

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Date of Meeting: October 9, 2023

Members Present: Chair Pat Heydinger, Vice Chair Nicole Blakley, Treasurer Jason Murray (3:46 p.m.), Secretary Jim Nicholson, Mary Stentz, Randy Pore

Members Excused: Bill Hope, Judy Forney, Bennie Allen-Stanford

Members Absent:

Others Present: Nikki Harless, Nicole Foulks, Kevin Goshe, La'Shaun Reuer, Recording Secretary Amy Hackedorn

Others Absent: Sarah Soliday

The regular monthly Board meeting was held on Monday, October 9, 2023, in the Board Conference Room at Richland County Children Services. Chair Heydinger called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. of Board members present and representing a quorum.

### AGENDA

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

### MINUTES

On a motion by Pore, seconded by Blakley, the Board unanimously approved the September 11, 2023, regular Board meeting minutes as presented.

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Harless informed the Board that we are finished with the unemployment and SPBR hearings for the terminated employee and are currently waiting on the final verdicts. Harless also mentioned that we were down to one Agency attorney since Tiffany Bird recently resigned, but that we just filled one of those vacant positions today. We currently have two openings in casework. We are in the process of hiring a candidate for the vacant support position, so that position should be filled shortly. Pore asked about the adoption subsidy meeting. Harless stated that this was for grandparents who are adopting their three grandchildren. They do not want to go through mediation and would prefer to go straight to the state regarding this matter. Harless informed the Board that diversity training has been completed throughout the entire Agency. We will require similar training on an annual basis moving forward. Heydinger asked about the Agency's daily placement cost amount. This continues to increase due to children coming into care with more significant mental and physical health issues. As one example, Harless commented on the fact that we recently had to place a child in a special needs placement where we pay \$875 per day.

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

## **2024 Board Meeting Schedule**

The Board proposed moving the 4/8/2023 Board meeting to the following Monday (4/15/2023) due to the predicted eclipse and all of the uncertainty surrounding it.

On a motion by Blakley, seconded by Pore, the Board unanimously approved the revised 2024 Board meeting schedule. *Board Treasurer Jason Murray arrived at this point in the meeting (3:46 p.m.).*

## **Executive Committee Report**

The Executive Committee met immediately prior to the Board meeting today at 3:00 p.m. Heydinger explained that Jason Murray will be cycling off of the Board at the end of December this year. The Executive Committee discussed some potential candidates to submit to the Commissioners for consideration as his replacement. Murray mentioned Roeliff Harper as a possibility. He currently has a contract with the Agency, however, so that might be a conflict of interest for him to serve on our Board. Murray will ask Annette Naumoff if she would be interested in serving. Heydinger also informed the Board that we will need to fill officer positions for next year as well. Nicole Blakley has already agreed to serve as Chair for 2024, and Jim Nicholson has agreed to serve as Vice Chair.

## **Finance Director Report**

### **September Finance Report**

Goshe distributed and reported on the September 2023 Final Financial Report regarding the revenues and expenditures. This included a beginning balance of \$9,930,691.28, \$1,093,251.98 in revenue, and \$950,644.13 in expenses with an ending balance of \$10,073,299.13. The ending fund balance reflects 74.8% or about 9.0 months of the 2023 budget.

Goshe stated that revenue for the year was 10.6% higher than budgeted and expenses were 10.6% lower than budgeted at the end of September. All of our line-item expense categories are currently running lower than budgeted. Heydinger asked if the property re-evaluation is going to affect our income. Goshe explained that no, they will adjust our millage downward, so we will not collect more money than what was voted upon initially. However, it could affect our ability to pass the renewal levy in November.

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

### **Agency Vehicle Disposal**

Murray explained that Goshe would like to dispose of another Agency vehicle (a 2015 Chevy Equinox LT) that has a faulty transmission. The estimate from our regular repair facility was \$5,000.00 to replace the transmission (or more if other issues are discovered during the repair process). This is about half of what we could expect to sell the vehicle for according to the Kelly Blue Book. The Budget & Finance Committee would like to recommend disposing of the vehicle instead of paying to repair the issue.

On a motion by Murray, seconded by Nicholson, the Board unanimously authorized RCCS administration to seek approval from the Board of Commissioners to sell the aforementioned vehicle to the highest bidder via govdeals.com or (in the event that the vehicle does not sell) to take it to an auto recycler in order to dispose of it properly.

### **Agency Vehicle Replacement**

Goshe would like to replace the 2015 Chevrolet Equinox LT that was just voted on for disposal in the previous motion with a Ford Escape 4WD that is currently on the state contract at a cost of \$28,280.00 and to replace the four 2013 Ford Focus vehicles that were previously disposed of with four Chevy Malibu vehicles. We currently have \$171,561 available for this purpose.

On a motion by Murray, seconded by Nicholson, the Board unanimously approved purchasing the vehicles as explained above.

### **2024 Foster Care Rates**

This is traditionally increased on a biennial basis, and it was already increased last year, so the proposition is to keep the foster care rates the same in 2024 as they were in 2023. Blakley asked about the clothing vouchers available for each child at the time of their initial placement. Goshe explained that the hardest part of this process is getting the stores to return the paperwork that we need.

On a motion by Murray, seconded by Pore, the Board unanimously approved the 2024 foster care rates as presented.

### **2024 Holiday Schedule**

Murray explained that the request is to add Columbus Day as an additional holiday in 2024. Goshe was reviewing ORC Section 325.18, D1, which explains that Columbus Day is one of the days where “a full-time county employee is entitled to eight hours of holiday pay.” JFS, Child Support, Newhope and the Treasurer’s Office are all closed on both Columbus Day and the day after Thanksgiving (which is the day we had previously observed Columbus Day for holiday purposes). Richland County Juvenile Court is open on Columbus Day, but they have stated that they will refrain from scheduling our cases that day if they have enough advance notice.

On a motion by Nicholson, seconded by Blakley, the Board unanimously approved the 2024 holiday schedule as presented with the addition of Columbus Day.

### **2024 Board Meeting Schedule**

Due to acceptance of the 2024 holiday schedule in the previous motion, there is need to further amend the 2024 Board meeting schedule that was voted upon earlier in this same meeting. The new proposal is (in addition to moving the 4/8/2024 meeting to 4/15/2024) to move the 10/14/2024 meeting to 10/7/2024 in order to accommodate the new Columbus Day holiday and to move the 11/11/2024 meeting to 11/18/2024 in order to accommodate the Veteran’s Day holiday.

On a motion by Nicholson, seconded by Stentz, the Board unanimously approved a motion to reconsider the previously approved 2024 Board meeting schedule and to instead adopt the 2024 meeting schedule as outlined above.

### **2024 Health Insurance Rates**

Murray reminded the Board members present that the Agency is part of the County health insurance plan, and so the Committee’s recommendation is to follow the County’s rates with a 13% increase to premiums. Pore stated that his employer increased their premiums by 10% for next year, so a 13% increase is not unreasonable. The Agency pays 90% and the employees pay 10%.

On a motion by Murray, seconded by Nicholson, the Board unanimously approved the 2024 health insurance rates as presented.

### **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. The next S&P Committee meeting won't be held until January 2024. Blakley reminded everyone that the November Board meeting will be held at 3:00 at the New Store.

### **BILLS**

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

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Nicholson, seconded by Pore, the Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Pat Heydinger, RCCS Board Chair  
Amy Hackedorn, Recording Secretary