

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Date of Meeting: July 14, 2025

Members Present: Chair Jim Nicholson, Vice Chair Jerry Snay, Treasurer Bill Hope, Secretary Mary Stentz, Randy Pore, Fred Schuster

Members Absent: Pat Heydinger, Judy Forney, Bennie Allen

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

Others Absent: Sarah Soliday

The regular monthly Board meeting was held on Monday, July 14, 2025, in the Board Conference Room at Richland County Children Services. Chair Jim Nicholson 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 Schuster, the Board unanimously approved the agenda as presented by all Board members in attendance.

MINUTES

On a motion by Snay, seconded by Pore, the Board unanimously approved the June 9, 2025, regular Board meeting minutes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Lautzenhiser reported on the two emancipated youth she met with recently. They have requested records on their biological family that they are not privy to, so we have been trying to explain ORC (Ohio Revised Code) to them. There are rarely any exceptions to these state regulations. Lautzenhiser is very hesitant to do anything that will either go against ORC and/or be further detrimental to the mental health of the youth. Hope asked about records retention in general. Snay explained that RCCS (along with almost every other local government entity and school) must follow the Local Government Records Retention Schedule as approved by the Ohio History Connection. Goshe confirmed that yes, the Agency does follow our retention schedule.

Lautzenhiser met with Commissioner Cliff Mears in order to update him on various topics, including progress toward the CAC development and the new semi-annual evaluations recently rolled out to RCCS staff. He did not have any concerns. Lautzenhiser also met with Mansfield Mayor Jodie Perry in the month of June regarding a 'concerned citizen,' and they met with the citizen in the month of July to discuss bringing more awareness to sexual predators locally. Other attendees were Aurelio Diaz from Mansfield City Council and representatives from MPD and RCSO.

Assistant Director Nicole Foulks created the first annual Foster Fest here at RCCS. Foulks stated that the Placement/Permanency team did a beautiful job with all of the decorations, food and music. However, the turnout from the community was lackluster. They are hopeful that there will be greater attendance next year. Stentz asked about the difference between that event and the RCCS event scheduled in July. The goal of this Foster Fest was to acknowledge our existing foster parents and also encourage any prospective foster parents to attend and learn more about the benefits we offer. Lautzenhiser commented on the fact that Foulks was also the first individual from RCCS to graduate from the latest Leadership Unlimited class. Foulks thought that this was very informative and beneficial.

La'Shaun Reuer sent out a survey to our foster parents. Reuer was impressed by the number of respondents. One key takeaway we learned was that we need to increase foster parent education regarding the process of how we conduct home visits. Communication with one particular caseworker was also identified as a concern. They also thought they needed more out-of-the-box trainings and more money, but some of those things are out of our hands. Reuer was proud of the Agency as a whole since there wasn't a lot of negative feedback at all.

Lautzenhiser commented on the four Independent Living youth who graduated in the month of June. She signed consent for one of the young men in our custody to join the military earlier than age 18 (he wanted to join the Army). Lautzenhiser and Miller met with Jenny Phelps, Tony Vero and the Prosecutor's Office about the vehicle that was totaled. They are going to look into possibly obtaining lower premiums for our Agency, versus (for example) the Sheriff's vehicles. Lautzenhiser also sent out a Staff Survey to RCCS staff in the month of July.

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

Executive Committee Report

No report at this time.

Finance Director Report

June Finance Report

Finance Director Kevin Goshe distributed and reported on the June 2025 Final Financial Report regarding the revenues and expenditures. This included a beginning balance of \$8,014,440.63, \$893,919.61 in revenue, and \$1,206,160.66 in expenses with an ending balance of \$7,702,199.58. The ending fund balance reflects 52.3% or about 6.0 months of the 2025 budget.

Goshe stated that total revenue was 1.9% higher than budgeted and total expenses were 3.6% lower than budgeted at the end of June. Goshe commented on three incentive payments that we received from ODJFS that were earned by casework staff for completing timely investigations, visitations with families, and hitting over 95% in both categories. All expense lines were lower than budgeted except the Placement line, which was 2.6% higher than budgeted. A contract with Schmidt Security Pro for a new Access Control System for Agency exterior doors was signed during the month of June. Installation of this new system began today (7.14.2025).

On a motion by Hope, seconded by Snay, the Board unanimously accepted the June 2025 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.

BILLS

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

Hope commented on an adoption ceremony that he attended recently. Lautzenhisser mentioned the upcoming RCCS Summer Dayz event on July 31st. Everyone is invited, and it will be held here in our parking lot from 3:00-6:00 barring any inclement weather.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Schuster, seconded by Hope, the Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jim Nicholson, RCCS Board Chair

Amy Hackedorn, Recording Secretary