

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Date of Meeting: November 8, 2021

Members Present: Chair Jim Kulig, Vice Chair Pat Heydinger, Secretary Deanna West-Torrence, Nicole Blakley, Jim Nicholson, Bill Hope, Renee Bessick, Scott Gatchall

Members Excused: Treasurer Jason Murray

Members Absent:

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

The regular monthly Board meeting was held on Monday, November 8, 2021, in the Board Room at Richland County Children Services. Chair Kulig called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. of Board members present and representing a quorum.

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

On a motion by West-Torrence, seconded by Blakley, the Board unanimously approved the October 11, 2021 regular Board meeting minutes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director's Report and Comments

Harless commented on the breakfast that the Core Team cooked for RCCS staff on 10.28.2021. Staff really seemed to appreciate this, so the Core Team is going to try to do something similar every month or so moving forward. Hope asked about Sharlene Neumann's retirement. She will be rehired at JFS in December at a lower salary. Kulig mentioned that the Longview property will supposedly be available on a lease-to-own basis. West-Torrence volunteered to convey this information to Board member Jason Murray prior to his discussion with the property owner.

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

Executive Committee Report

Kulig informed the full Board that RCCS employee Brigitte Coles is going to receive an award in April 2022. Since Kulig's final term on the Board ends 12.31.2021, he wanted to make sure the Board was aware of her upcoming commendation. Kulig was contacted a while ago by Thomas Prendergast from North Central State College, and Prendergast had identified Brigitte Coles as a potential candidate for their 2022 Hall of Excellence. The purpose of this award is to honor the spirit of north central Ohio residents, past and present, whose vision, creativity, boldness of purpose, and community involvement, exemplify excellence in our region. These individuals must have shown a significant contribution of their time and/or resources to the community. Kulig was asked to, and did, write a nomination letter stating how Coles has contributed in numerous ways to the citizens of Richland County. Coles was selected unanimously for this honor, and there will be an awards ceremony held for her and the two other selectees in April. Kulig read aloud the nomination letter that he submitted on her behalf.

Nominating Committee Report

Appointments/Reappointments:

Kulig informed the Board that the first terms for Heydinger and West-Torrence are set to expire on 12.31.2021, and Blakley's partial term is set to be fulfilled on 12.31.2021. All three individuals have expressed interest in continuing to serve on the RCCS Board if that is the will of the Commissioners. Therefore, the Nominating Committee would like to recommend re-appointment of Heydinger and West-Torrence for their final 4-year terms and appointment of Blakley to her first official 4-year term, all to be effective 1.1.2022 through 12.31.2025.

On a motion by Nicholson, seconded by Bessick, the Board members present unanimously agreed to submit Heydinger, West-Torrence, and Blakley to the Richland County Commissioners for 4-year terms to begin January 1, 2022.

Potential Candidates:

Kulig stated that Board members have identified two (2) individuals so far for review by the Richland County Commissioners to fill the Board seat to be vacated at the end of 2021. Jim Nicholson had nominated Mary Stentz and Bennie Allen. Kulig has spoken with a representative from Berean Baptist Church but no official nomination has yet been presented from that organization.

On a motion by West-Torrence, seconded by Blakley, the Board members present unanimously agreed to present Bennie Allen as our first official nomination and Mary Stentz as our second official nomination to the Richland County Commissioners for consideration.

2022 Board Officers:

The proposed 2022 Board officers are: Pat Heydinger serving as Chair, Nicole Blakley serving as Vice Chair, Jason Murray serving as Treasurer, and Deanna West-Torrence serving as Secretary. All four individuals are willing and able to accept those roles in 2022.

On a motion by Bessick, seconded by Hope, the Board members present unanimously accepted the slate of 2022 Board officers as follows: Chair Pat Heydinger, Vice Chair Nicole Blakley, Treasurer Jason Murray, and Secretary Deanna West-Torrence.

Finance Director Report

October Finance Report

Goshe distributed the October 2021 Preliminary Financial Report regarding the revenues and expenditures. This is not a final report because there is an outstanding \$15.00 check. Since this is not a final report, further discussion and approval was tabled until the finalized report can be reviewed at the December Board meeting. However, Goshe stated that he has been in discussion with Jefferson Health Plan regarding the run-out payment that they wanted. The CFO of that organization advised Goshe that there is an itemized report we can access which shows which of our employees' claims were paid for.

Finance Committee Report

2022 Foster Rates

Heydinger stated that the Budget & Finance Committee recommends keeping the 2022 foster rates the same as they were in 2021. These have traditionally been increased biennially, and the rates were last increased by \$1.00 per day on January 1, 2021. Hope asked if our rates are consistent with other entities in our area, and Goshe stated that they are. West-Torrence asked for explanation of the differences between regular, special and exceptional foster care. Children with greater needs (behaviorally, medically, etc.) typically require either special or exceptional foster care because they need a higher degree of care, and a higher degree of care incurs a higher cost.

On a motion by Heydinger, seconded by West-Torrence, the Board unanimously agreed to keep 2022 foster care rates the same as they were in 2021. *Gatchall left the meeting at this point (4:30 p.m.).*

2022 RCCS Pay Scale

The recommendation for 2022 is to raise the entire pay scale by 3% overall (minimums and maximums). The effective date would be the first date of the first full pay period in January.

On a motion by Heydinger, seconded by Nicholson, the Board unanimously agreed to raise the entire RCCS pay scale (minimums and maximums) by 3%.

2022 Agency Budget

Heydinger explained that the items on the Capital Replacement Budget are budgeted for repair/replacement based on their useful life. Goshe stated that there are seven (7) vehicles slated for replacement in 2022, although these may not all need replaced due to the fact that caseworkers were using their personal vehicles for most of 2021 due to the pandemic. This will be discussed later in 2022 as the need arises. There are also five other items slated for

replacement this year, although we will continue using these items as long as they are still running as they should. We always budget for these contingencies in order to be fiscally prepared.

Goshe explained the overall 2022 budget highlights. Total budgeted revenue for 2022 is down \$261,492 from the 2021 budgeted amount, primarily due to the fact that the federal IV-E maintenance line no longer contains an estimate for hold-harmless payment, and the fact that the Children Services Best Practices & Foster Recruitment funding is no longer being issued directly to county agencies.

Heydinger reminded the Board that we tend to budget conservatively, so this shouldn't be too concerning for Board members. The 7% pay adjustment for staff employed 3 or more years is for staff retention purposes. Heydinger stated that is the recommendation of the entire Budget & Finance Committee to accept the 2022 Agency budget as presented.

On a motion by Heydinger, seconded by West-Torrence, the Board unanimously accepted the 2022 Agency budget and all its components as recommended.

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

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Nicholson, seconded by West-Torrence, the Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:
Jim Kulig, RCCS Board Chair
Amy Hackedorn, Recording Secretary