



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 23, 2019

Board of Directors:

Sigrid McCawley, Board Chair; Michael Lepera, Vice Chairman; Christopher Cade, Treasurer; Amy Black, Secretary, Jillian Smath, Joe Rogers, Melida Akiti, Rebecca Brock, Sigrid McCawley, Tex Guignard, Victoria Thurston

Unable to Attend:

N/A

Other Attendees:

ChildNet Staff: Larry Rein, Donna Eprifania, Dionne Wong, Julie DeMar, Susan Eby, Deena Ponto, Andrea Cunningham, Fiona Evans, Melody Noel, Dionne Jenkins, Julie Janello, *DCF:* Dawn Liberta, Teresa Janeczek

CALL TO ORDER – Sigrid McCawley, Board Chair

- Sigrid McCawley, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Amy Black, Secretary

- Roll was taken, and quorum was established.

The June 21, 2019 meeting minutes were reviewed. *A motion was moved to approve the meeting minutes. A vote was taken. The motion was passed unanimously.*

FINANCE REPORT – Chris Cade, Treasurer & Finance Chair and Donna Eprifania, CFO

Mr. Cade reported that the Finance Committee has met several times regarding the budget for the upcoming year. The Committee is very comfortable with the process and where we ended up:

- Approval of FY 2019-2020 Broward Budget – Resolution #192 – Donna Eprifania reported that for Broward, we are starting the fiscal year with \$4.6 million more than last year. Part of the \$4.6 million is that we received \$2.3 million for additional adoption subsidies. One of the line items added was “excess earnings”. As discussed at the Board Retreat and as identified in our Strategic Plan where we have areas in which we do revenue maximization, that number can be tracked because when we strategically use our funds that have the opportunity to over-earn, then it is called excess earnings. ChildNet was entitled to a portion of new money (\$8 million in new money allocated to CBCs this year). It is based on a 70/30 model. The portion of the 70% for ChildNet Broward resulted in \$407,000. Expenses – Salaries/Benefits, this showed that we were able to extend a 2.08% cost of living increase to staff. The amount of the increase for Broward was \$430,000. Cost Savings – SafePlace improvements completed and the Data Center moved on-site.

The proposed Broward Budget under consideration for board approval is a balanced budget.

A motion was moved to approve FY 2019-2020 Broward Budget in the amount of \$81,584,102. A vote was taken. The motion was passed unanimously.



- Approval of FY 2019-2020 Palm Beach Budget – Resolution #193 – Donna Eprifania reported that for Palm Beach, we are starting the fiscal year with \$1.8 million more than last year. Part of the \$1.8 million is that we received \$958,000 for additional adoption subsidies. In regard to the new monies allocated to the CBCs, the portion of the 70% for ChildNet Palm Beach resulted in \$277,000. The amount of the cost of living increase in Palm Beach was \$70,000.

The proposed Palm Beach under consideration for board approval is a balanced budget.

A motion was moved to approve FY 2019-2020 Palm Beach Budget in the amount of \$48,912,804. A vote was taken. The motion was passed unanimously.

CHILDNET BOARD EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARD – Larry Rein

- At the suggestion of new Board Chair, Sigrid McCawley, a ChildNet staff member will be honored at each board meeting for outstanding performance. The inaugural ChildNet Board Employee Recognition Award was presented to Lead Child Advocate Dionne Jenkins-Richard at today's meeting. Larry Rein noted that ChildNet has a "Token of Appreciation" (TOA) program in which staff and community members can submit their nomination of a staff member who went above and beyond. Ms. Jenkins-Richard's strong work ethic was evident through her work with ChildNet provider 4KIDS, which earned her a Token of Appreciation nomination. Going forward, the monthly selection will be made by a nine-member committee of ChildNet employees following their review of Tokens of Appreciations submitted the prior month by both ChildNet staff and community members.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

- Advisory Board Committee – Armando Fana, Committee Chair

Armando Fana reported that caseloads have improved significantly over the past few months. Larry Rein noted that Children's Home Society (CHS) has been following a corrective action plan. CHS had a high turnover rate and have been instructed to overhire to assist with the caseload. The average caseload is now 1:19, the lowest it has been since 2012. The challenge now is having a lot of new case managers. However, the community has been very supportive and have recognized that we have these new case managers and have asked how they could support them. Mr. Rein has met with Judge Kroll who is also very supportive. The change in CHS leadership is incredibly important. They have hired, as their Regional Vice President, Bronwyn Stanford who was formerly with CLS and with DCF. In her capacity at DCF, she reduced the census for the Miami-Dade CBC lower than ChildNet Broward. Ms. Stanford is sensitive to the workforce issues and her focus is on strengthening and supporting the CHS workforce. The Statewide CHS Interim CEO met with Mr. Rein. The CEO understands that we need to see improvement in caseload, case management retention and in performance. Mr. Rein is now more confident that CHS is going to turn things around. Per the recommendation from Melida Akiti, the CHS corrective action plan will be extended from 6 months to 1 year.

- Fundraising Committee – Andrea Cunningham, Director of Community Relations

Andrea Cunningham reported the following:

- Year-End Campaign - ChildNet will be launching a year-end campaign starting on Giving Tuesday, December 3, 2019. It will run for three (3) weeks where each week we will spotlight



a different child with a different message. We will be using social media, email blasts and website platforms to solicit financial support.

