

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Date of Meeting: September 10, 2018

Members Present: Chair Deanna West-Torrence, Vice Chair Renee Bessick, Richard Grega, Jim Kulig, Pam Siegenthaler, Pat Heydinger, Secretary Dr. Michelle Kowalski (4:09 p.m.)

Members Excused: Treasurer Jason Murray, Stacy Jackson-Johnson

Members Absent:

Others Present: Patty Harrelson, Nikki Harless, Chris Zuercher, Kevin Goshe, Marsha Coleman, Recording Secretary Amy Gosser, Brandi Matern, Teresa Lambert

Others Absent:

The regular monthly Board meeting was held on Monday, September 10, 2018, in the Board Conference Room at Richland County Children Services. Chair West-Torrence called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. of Board members present and representing a quorum.

NEW HIRE INTRODUCTIONS

Zuercher introduced the latest Agency new hires. Caseworker Brandi Matern joined Terrie Sgro-Perdue's Ongoing team on June 14th. She is getting ready to go on maternity leave and will most likely transfer to an Intake team when she returns. Teresa Lambert joined Angie Poth's team as a Support III on August 27th to assist with various support functions throughout the Agency (such as covering the front desk, room/meeting scheduling, etc.). The Board introduced themselves and welcomed Matern and Lambert to the Agency. Lambert and Matern left the meeting at this point.

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

On a motion by Siegenthaler, seconded by Heydinger, the Board unanimously approved the August 20, 2018 Board meeting minutes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director's Report and Comments

Harrelson passed around a card for the Board members to sign for Tim Harless, Director of Community Outreach and Programming, congratulating him on recent accolades he received

from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Kulig asked about Senator Portman's "off-ramps" for the Protect Ohio waiver. They are changing the language from "extension" to "off-ramp." There is new legislation being voted on in the Senate right now, and Portman's office is trying to get something done for waiver counties. We have been trying to get the right mix of individuals to these conversations in order to influence change.

Harrelson's meeting with Judge Spon went well. She met with him in order to discuss the new Binti software that we will be utilizing for foster home applications, in addition to our efforts with foster home recruitment. Kulig stated that he believes Judge Spon is advocating for the creation of five homes for teenagers in Richland County. Harrelson also spoke with Spon about the Casto Teaching Home. ODJFS (the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services) has stopped all verifications of new licensures at this time, and they are only working on recertifications. ODJFS was originally going to pass this task to us, which would have meant that RCCS would have to do background checks on all employees at any facility where we place a child. There is no change in our relations with Heather Cockley's court.

The OSU grant collaboration project is still pending. We were approached by Bridget Freisthler from OSU to jointly put in for federal funding to help in assisting clients who are in treatment. We will supposedly know at the end of September whether they received this grant. Funding from this would allow community entities to employ peer mentors/recovery coaches over the grant's five-year period, and we would house those individuals within the Agency. However, the Department of Medicaid passed an emergency rule recently that said the peer support workers cannot bill Medicaid if they have had any prior convictions within the last 12 years. This throws a wrench in our plans, as many former addicts have had at least one conviction. Those provisions were already in place for individuals who would coach addicted clients in the home, but it was previously not applied to those practicing within a business entity.

Siegenthaler asked about "30 Days to Family." The idea behind this process is that a designated employee would have 30 days to find any family members (cousins, aunts/uncles, etc.) who could possibly take custody of a child in order to prevent placement in a foster care setting. We received a week's worth of free training for RCCS employee Leann Treisch because of Tim Harless's relationship with the Generations United organization.

Most of our claims were dismissed in the Monty Bauch case. Harrelson will know later this week whether the trial will be delayed due to the illness of a Family Life employee.

Harrelson will meet with our health insurance representatives on Thursday. We cannot combine our plan with that of any other entity. There are three RCCS employees currently in stop-loss, and even one stop-loss claim is financially detrimental to the Agency. Grega recommended going to 80/20 right away instead of 90/10 for co-insurance. Kowalski arrived at this point in the meeting (4:09 p.m.).

A 'free home' is a family or kinship provider who does not want to become licensed as a foster home or who is unable to become licensed as a foster home but is willing to take in a related child who is in Agency custody. They receive child-only TANF funds and a medical card if they are at 200% of poverty. There are a lot of reasons why we have free homes. We can also give emergency custody to a family member while we are getting custody.

Harrelson reported on the 2017 Community Survey Results Assessment. Two of the key factors identified by the survey were difficulties in answering/responding to phone calls and our reputation within the community. We put a procedure in place for how a caller can escalate an issue, and we are thinking about going to an automated phone system. Regarding our reputation in the community, Kowalski stated that we should highlight the limitations of what the Agency can do based on state and federal guidelines (and not always just say what we can do). Kulig asked whether it would make sense to task the S&P Committee with finding a way to rephrase this question prior to the next survey being conducted, and Harrelson agreed to that course of action. Kulig also asked whether the Core Team could report back in one year on how much has been achieved toward the issues that were identified, and Harrelson again responded in the affirmative.

When asked about the timeline for the next community survey, Harrelson stated that three years seems to be sufficient between each rollout. Two years is not feasible. The proposal on the table was for the Agency to conduct the next community survey in the fall of 2020.

On a motion by Kulig, seconded by Grega, the Board unanimously agreed that the next community survey should be conducted in the fall of 2020.

Harrelson commented on the Agency 2018-2019 Goals & Projects. There are currently quite a few ongoing projects that we are working on internally. The ballot language for the RCCS levy was approved on Friday, and Tim Harless already has several billboard and street-level signs planned. Levy signs will be made available to staff on 9/20, and Harless can distribute signs to the homes of Board members then as well. Kowalski will host a watch party.

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

Executive Committee Report

No report at this time.

Finance Director Report

August Finance Report

Goshe distributed and reported on the August 2018 Final Financial Report regarding the revenues and expenditures. This included a beginning balance of \$6,890,140.45, \$2,066,712.73 in revenue, and \$952,144.48 in expenses with an ending balance of \$8,004,708.70. The ending fund balance reflects 76.1% or 9.1 months of the 2018 budget.

Revenue did not change from the preliminary report. Expenses changed since some bills that were paid in September posted on the August report. We received the second real estate tax payment of the year, as well as the second public utilities property tax payment. We also just received the regular quarterly reimbursements for various federal funding sources. Harrelson gave kudos to RCCS staff for helping to bill out the TANF contract. We were able to bill out all \$526,825, and JFS offered another \$100,000. The Purchased Services line is lower than

budgeted because we rarely need to utilize the two law firms we contract with for kinship services. These contracts are paid for with ProtectOH money, so we may not be able to offer this service if ProtectOH goes away in January 2019.

On a motion by Heydinger, seconded by Siegenthaler, the Board unanimously accepted the August 2018 Final Financial Report.

Finance Committee Report

No report at this time.

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. The next Committee meeting is Wednesday, September 19th.

BILLS

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board did not convene an Executive Session on this date.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Grega, seconded by Bessick, the Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Deanna West-Torrence, Chair
Amy Gosser, Recording Secretary