

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Date of Meeting: May 8, 2023

Members Present: Chair Pat Heydinger, Vice Chair Nicole Blakley, Treasurer Jason Murray, Secretary Jim Nicholson, Bill Hope, Mary Stentz, Randy Pore

Members Excused: Judy Forney, Bennie Allen-Stanford

Members Absent:

Others Present: Nikki Harless, Nicole Foulks, Kevin Goshe, Sarah Soliday, Recording Secretary Amy Hackedorn

Others Absent:

The regular monthly Board meeting was held on Monday, May 8, 2023, in the Board Conference Room at Richland County Children Services. Heydinger called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. of Board members present and representing a quorum.

AGENDA

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

INTRODUCTIONS

The Board members and RCCS staff present introduced themselves to Randy Pore, the newly appointed Board member. Pore stated that he is the Assistant Principal at Clearfork Middle School, and so he is familiar with the local communities within Richland County. He is excited to bring his experience to the Board. Everyone present at the meeting welcomed Pore to the Board.

MINUTES

On a motion by Hope, seconded by Nicholson, the Board unanimously approved the April 10, 2023, regular Board meeting minutes as presented.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Harless commented on the fact that we commissioned 10 murals for child abuse prevention awareness. These are outdoor murals, and they turned out really well. Hope asked about foster home placements outside of our network. There are other local entities (Outreach Mercy, Advantage, Village Network, etc.) who license their own foster homes. We have to contract with them occasionally when our in-network homes are full, but we also have to pay them up to three times as much because these are for-profit organizations. These entities accept children from all over the state of Ohio. The children we place there, however, are still under our care.

Each child has an assigned caseworker who checks on them and works to bring them permanency (either through reunification or through adoption).

Heydinger asked about the state's annual review. Harless said that this just started in April and should be wrapped up within 120 days of initiation. Harless and Goshe met with Commissioner Cliff Mears regarding our levy intentions. He asked for the past 5 years of levy collection amounts and the projected collections for the next 5 years. Goshe is currently compiling the requested information.

By June we should have only 1-2 casework openings, so that is good. Hope asked about the ASAP grant that will be phased out in June of this year. The state realized that it would be better to reallocate the state ASAP workers into other job functions since this service was only being utilized by five counties throughout Ohio. Under this protocol, the state reviewers would look at high-risk cases (based on various metrics such as number and age of children involved, age(s) of the parent(s), historical data, etc.) and give us recommendations on how to reduce the likelihood of child fatalities. However, we already have systems in place that meet all of their recommendations, so the primary benefit of this to us was the historical data mining. We will still be able to see which cases are flagged as high-risk so that we can review the history prior to meeting with the family on any new intakes.

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

Executive Committee Report

No report at this time. Heydinger informed the other Board members present that the Executive Committee met prior to this meeting in order to start some preliminary long-term planning. There was no action taken.

Finance Director Report

April Finance Report

Goshe distributed and reported on the April 2023 Final Financial Report regarding the revenues and expenditures. This included a beginning balance of \$7,820,944.78, \$3,117,228.99 in revenue, and \$951,495.47 in expenses with an ending balance of \$9,986,678.30. The ending fund balance reflects 74.2% or about 8.9 months of the 2023 budget.

Goshe stated that revenue for the year was 7.6% higher than budgeted at the end of April. This was due primarily to the receipt of our first real estate tax settlement for 2023 in the amount of \$2,188,338.12 and receipt of our first Public Utilities Property Tax payment for 2023 in the amount of \$435,421.85 during the month of April. Total expenses for 2023 at the end of April were 6.4% lower than budgeted overall. Heydinger asked Goshe if he anticipates any difficulty in getting our renewal levy request on the ballot. Goshe can't imagine that they would deny our request since our Agency cannot continue to operate without those funds.

On a motion by Murray, seconded by Hope, the Board unanimously accepted the April 2023 Final Financial Report.

Finance Committee Report

No report at this time. Murray thanked Hope for giving the report last month.

Personnel Committee Report

No report at this time. This committee will need to meet soon in order to approve Personnel Manual revisions.

Services and Program Report

No report at this time.

Heydinger asked if Hackedorn could conduct another mini training at the June Board meeting pertaining to the Agency's minor drug testing data. Hackedorn responded in the affirmative.

BILLS

Payment of Agency Bills - On a motion by Murray, seconded by Stentz, 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 4:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Pat Heydinger, RCCS Board Chair
Amy Hackedorn, Recording Secretary