

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Date of Meeting: January 9, 2023

Members Present: Chair Pat Heydinger, Vice Chair Nicole Blakley, Treasurer Jason Murray, Secretary Jim Nicholson, Bill Hope, Judy Forney, Bennie Allen-Stanford

Members Excused: Scott Gatchall

Members Absent:

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

Others Absent: Kevin Goshe

The regular monthly Board meeting was held on Monday, January 9, 2023, in the Board Conference Room at Richland County Children Services. Heydinger called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. of Board members present and representing a quorum.

INTRODUCTION

The Board members and RCCS staff present introduced themselves to the newest Board member (Judy Forney) and welcomed her to the RCCS Board. Forney gave a brief chronological account of her work history and stated that she is happy to have been appointed to the RCCS Board.

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

On a motion by Blakley, seconded by Allen-Stanford, the Board unanimously approved the December 12, 2022, regular Board meeting minutes as presented.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Blakley asked about the internal law enforcement position. Harless stated that Chief Porch has several candidates who are currently in the OPOTA training process, so the earliest that they might be able to contract out for this position is probably summer of 2023. Heydinger asked about cases outside of Mansfield city limits. The internal MPD officer's jurisdiction would only be within city limits, so we would still have to handle our own cases in other areas of Richland County. Hope commented on how much Berean Baptist Church does for RCCS foster youth. Foulks informed the Board that the foster children really enjoy this event every year and look forward to it. Hope asked for a Board training on Youth & Family Council. Harless stated that this will be conducted at the February Board meeting. Harless commented on the

discussion from the December Board meeting regarding the Administrative Agent. This still needs to go to a vote, so no decision has yet been made. Heydinger asked about the state audit meeting that occurred in mid-December. Miller informed the Board that the audit findings should be received within 1-2 months. This particular audit is conducted biennially. Heydinger asked about the new Agency attorney, Heather Cockley. She will start employment at the Agency on 1.19.2023. Assistant Director Nicole Foulks has been supervising all of the Legal staff since the resignation of RCCS Legal Manager Chris Zuercher last fall. Stentz asked what the Educational Specialist position entails. Soliday explained that they ensure that youth in Agency custody are receiving the necessary schooling, and they also enter all of the educational records for RCCS-involved youth into SACWIS. We recently hired a caseworker who has a Master's degree in Education, so she may want to transition into this position. We will be posting for it externally within a few weeks if necessary. *Murray arrived at this point in the meeting (3:44 p.m.)*. Heydinger asked about placement numbers and adoptions. These are typical from what we have experienced recently. There are several other adoptions that are currently pending.

Coleman gave a brief overview of the Board stats paperwork to the full Board for the benefit of the newest member (Forney). Hope asked whether or not there is any way to prevent us from obtaining casework cases in the first place. There are parenting classes and other sources of aid within the community to try to prevent our involvement, but once we start to investigate a case, we actively work to try to prevent court involvement whenever necessary. Our workers also stay involved with families in order to make sure they have access to whatever services they may need when a case is closing in order to try to prevent cases from reopening. Hope asked what the process is for when a school superintendent reports something. Foulks stated that we internally screen all reports that are made to see if an investigation needs to be started. If the report is 'screened-in' then a caseworker will go out and meet with the family. If the report is 'screened-out' then a note is placed in the system about the report and a letter is sent to the mandated reporter letting them know that the complaint does not rise to the level of child abuse and/or neglect. There is some degree of 'over-reporting,' but we would rather have people call and let us make that determination. Reports from school teachers and officials are the highest percentage of total reports that we receive.

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

Executive Committee Report

The Board Executive Committee members met with Harless and Hackedorn immediately prior to the January Board meeting. Heydinger stated that Harless has completed her portion of her annual evaluation, and the Executive Committee is in the process of completing their part in this as well.

2023 Board Officers

Heydinger stated that the Executive Committee recommends retaining the 2022 slate of Board officers, to wit: Chair Pat Heydinger, Vice Chair Nicole Blakley, Treasurer Jason Murray, and Secretary Jim Nicholson.

On a motion by Nicholson, seconded by Hope, the Board unanimously accepted the 2023 Board Officers and Committee members as presented.

2023 Board Committee Members

Heydinger reviewed the 2022 Board Committees in full and asked the Board members present whether they would like to remain in their current role or switch to a different committee. This will be finalized at the February 2023 Board meeting.

Finance Director Report

December Finance Report

Miller distributed and reported on the December 2022 Financial Report regarding the revenues and expenditures. Miller stated that this is technically a Preliminary Report since we have not received confirmation yet from the Auditor's Office, but he does not anticipate any changes. This included a beginning balance of \$9,123,367.92, \$881,915.27 in revenue, and \$1,087,000.59 in expenses with an ending balance of \$8,918,282.60. The ending fund balance reflects 73.2% or about 8.8 months of the 2022 budget.

Miller stated that total revenue for 2022 ended up being 4.6% higher than budgeted, and total expenses for 2022 ended up being 8.7% lower than budgeted. Hope acknowledged that the RCCS Finance department did a good job of ensuring that we ended 2022 with more money in the fund balance than we started with. Heydinger commented on the fact that there are numerous expenses (such as placement costs and adoption costs) that we have no control over. Forney asked about the fiscal year. Miller stated that we operate on a calendar year, although the state and federal governments have different fiscal years as well that we must abide by for some of our fiscal items. Heydinger commented that essentially the Agency has to keep track of three different time periods for various funding sources, grants, reporting deadlines, etc.

On a motion by Hope, seconded by Murray, the Board unanimously accepted the December 2022 Preliminary Financial Report, barring any unforeseen changes.

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

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Nicholson, seconded by Blakley, the Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:
Pat Heydinger, RCCS Board Chair
Amy Hackedorn, Recording Secretary