

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Date of Meeting: September 12, 2022

Members Present: Chair Pat Heydinger, Vice Chair Nicole Blakley, Treasurer Jason Murray, Secretary Jim Nicholson, Mary Stentz, Scott Gatchall, Renee Bessick

Members Excused: Bill Hope, Bennie Allen-Stanford

Members Absent:

Others Present: Nikki Harless, Nicole Foulks, Kevin Goshe, Chris Zuercher, Sarah Soliday, Layne Hart, Brandi Berry, Recording Secretary Marsha Coleman

Others Absent: Recording Secretary Amy Hackedorn

The regular monthly Board meeting was held on Monday, September 12, 2022, in the Board Conference Room at Richland County Children Services. Heydinger called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m. of Board members present and representing a quorum.

### AGENDA

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

### INTRODUCTIONS

Coleman introduced Layne Hart. Hart is one of the students from the Ohio State University completing their internship here as part of the University Partnership Program (UPP). Hart's intention is to seek employment at this agency next spring following graduation. The Board members present introduced themselves and welcomed Hart to the Agency.

### MINUTES

On a motion by Murray, seconded by Heydinger, the Board unanimously approved the August 8, 2022, regular Board meeting minutes.

### MINI-TRAINING

#### **Ohio START Program**

RCCS Ongoing Supervisor Brandi Berry gave an overview of the Agency's Ohio START program. START stands for Sobriety, Treatment and Reducing Trauma. Berry outlined the admission criteria for this program with the emphasis on engagement of the program as a whole. Admission

is restricted to Agency clients within Richland County who have a current intake referral under investigation and are also dealing with substance abuse issues. Currently there are 7 families in the START program here at RCCS, although there can be a maximum of 12 total. RCCS has worked with 33 families from 64 referrals since the inception of the program in this county. The Agency contracts with Family Life Counseling for peer mentor services as part of the START program. Peer mentors are individuals who themselves have had an open case with a children services agency along with substance abuse, but who have successfully closed their case and beaten their addiction. Oftentimes clients feel more comfortable discussing their issues with the peer mentors because these individuals are not directly employed by the Agency, and they have gone through many of the same types of experiences that the clients themselves are currently dealing with. *Berry left the meeting following her presentation.*

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Harless provided further explanation of the Plan of Safe Care Program that the Ohio Children's Trust Fund is trying to implement in Richland County. This program involves a care plan centered around pregnant women dealing with substance abuse issues and drug-positive newborns. This is essentially a treatment program for the whole family (to include the newborn, the mother, and anyone else living in the home).

Harless also discussed her "stay interviews" with RCCS employees. Staff members who are still with the agency after 3 years are sent a survey, and then Harless meets with the individuals once the survey has been completed to discuss their thoughts about the Agency. The new hire referral incentive has yielded one employee so far with one more interviewing soon. Four recently hired staff members will receive the "hiring" bonus.

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

## **Executive Committee Report**

The Executive Committee met prior to the Board meeting today and discussed the visitation space issue. Previous discussions had included the possibility of leasing a portion of the Century Link building. At this time, leasing this space is on hold due to new ownership, but the need to lease this space may be revisited at a later date. The committee also discussed the outcomes from the Services & Program Committee meeting which was held last week. Special recognition was given to the visitation area remodel and to RCCS staff member Arlillian Nixon in particular for her hand-painted murals in this area.

## **Finance Director Report**

### **August Finance Report**

Goshe distributed and reported on the August 2022 Final Financial Report regarding the revenues and expenditures. This included a beginning balance of \$8,400,542.60, \$2,081,010.69 in revenue, and \$933,681.86 in expenses with an ending balance of \$9,547,871.43. The ending fund balance reflects 78.4% or about 9.4 months of the 2022 budget.

Goshe stated that revenue for 2022 through the end of August was 9.7% higher than budgeted. This is primarily due to receipt of the second yearly real estate tax settlement (in the amount of \$1,436,520.46) and of the second yearly Public Utilities Property Tax payment (in the amount of \$261,167.60). These amounts are similar to what the Agency received in 2021. Expenses were 6.2% lower than budgeted at the end of August. Employees can expect a 6.7% increase in health insurance cost over 2022, but the Agency as a whole is still doing better under CEBCO insurance than it was when privately insured.

On a motion by Nicholson, seconded by Stentz, the Board unanimously accepted the August 2022 Final Financial Report.

### **Finance Committee Report**

No report at this time, but the committee expects to meet soon for 2023 budget preparation. The Board was also reminded that there will be an Agency levy on the ballot in November 2023.

### **Personnel Committee Report**

No report at this time.

### **Services and Program Report**

#### **2022 Semi-Annual PQI Report**

Blakely stated that the S&P Committee met on 9.7.2022, and the minutes from that meeting were distributed to the full Board.

There were four (4) main take-aways from this report:

1. The total number of RCCS staff is up, and the number of resignations is down. There were 90 staff members at the end of the second quarter as opposed to 85 at the beginning of the year.
2. The number of kids in out-of-network foster care was discussed. The Committee recognized that sibling groups and teenagers continue to be a challenge to place and find homes for. Coleman agreed to start tracking the number of kids in licensed relative homes as well moving forward.
3. The number of kids aged 14 and over represent a quarter average of 40.33 compared to 25.67 last quarter. This represents roughly 30% of the total number of kids in foster care.
4. The Committee went on a tour of the Agency visitation area and commended the nice job that RCCS staff members have done to make the area more family friendly. New paint, colorful wall murals (hand drawn by RCCS employee Arlillian Nixon) and two new rocking chairs plus new toys have made that area look very nice. Local girl scout troops also plan to “adopt” two of the rooms and decorate each accordingly.

On a motion by Murray, seconded by Blakely, the Board unanimously approved the 2022 Semi-Annual PQI report.

## **BILLS**

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully Submitted:

Pat Heydinger, RCCS Board Chair

Marsha Coleman, Recording Secretary