



---

# BOARD MEETING MINUTES

## May 19, 2023

---

### **Board of Directors:**

Amy Black, Board Chair; Victoria Thurston, Vice Chair; Rebecca Brock, Secretary, Meghan Russell, Treasurer, Chelsea Bellew, David Prather, Josefa Benjamin, Lois Marino, Michael Lepera, Nancy Gregoire Stamper, Paul Adams, Ronald Ford, Sabria McElroy

### **Unable to Attend:**

Josefa Benjamin, Meghan Russell, Paul Adams, Victoria Thurston

### **Other Attendees:**

*ChildNet Staff:* Larry Rein, Donna Eprifania, Jason Tracey, Julie DeMar, Susan Eby, Rae Bullard, Deena Ponto, Sheryl Williams, Shanny Tozzi, Alicia McRae, Shatoria Means, Shauna Thomas, Daffodil Otto, Julie Janello, *DCF:* Dawn Liberta, Teresa Janeczek, *Judicial:* Judge Kathleen Kroll

---

### **CALL TO ORDER – Amy Black, Board Chair**

- Amy Black, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Rebecca Brock, Board Secretary**

- Roll was taken, and quorum was established.

The April 28, 2023 meeting minutes were reviewed. *A motion* was moved and seconded to approve the minutes. *A vote was taken.* The ayes have it and *the motion was adopted.*

### **CHILDNET BOARD EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARD – Rae Bullard, CHRO**

- The ChildNet Board Employee Recognition Award was presented to the following deserving employees:
  - April 2023 – Shatoria Means, Legal Counsel & Shauna Thomas, Legal Counsel

### **DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW**

- **Organizational Funding** – Donna Eprifania, CFO, gave a brief summary of ChildNet's organizational funding. There are several rules and regulations that we follow in order for us to utilize the funding that we receive from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) which is about 99% of our revenue. Discussion was held on direct and indirect costs. Discussion of Funding sources: Department of Children and Families – two contracts, Program Funding/Grants – Broward Behavioral Health Coalition (BBHC), Wendy's Wonderful Kids and Community Based Care Integrated Health (CBCIH), and Unrestricted – Non-DCF revenue and fundraising. Discussion held on DCF funding pools: Title IV-E Funding, federal capped grants, and state-funded/general revenue.



## FINANCE REPORT – Meghan Russell, Board Treasurer and Donna Eprifania, CFO

Donna Eprifania, CFO, reported that the committee did not meet in April and meets next week:

- **Insurance** - Donna Eprifania, CFO, reported as we reviewed our policies and procedures, we have thresholds that we have authority to grant payment on and the insurance, because of its level of expense, is higher than that threshold. The type of insurance that we purchase is Worker's Comp, property, liability (general & professional), vehicle, cyber, crime, and Directors/Officers insurance. This year, we have a very minor increase. ChildNet's insurance renews June 1, 2023 and is part of the budgeted line item. Last year, the total insurance costs for all lines of insurance was \$1.5 million. The increase this year of \$190,708.72 brings the total to \$1.7 million. This increase is for workman's compensation, automobile insurance and general liability. The Board had no questions or concerns.

## COMMITTEE UPDATES

- **Community Engagement Committee – Shanny Tozzi, Director of Community Relations**
  - The Broward Care for Kids Cocktail Reception was held on Thursday, May 11, 2023 at the Lauderdale Yacht Club where we honored Melida Akita from Memorial HealthCare System and a former Board Chair of ChildNet. We were able to raise \$132,249 in gross revenue. \$66,000 was in sponsorships, and \$66,250 was raised during the event! This is the most we have ever raised at a fundraising event.
  - Foster Parent Appreciation Brunch – tomorrow, May 20, 2023 at Lake Worth Beach Club.
  - Broward and Palm Beach Graduation Ceremonies – June 20, 2023 at Embassy Suites in Palm Beach at 10:00am and June 22, 2023 at Broward College, Davie at 6:00 p.m. These graduation ceremonies cost ChildNet around \$25,00 for both counties.
- **Governance/Executive Committee – Dr. Victoria Thurston, Committee Chair**
  - Vacancy of Committee Chair – Community Engagement Committee – Amy Black, Board Chair, recommended Lois Marino to chair the Community Engagement Committee. It was noted that this committee needs to be fleshed out before asking other Board Directors to join.  
*Lois Marino agreed to chair this committee.*
  - Discussion of Potential Board Candidate – Provider Representative – Larry Rein will contact the CEO of Kids in Distress to determine their interest and availability to serve for a two-year, non-voting term as a provider representative.
  - Summary of Provider Services - Donna Eprifania, CFO, reported that the summary of provider services, a copy of which was provided to the board, shows the type of subcontracted services, by county. Most contracts are on a 1- or 2-year cycle. The predominance of our child welfare and residential services contracts are on a State fiscal year, July - June cycle, and our behavioral health services are on an October - September cycle. Denesee Rankine-Palmer, Director of Contracts, leads this charge who has a team of three. Larry Rein noted that he and Susan Eby, CCQO continue to meet with local providers to come up with creative ideas on increasing the number of foster homes.
  - Review of Management of Operational Procedures (MOP) - Julie DeMar gave a brief overview of the MOP, which is the mechanism that demonstrates the review of policies and



