

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Date of Meeting: October 10, 2022

Members Present: Chair Pat Heydinger, Vice Chair Nicole Blakley, Treasurer Jason Murray, Secretary Jim Nicholson, Mary Stentz, Scott Gatchall, Bill Hope, Renee Bessick, Bennie Allen-Stanford

Members Excused:

Members Absent:

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

Others Absent:

The regular monthly Board meeting was held on Monday, October 10, 2022, in the Board Conference Room at Richland County Children Services. Heydinger called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. of Board members present and representing a quorum.

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Harless mentioned a correction from the September meeting minutes. The sentence pertaining to treatment length for families in the START program should be omitted since this is not accurate.

On a motion by Nicholson, seconded by Blakley, the Board unanimously approved the September 12, 2022, regular Board meeting minutes as revised.

MINI-TRAINING

RCCS Kinship Navigator Services

RCCS Kinship Navigator Rhonda Marsh introduced herself to the Board members present. The term 'kin' refers to anyone who is taking care of a child that is not theirs (aunt, uncle, etc.). We also work with 'fictive kin,' which are individuals who are not biologically related to the child(ren) they are caring for but who have a relationship with them (teachers, neighbors, etc.). There are various programs available for these individuals (legal services for legal custody/Power of Attorney (POA), rent/utility assistance, etc.). Marsh stated that she used to host monthly in-person support meetings for kinship caregivers prior to COVID-19. While these meetings have been discontinued, she still

checks in on these individuals by phone regularly to make sure they do not need help with anything. *Murray arrived at this point in the meeting (3:40 p.m.)*. Kinship is a large part of our service to the Richland County community. RCCS partners with the New Store and Crossroads Church every year to ensure that local children receive new clothing, winter coats, and Christmas presents. The Kinship Permanency Incentive (KPI) program is through the state of Ohio and is only for individuals who hold legal custody. It was designed to promote a permanent commitment by a kinship caregiver caring for minor children who cannot remain in their own homes and provides up to eight incentive payments to assist in the care of those children. Kin providers also receive Child-Only Benefits through JFS; this is cash assistance for individuals who hold legal or temporary custody. If the individual does not have any type of custody or is not related to the child (“fictive kin”), they are not eligible for cash assistance, but they may be able to receive food stamps. We do not charge kinship individuals for any of the services that we provide, and we work with both formal and informal cases. Formal cases are ones where there is currently an open case with the Agency, and informal cases involve individuals who independently call the Agency for help. Marsh works with up to 560 caregivers at any one time. Power of Attorney (POA) is currently only offered to grandparents in the state of Ohio. Marsh explained that we are constantly looking for kin or fictive kin whenever we need to remove children from their parents; our first line of questioning is to the parents themselves to find out if there is an appropriate relative/teacher/neighbor/friend who can care for the children. Many kin caregivers are unfortunately afraid to call the Agency for assistance because they don’t want to draw attention to themselves. Heydinger thanked Marsh for her presentation and for the help that she provides to kin families in our community. *Marsh left the meeting at this point (3:56 p.m.)*.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Harless stated that our focus area for the Racial Equity and Inclusion Community of Practice group is equity training for RCCS staff. We have contracted with a company called Joy Channel to begin workshops here at the Agency. Several facilitators from Joy Channel will virtually attend our October all-staff meeting in order to briefly explain their background and recruit Agency individuals for a volunteer focus group. The focus group will meet to discuss what we (the Agency as a whole) need to address during the workshops.

Harless informed the Board that we are also now able to access the CarePortal. Created by The Global Orphan Project in partnership with Fostering Family Ministries, the CarePortal technology platform connects families in need with local faith-based organizations who want to help provide resources to families within the community. If a family has a request for some type of help (beds, clothing, car repairs, appliances, etc.), we can enter that information into the portal for other CarePortal members to review. So far in Richland County we have had two needs requested and two filled. There are currently 10 Ohio counties actively utilizing this resource in partnership with 117 churches/organizations throughout Ohio, although there are numerous others engaged in the enrollment process.

Harless stated that we applied for the Workforce Grant through the state of Ohio, and we were approved for reimbursement of the Agency’s tuition reimbursement costs, transcription services, and hiring/referral bonuses.

On a motion by Allen-Stanford, seconded by Hope, the Board unanimously accepted the Executive Director’s report.

Executive Committee Report

No report at this time. The Executive Committee will need to meet in their role as Nominating Committee prior to the November Board meeting, as Renee Bessick will be cycling off the Board at the end of December this year.

Finance Director Report

September Finance Report

Goshe distributed and reported on the September 2022 Final Financial Report regarding the revenues and expenditures. This included a beginning balance of \$9,547,871.43, \$1,482,431.57 in revenue, and \$904,562.11 in expenses with an ending balance of \$10,125,740.89. The ending fund balance reflects 83.1% or about 10.0 months of the 2022 budget.

Goshe stated that revenue for 2022 through the end of September was 14.8% higher than budgeted and expenses were 7.1% lower than budgeted. Some of the significant revenues that we received during September were the \$454,162.03 from ODJFS for the quarterly Title IV-E reimbursement and a \$467,670.70 reimbursement from Richland County JFS as part of our TANF contract for Court Liaison and Kinship services. Our budgeting is primarily done based on the calendar year, although various grants are issued based on either the State fiscal year (July 1st to June 30th) or the Federal fiscal year (October 1st to September 30th). Hope asked if the Agency is completely transitioned to the County insurance plan. Goshe stated that it is, and that this has proven to be better financially for both RCCS staff and the Agency overall. Murray asked how increasing local property taxes affects the Agency (if at all). Goshe said that our levies do not allow us to collect more monies than the dollar value that was approved, so our millage is decreased if property values increase.

On a motion by Murray, seconded by Blakley, the Board unanimously accepted the September 2022 Final Financial Report.

Finance Committee Report

No report at this time. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for 10.19.2022.

Personnel Committee Report

No report at this time.

Services and Program Report

No report at this time. Blakley stated that supposedly Charter NextGen is interested in sponsoring one of the visitation rooms here at the Agency. She will keep the Agency management staff informed if she hears any updates regarding this matter.

BILLS

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

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Nicholson, seconded by Allen-Stanford, the Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Pat Heydinger, RCCS Board Chair

Amy Hackedorn, Recording Secretary