

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Date of Meeting: October 12, 2020

Members Present*: Chair Jim Kulig, Vice Chair Pat Heydinger, Secretary Deanna West-Torrence, Treasurer Jason Murray Nicole Blakley, Renee Bessick, Rick Grega, Jim Nicholson

Members Excused: Scott Gatchall

Members Absent:

Others Present: Nikki Harless, Chris Zuercher, Kevin Goshe, Marsha Coleman, Evadyne Troyer, Recording Secretary Amy Hackedorn, Haley Felty

Others Absent:

The regular monthly Board meeting was held on Monday, October 12, 2020, in the Board Conference Room at Richland County Children Services. Chair Kulig called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m. of Board members present (both via phone and in person) and representing a quorum. *Please note that RCCS is following Federal and State guidance related to social distancing in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and conducted this meeting via teleconference as authorized by temporary changes to the Open Meeting law in Ohio.

“On March 27, Gov. Mike DeWine signed into law House Bill 197, allowing members of public bodies to hold and attend meetings, and to conduct hearings, by teleconference, video conference or any similar electronic technology. Such meetings are legal for as long as the governor’s coronavirus emergency remains in effect, up until Dec. 20, 2020.

The details:

- *Members attending the meeting through the body’s chosen electronic method count as present and count toward a quorum. They are permitted to vote on any issues that come before the body.*
- *Any resolution, rule or other formal action taken or adopted by the public body during such a session will have the same effect as one taken during an in-person meeting.*
- *The public body is required to give notice of the meeting to the media and other parties requiring notice at least 24 hours before it takes place. In an emergency situation, the public body must give notice as soon as practical.*
- *Members of the public must be provided access to the public body’s discussions and deliberations conducted via the electronic method to the same extent that they would get from attending in person. That includes the ability for the viewer/listener to hear every member participating in person or electronically. Examples of electronic methods that afford public access (and that are cited in the law) include live-streaming via the internet; local radio, television, cable or public access channels; and calling in to a teleconference.*
- *For a public hearing, the electronic method the public body uses for the meeting must be widely available to the public and must permit the public to converse with witnesses and receive documentary testimony and physical evidence.” - Ohio Attorney General’s website*

AGENDA

There is need to add New Hire Introductions to the meeting schedule immediately following approval of the agenda.

On a motion by Grega, seconded by West-Torrence, the Board unanimously approved the revised agenda by all Board members in attendance.

NEW HIRE INTRODUCTIONS

RCCS HR Manager Evadyne Troyer introduced the newest Agency employee, Haley Felty. Felty joined Charity Hamler's Ongoing 5 team as a caseworker on 10.1.2020. The Board members present introduced themselves and welcomed Felty to the Agency. She left the meeting at this point (3:37 p.m.).

MINUTES

On a motion by Nicholson, seconded by Murray, the Board unanimously approved the September 14, 2020 regular Board meeting minutes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director's Report and Comments

Harless commented on the monthly breakfast meeting with Representative Mark Romanchuk. These meetings resumed on 9.28.2020 at a new venue (Paul Revere restaurant in Lexington). The RFP (request for proposal) for office lease space was discussed briefly. We have need of a larger visitation area out in the community that offers more privacy for the families with whom we work. The deadline for submissions is October 30th. There are quite a few specifications in the proposal regarding parking accommodations, number of entrances, location and other factors. RCCS caseworkers completed Implicit Bias training last week. Harless still needs to meet with the trainers to discuss how this went. RCCS was chosen as the Kinship Hub for our cohort in Ohio through OhioKAN. The state cut their budget, so we will now only hire one new Kinship Navigator under this program. West-Torrence asked for clarification on this. Originally the State intended to have five (5) Navigators for our area, but this number has been greatly reduced due to financial budgetary constraints at the State level. This individual will only answer the phone and do referrals for the member counties; they will not go out into different communities.

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.

Finance Director Report

September Finance Report

Goshe distributed and reported on the September 2020 Final Financial Report regarding the revenues and expenditures. This included a beginning balance of \$7,936,558.17, \$843,245.54 in revenue, and \$814,209.85 in expenses with an ending balance of \$7,965,593.86. The ending fund balance reflects 70.7% or 8.5 months of the 2020 budget.

Revenue for the year is up 18% higher than budgeted at this point, and total expenses are 6.9% lower than budgeted. This has boded well for our fund balance as of September.

On a motion by Grega, seconded by Bessick, the Board unanimously accepted the September 2020 Final Financial report.

Finance Committee Report

2021 Agency Benefits

Murray explained that health insurance continues to be increasingly expensive. The Finance Committee met and discussed whether the Agency should increase deductibles or premiums. There is a substantial reserve owed for claims that exceed the amount that has been paid into the plan to date. Total deficit as of 8/31/2020 was \$317,898.57, although this amount was recently reduced down to \$284,000. The minimum amount that Jefferson Health Plan is requiring from the Agency would be a lump sum payment of \$188,234, which is what the Board Finance Committee recommends paying at this time. The Finance Committee also recommends approving Option 1 as presented (which keeps the deductibles and out-of-pocket expenses the same but increases premiums paid by 13%). There are no changes to dental or vision coverage since our contracts with those vendors are still locked in for 2021. Other items being proposed included continuing to offer the \$1,000 buyout for employees, continuing \$250/\$625 HSA contributions for employees who choose the high deductible plan, and postponing the \$20 biometric/age/gender screening surcharge for 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions regarding medical visits.

On a motion by Murray, seconded by Nicholson, the Board unanimously accepted the 2021 Agency benefits as presented.

2021 Foster Care Rates

Murray explained that we are due to increase foster care rates by \$1.00 in 2021, as this has traditionally always been done biennially.

On a motion by Murray, seconded by Heydinger, the Board unanimously accepted the 2021 foster care rates as presented.

2020 Holiday Schedule (Amended)

The proposal is to add Christmas Eve day (Thursday, December 24th) to the Agency holiday schedule for this year (2020).

On a motion by Murray, seconded by Nicholson, the Board unanimously approved the amendment to the 2020 Agency holiday schedule as presented.

2021 Holiday Schedule

The proposal is to add the observed Christmas Eve day (Thursday, December 23rd) to the Agency holiday schedule for next year (2021).

On a motion by Murray, seconded by Nicholson, the Board unanimously approved the 2021 Agency holiday schedule as presented.

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.

Kulig stated that the Nominating Committee will present a slate of officers for 2021 at the November Board meeting.

BILLS

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

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Grega, seconded by Murray, the Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jim Kulig, RCCS Board Chair

Amy Hackedorn, Recording Secretary