procedures, both internally and externally, in both counties. The MOP is also reviewed with the Program Quality Committee. External reviewers include the Department of Children and Families' Quality Assurance Department, their Licensing Department, and their Contract Oversight Unit, the Florida Certification Board, and the Community Based Care Integrated Health (CBCIH). As a result of the reviews, both internally and externally, there are times when there are actions identified to improve compliance with the policies and procedures. For the second year in a row, there are no active Corrective Action Plans in either county. Ms. DeMar noted that now the Department reviews all ChildNet policies and procedures before sending to the Board for review and approval.

- **Annual Board Survey** – Jason Tracey, CLO, noted that Julie Janello will send a Survey Monkey link to the full Board for completion of the survey in order that the results of the survey can be prepared for the Annual Board meeting in June.
- **Membership Recruitment** - Larry Rein reported that we have three (3) vacancies in Broward and two (2) in Palm Beach. We have two prospective candidates in Broward: 1) Donna Korn, whose mother is a former ChildNet Board member, and 2) Eric Yutzy, an NBC newscaster, who expressed interest. In Palm Beach, Shanny Tozzi, Director of Community Relations, has identified a few people who are interested. In addition, Mr. Rein wants to talk with Col. Benjamin again about PBSO.

- **Legal/Human Resources Committee – Rebecca Brock, Committee Chair**

Rebecca Brock reported that the committee met on May 1, 2023. The Risk Management Committee met and reported that ChildNet Broward experienced one Level-3 incident and Palm Beach experienced four Level-3 incidences. ChildNet did not retain any outside legal counsel.

- **Program Quality Committee – Nancy Gregoire Stamper, Committee Chair**

Nancy Stamper reported that the committee met on May 10, 2023. The committee reviewed the Management of Operational Procedures (MOP) and discussed the Foster Home Recruitment Report.

## **CONTINUING BUSINESS**

- **ChildNet's Anti-Racism Workgroup Update** – Sheryl Williams, Program Officer of Case Management and Adoptions reported that the Workgroup are working on the final state of events for Juneteenth.

## **CEO/PRESIDENT REPORT – Larry Rein**

- **Legislative Update**– The Legislature's regular session just concluded with nothing new to report in terms of child welfare or community-based care. No major policy or practice changes in any bill. The legislature did allocate \$18.5 million to DCF for them to allocate to the CBC lead agencies who had indicated to DCF that they were forecasting a deficit in this fiscal year. This \$18 million is called the 'back of the bill funding' which should help to take care of ChildNet's \$1.4 million deficit in Palm Beach. We are waiting on the Governor to review, approve and sign the legislative budget.

This year, for the first-time ever, the Legislature has said they want DCF, before they give out any of that money, to go through a Risk-Pool process. There is a well-defined process for making application to that Risk-Pool funding. DCF convenes a group of administrators from CBC lead agencies to review the request and go through a rigorous process of going over that application and



deciding about whether or not to allocate that funding to the requesting lead agency. There are six (6) lead agencies making that request to the Department. The Risk Pool Application is due May 22, 2023.

ChildNet's two Special Appropriation Requests for Palm Beach are in the draft legislative budget that was sent to the Governor. We are awaiting the Governor's approval and signature.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter DCF Report Card progress, we are a little behind on some of the numbers but are hopeful that we will bring up the numbers in the next quarter. We need to be focused on the numbers, etc., however, people need to understand the good that we all do.

One of the good stories is about Woodson, who spoke at the May 11<sup>th</sup> event. Woodson resided in a home in Broward that was modeled after the Oak Street home in Palm Beach, which houses 4 of the most challenging and complex young men. Woodson was one of these young men. Being in this home helped Woodson turn his life around. He recently graduated high school and is getting ready to start college. He has a job and was able to buy a used car. He spoke about his experience in foster care and his experience with Hope House which has made a major difference in his life.

In addition, earlier this month, there was a large sibling group (12 siblings) that was removed from their home. The siblings ranged in age from 17 to 0 and some had some medical issues. They arrived at SafePlace at 2:00 a.m. Everyone worked hard to keep these children together. HIS House is planning on opening a new home to hopefully have all 12 siblings live together. All departments are working together to get these siblings into foster homes quickly.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- There was no public comment.

#### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

- The next Board Meeting is the Annual Board Meeting scheduled for Friday, June 23, 2023 in person and via Zoom.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

- Having no further business, a *motion* was moved to adjourn the meeting. A *vote was taken*. The ayes have it and *the motion was adopted*. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Rebecca Brock  
Board Secretary

6.20.23

Date

(Corporate Seal)