

## **RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

Date of Meeting: May 12, 2025

Members Present: Chair Nicole Blakley, Vice Chair Jim Nicholson, Treasurer Bill Hope, Secretary Mary Stentz, Jerry Snay, Randy Pore, Pat Heydinger, Judy Forney

Members Absent: Bennie Allen

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

Others Absent:

The regular monthly Board meeting was held on Monday, April 14, 2025, in the Board Conference Room at Richland County Children Services. Chair Nicole Blakley called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m. of Board members present and representing a quorum.

### **AGENDA**

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

### **MINUTES**

On a motion by Nicholson, seconded by Snay, the Board unanimously approved the April 14, 2025, regular Board meeting minutes.

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

Lautzenhiser reported on the recent meeting between representatives from RCCS and Juvenile Court. We are trying to foster the best relationship possible between our two entities, and Lautzenhiser was very pleased with how the initial meeting went. The plan is to meet quarterly moving forward. Lautzenhiser attended the New Executive Director Conference in Columbus during the month of April, and she has a lot of respect for the Director of Cuyahoga County (they currently have around 1,200 kids in custody). Lautzenhiser made a lot of good connections with other Directors throughout Ohio, and so she will continue to attend these meetings as her availability allows. Lautzenhiser also spoke with Senator Mark Romanchuk, and he informed her that he anticipates all of our state funding should remain stable. There have been some comments lately on social media that indicate that some Richland County residents do not fully understand our Agency and the things that we can and cannot do from a legal perspective. Lautzenhiser would like to meet with the press (i.e. Carl Hunnell from Richland Source) periodically over the next few months to try to debunk myths about our Agency and the field of child welfare in general. She has a podcast scheduled for next Monday to discuss some of these issues. Lautzenhiser also commented on the time studies that she asked the management staff to complete. This will trickle down to lower-level staff eventually. Lautzenhiser commented on the 'snag' we have encountered regarding the medical portion of the CAC. She is currently pursuing the possibility of utilizing the downstairs portion of the Agency for this purpose. Blakley asked about privacy concerns. There is a separate entrance that can be utilized by family members for this portion of the building. Romanchuk helped set up the Medina

County CAC, so he is also apparently willing to help with this if we need him. The Board members present stated that they would like to wait to view the CAC space until this issue is ironed out. Lautzenhiser informed the Board that we recently put down a deposit on the Knights of Columbus facility for the Agency Christmas party. RCCS staff expressed interest in meeting the Board members in some capacity, so Lautzenhiser invited the Board members to attend an upcoming Staff meeting (the next two are on 6/12/2025 and 8/21/2025) if they are able. Lautzenhiser also read aloud the commemorative plaque for outgoing Board Chair Nicole Blakley, thanking her for her years of service to RCCS and to the Richland County community.

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

## **Executive Committee Report**

### **2025 Board Officers**

The slate of Board Officers for the remainder of 2025 is proposed as follows: Chair Jim Nicholson, Vice Chair Jerry Snay, Treasurer Bill Hope, and Secretary Mary Stentz.

On a motion by Pore, seconded by Heydinger, the Board unanimously approved the slate of Board Officers as presented for the remainder of 2025.

## **Finance Director Report**

### **April Finance Report**

Assistant Finance Director Drew Miller distributed and reported on the April 2025 Final Financial Report regarding the revenues and expenditures. This included a beginning balance of \$6,508,969.28, \$3,200,423.20 in revenue, and \$1,100,106.31 in expenses with an ending balance of \$8,609,286.17. The ending fund balance reflects 58.4% or about 7.0 months of the 2025 budget.

Miller stated that total revenue was 5.4% higher than budgeted and total expenses were 4.2% lower than budgeted at the end of April. The first real estate tax settlement of 2025 was received in the amount of \$2,167,853.54, and the first public utilities property tax payment for the year was received in the amount of \$488,990.44. All expense lines were lower than budgeted at the end of April except for the Placement line (which was 0.5% higher than budgeted). A contract with Small's Lawn Care was signed during the month of April.

On a motion by Hope, seconded by Pore, the Board unanimously accepted the April 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 Heydinger, seconded by Stentz, the Board unanimously approved payment by signature of the Agency bills.

As one of her final acts of business, Blakley thanked everyone in the room, especially the RCCS staff members present, for their dedication to the children of Richland County.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Nicholson, seconded by Snay, the Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Nicole Blakley, RCCS Board Chair

Amy Hackedorn, Recording Secretary