

## **RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

Date of Meeting: October 14, 2025

Members Present: Vice Chair Jerry Snay, Treasurer Bill Hope, Secretary Mary Stentz, Pat Heydinger, Fred Schuster, Judy Forney

Members Absent: Chair Jim Nicholson, Randy Pore, Bennie Allen

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

Others Absent:

The regular monthly Board meeting was held on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, in the Board Conference Room at Richland County Children Services. Vice Chair Jerry Snay (serving as Board Chair) called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m. of Board members present and representing a quorum.

### **AGENDA**

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

### **MINUTES**

On a motion by Forney, seconded by Schuster, the Board unanimously approved the September 8, 2025, regular Board meeting minutes.

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

Lautzenhiser commented on the internal meeting she led regarding programmatic changes (amending the tuition reimbursement policy, removing the master's degree requirement for line-level supervisors, etc.) The Agency could potentially save money on tuition reimbursement down the line by not having to pay for master's degrees for workers, and we may also expand our pool of potential supervisor applicants. Regarding spending, Lautzenhiser would like to eliminate unnecessary overtime. Workers currently can get 2.5 hours, and anything else after that must be approved. This was opened up several years ago and it has been taken advantage of by some workers. Lautzenhiser would also like to cut back on ESAA spending for FINS cases. We have had several cases where we pay a family's bills every single month with no plan on how they can sustain themselves moving forward.

Lautzenhiser was hoping to hear back from Dani from ONCAC by now regarding the agreement that Akron Children's proposed. The CAC currently conducts 2-4 forensic interviews every week, but not all of those require a SANE exam. We would never do acute exams; those will still need to be conducted at a hospital. Dr. McPherson would prefer to do scheduled exams on specific days here at the Agency, and emergency situations would go to a hospital. Since Richland County Prosecutor Jodie Schumacher has to sign the MOU, she feels that it would be a conflict of interest for her to review the contract for the CAC.

Lautzenhiser mentioned the Handshake program that we are going to begin to utilize. This is an online career platform that would allow the Agency to recruit students directly from colleges that use the program. Soliday explained that we can specify which degrees we are interested in recruiting for, and it automatically sends a message to students whose degree program matches our recruitment need.

Lautzenhiser explained that she spoke with Agency supervisors recently about different tools that they can use to determine the best way to communicate with and teach each of their workers individually. This could be a good retention tool.

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

### **Executive Committee Report**

Snay mentioned that the Board will have an upcoming vacancy (Heydinger), so they are going to reach out to the Commissioners to see if they have any feedback regarding this.

### **Finance Director Report**

#### **September Finance Report**

Finance Director Kevin Goshe distributed and reported on the September 2025 Final Financial Report regarding the revenues and expenditures. This included a beginning balance of \$8,726,600.06, \$705,855.50 in revenue, and \$1,162,825.18 in expenses with an ending balance of \$8,269,630.38. The ending fund balance reflects 56.1% or about 6.7 months of the 2025 budget.

Goshe stated that total revenue was 9.2% higher than budgeted and total expenses were 5.2% lower than budgeted at the end of September. The main sources of revenue for September included receipt of the second (and final) homestead rollback reimbursement for 2025 in the amount of \$53,788.38 and receipt of \$152,604.91 reimbursement from the IV-E Maintenance line for placement costs in the month of July. All expense lines were lower than budgeted at the end of September except for the Placement line (which was 7.0% higher than budgeted). One new contract was signed in the month of September. This was a \$400,000 contract with Richland County Job & Family Services for reimbursement to RCCS for provision of services to TANF-eligible families, and it runs from October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026.

On a motion by Forney, seconded by Hope, the Board unanimously accepted the September 2025 Final Finance report.

### **Finance Committee Report**

Hope explained that the Board Budget & Finance Committee met on September 23, 2025, to discuss various components of the 2026 budget, including 2026 Agency health insurance rates. Hope proposed conducting one vote to encompass all items being discussed once all components have been presented. There were no objections to this course of action.

#### **2026 Health Insurance Rates**

RCCS Finance Director Kevin Goshe commented on the 2026 county health insurance rates. These had to be presented and voted upon at the October Board meeting due to time constraints. The County has been notified that the health premiums for 2026 will be 7.7% higher than the 2025 rates, with

dental and vision remaining the same. The proposal would be to account for the 7.7% increase and continue the current 90/10 split, where the Agency picks up 90% of the total cost and the employee picks up the remaining 10%. We would also continue the \$1,000 buyout for those employees electing NOT to enroll in a county health insurance plan. This amount is set by the Commissioners, and they are not interested in revisiting the buyout amount at this time.

### **2026 Foster Rate Chart**

Goshe stated that the proposal is to keep the per diem for our Agency foster homes the same in 2026 as they were in 2025. The rates were last increased January 1, 2025, by \$1.00 per day, and this has traditionally always been increased on a biennial basis. The proposal is to maintain this.

### **2026 Pay Scale**

In an effort to maintain competitiveness with other entities, the proposal is to increase the minimum and maximum rates for all pay ranges by 3%. Lautzenhiser would also like to reclassify the Assistant Director of Finance & Facilities position (currently maintained in pay range 12) in 2026 to a Finance Specialist position (to be maintained in pay range 7) in order to save on payroll costs.

### **2026 Asset Replacement Budget**

Goshe explained that this document allocates funding for Agency assets that may or may not need maintenance or replacement. According to the schedule, we have four items listed for attention in 2026: the Fujitsu scanners, the technology equipment in the Board Room, the video surveillance system, and two vehicles. We did have an air conditioning condensing unit go out this year, so Goshe thinks it would be wise to budget for another potential replacement in 2026 as well. Snay asked about mileage since we are down so many caseworkers. Goshe stated that we aren't buying as much gasoline and there is always a vehicle available when a worker needs one.

### **2026 Purchased Services**

Goshe commented on the 2026 purchased services budget. Lautzenhiser stated that we added a line item for lobby security in the amount of \$117,000. We previously had a Sheriff's deputy in the lobby, and she would like to look at reimplementing this service. This would be a preventative measure and a visual deterrent to clients considering violence. Coming up with better criteria for ESAA funding and helping clients utilize other community resources could help offset the cost of building security.

On a motion by Hope, seconded by Schuster, the Board unanimously approved the 2026 Agency Health Insurance Rates, the 2026 Foster Rate Chart, the 2026 Agency Pay Scale, the 2026 Asset Replacement Budget, and the 2026 Purchased Services Budget as presented.

### **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.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Hope, seconded by Schuster, the Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jerry Snay, RCCS Board Vice Chair

Amy Hackedorn, Recording Secretary