal or state levels, so this amount comes out of the Agency's levy funds. In 2021, the amount spent on oral drug testing alone was \$56,732. The Agency's overall positive percentage for oral drug testing in 2021 was 56% (where 1,223 of 2,182 tests were positive for at least one drug). For minors aged 0-18, 373 tests were conducted with 125 positive results (for a positive percentage rate of 33.5%). Hackedorn will continue to keep the Board apprised of the Agency's drug testing trends.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director's Report and Comments

Blakley asked if there is a Kinship Support Group for grandparents. RCCS Kinship Navigator Rhonda Marsh used to host one of these here at the Agency, but it was not well attended. There are currently small subsets of foster parent groups who meet with kin parents as well. Hope commented on the large number of staff leaving in December. There are currently 14 casework openings. The training period for new hires is approximately 1 year depending on the worker. Caseload numbers are pretty high right now. We approved more OT for workers recently, so hopefully that will alleviate some of their time constraints as far as meeting timeliness deadlines. Hope commented on the fact that many schools now employ social workers internally. Several RCCS workers have taken jobs with local schools in that capacity recently.

Harless stated that we have scheduled a mandatory training for staff on Cultural Diversity through OCWTP (the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program). We are also considering a contract with Soul Bird Consulting Firm for staff training in this area, although this is a much more expensive option.

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

Executive Committee Report

Heydinger mentioned the Board Committee assignments. Jason Murray will remain as Chair of the Budget & Finance Committee, and he would like to add Bill Hope and Scott Gatchall as Committee members. Renee Bessick will remain as Chair of the Personnel Committee, and Heydinger asked Scott Gatchall and Bennie Allen-Stanford to join as Committee members. Nicole Blakley will remain as Chair of the Services & Program Committee, and she would like to add Jim Nicholson and our new Board member (name TBD) as Committee members.

The Executive Committee will begin their evaluation of the Executive Director soon as well. Harless will complete her self-evaluation first, and then the Executive Committee will review and discuss this.

Regarding the new Advisory Committee that was voted into existence last month, this will fall as a subcommittee under the Services & Program Committee. Blakley is going to start compiling a list of community members and internal Agency employees (5-7 individuals total) who may be a good fit for this assignment. Her list of potential candidates will be submitted to the full Board for approval prior to implementation. The Committee will look at training for both the Board and RCCS staff in addition to possibly revising the Agency's Cultural Competency policy if necessary. Hope would also like to see more training for workers on how to deal with issues of extreme poverty. Harless explained that often our workers get pushback from other sources (law enforcement, CASA, teachers, etc.) in situations where the children are technically safe, but the home is dirty. This is where the Mandated Reporter training that we offer to outside entities is invaluable, because it gives us the opportunity to teach others what does and does not legally constitute child abuse and/or neglect.

Nominating Committee Report

Potential Candidates:

Heydinger stated that we have identified Mary Stentz as the Board's primary candidate for the vacant Board seat. Nicholson reminded the Board that Stentz is a mother of four and is on several other Boards throughout Richland County. Her husband is a commercial plumber locally and also coaches several youth teams here in Richland County. Heydinger explained that the Nominating Committee would like to recommend submission of Stentz's resume to the Richland County Commissioners for review and consideration.

On a motion by Blakley, seconded by Bessick, the Board unanimously agreed to submit Mary Stentz as their candidate to the Richland County Commissioners for consideration.

Finance Director Report

December Finance Report

Miller distributed and reported on the December 2021 Preliminary Financial Report regarding the revenues and expenditures. This included a beginning balance of \$9,067,863.38, \$887,351.26 in revenue, and \$1,516,339.41 in expenses with an ending balance of \$8,438,875.23. The ending fund balance reflects 72.8% or about 8.7 months of the 2021 budget. As this is a Preliminary report, the Board will vote to approve the December Financial report in its entirety at the February Board meeting. However, the Board asked Miller to go over some of the highlights today so that they could remain informed on financial matters.

Miller stated that total revenue for the year ended up being 10.2% higher than budgeted. Two major receipts were the normal quarterly Title IV-E Administration & Training reimbursement from the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services (ODJFS) in the amount of \$408,125.30 and the State Child Protection Allocation (SCPA) advance (which was received a month earlier than expected) in the amount of \$315,431.75. Total expenses for 2021 ended up being 2.1% lower than budgeted overall. December was a three-pay month, so those expenditures were slightly higher than normal for the month. The payment to Jefferson Health Plan is hopefully an overpayment. Murray was happy that we budgeted conservatively as we normally do, and it worked out well at the end of the year.

Resolution 01-10-22-01: Authorization to Sign Documents

Resolution 01-10-22-01 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 Blakley, seconded by Bessick, the Board unanimously approved Resolution 01-10-22-01 by roll call vote and signature.

Finance Committee Report

No report at this time, although Murray stated that he would like to thank Hope and Gatchall in advance for their help on this Committee in the future.

Levy 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 Murray, seconded by Nicholson, the Board unanimously approved payment by signature of the Agency bills.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Nicholson, seconded by Murray, the Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Pat Heydinger, RCCS Board Chair

Amy Hackedorn, Recording Secretary