- Fundraising Committee - The Fundraising Committee will meet on an “as-needed” basis.
- Care for Kids’ Luncheons – We will now be spacing out the Care for Kids luncheons. Palm Beach will be held in the Spring and Broward will be held in the Fall.
- ChildNet Cocktails and Conversation – Saturday, September 21, 2019 at Sigrid McCawley’s home.
- Marketing/PR – Larry Rein has been accepted into the South Florida 100 which is the Sun-Sentinels top 100 most influential people who have an opportunity to share their thoughts on events. Mr. Rein writes once a week and has been in either the print version or the digital version of the Sun-Sentinel every single week since he was accepted.
- Forever Families – Mr. Rein was asked to do an interview for Channel 6 in Broward and Channel 12 in Palm Beach on foster care, the importance of community involvement and the need for foster and adoptive parents. He also spoke about his involvement as the Chair of the Legislative Committee for the Florida Coalition for Children (FCC) and the impact that this has on legislation. It should air on Tuesday and Sunday of next week on CBS 12 and Thursday and Friday of next week on NBC 6.

- **Governance Committee – Michael Lepera, Committee Chair**

Michael Lepera, Committee Chair, reported the following:

- Approval of Strategic Plan 2019-2022 – The Strategic Plan lists three (3) goals that came from the January 2019 Board Retreat. The Board will receive quarterly updates on these goals. It was requested to have the Staff Champion names added to the Strategic Plan.

A motion was moved to approve ChildNet’s Strategic Plan 2019-2022. A vote was taken. The motion was passed unanimously.

- Membership Recruitment – Discussion held that the Board can have up to 19 members. Melida Akiti reported that Dr. Rosha McCoy relocated and has resigned from the Board. We would like to recruit someone with a similar skillset to replace Dr. McCoy on the board. Sigrid McCawley noted that we need to ensure we are building the Palm Beach Board in the right way. We need to identify individuals in the Palm Beach community fairly quickly. Ms. McCawley has requested that each Board member reach out to their contacts who they feel would be helpful Board members, in both Broward and Palm Beach County. She asked the Board to make it their goal to reach out to at least one person by the next Board meeting.

- **Legal/Human Resource Committee – Sigrid McCawley, Committee Chair**

- Committee to meet next week. A report will be provided at the next Board meeting.

- **Program Quality Committee**

- Julie DeMar stated the Committee discussed caseloads – average caseload in Palm Beach was 1:19 and 1:16 in Broward. Committee also discussed the CFSR, the federal review of files and information. The Committee had their first review of the Management of Operations



Procedures (MOP) and will continue to do so at each meeting. Melida Akiti noted regarding contract reviews, she recommends that if any provider has a deficiency, then that should be reported to the Board. This fiscal year will be a grace period. However, after that, if the quality indicators are not met, Ms. Akiti suggests a .5% in reduction each year until termination. It was also noted that with Rosha McCoy's departure from the Board, we now have a vacancy for Committee Chair.

NEW BUSINESS

- There was no new business to discuss.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT – Sigrid McCawley

- Ms. McCawley encouraged attendance at the September 21, 2019 “Cocktails and Conversation” fundraising event

CEO/PRESIDENT REPORT – Larry Rein

- Kim Gorsuch - BSO – Mr. Rein noted that Kim Gorsuch is retiring at the end of September 2019. Captain McCardle, the head of CPIS, is meeting with Mr. Rein today.
- State Level – DCF Secretary Poppell has initiated two (2) workgroups that have the potential of being very important: 1) Workforce, Support & Stability Workgroup – this is a statewide workgroup of protective investigators and supervisors to examine ways of making life on the job better for protective investigators. Dennis Miles believes many of the recommendations will be endorsed by the Secretary and then will go to the Legislature, if necessary, for funding and policy changes. 2) Dependency Case Management Efficiency Workgroup – They have identified 35 case managers and supervisors across the state representing all of the CBCs. We will have participation from two staff in Palm Beach and two staff in Broward. Mr. Rein is cautiously optimistic of significant improvements.
- Funding Formula – A likely major legislative priority for us will be modification of Florida's child welfare funding formula. Last session, the Governor and legislature requested that the CBCs and DCF should come up with three (3) alternative models for adequately and appropriately funding child welfare in the State of Florida. A joint workgroup met and made their recommendations to the Secretary. The Secretary is reviewing those recommendations and preparing for their presentation to the legislature in the upcoming session.
- Title IV-E Waiver – Donna Eprifania reported that the Waiver is due to sunset September 30, 2019. We have done things as a State to try and prepare for this, such as extended foster care moving into a IV-E earning environment, and licensing relatives and non-relatives for child-specific placements, which started July 1, 2019. There will be a significant number of changes with how we will have to charge all of our expenses.

Mr. Rein noted that there are still two (2) Bills, one in the House and one in the Senate, to extend the waiver. Mr. Rein also noted that there is supposedly money allocated in the U.S. budgets for the next fiscal year to Health and Human Services, the department that funds child welfare throughout the country. There is an appropriation intended to help states that are losing the waiver. Through the Florida Coalition for Children (FCC), we have a lobbyist in Washington, to help us.



Melida Akiti requested that at the next Board meeting a report be provided of any impact on children coming into the system as unaccompanied minors.

OLD BUSINESS

- Donna Eprifania requested confirmation that the Audit Committee still consists of Armando Fana and Amy Black. It was confirmed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- There was no public comment.

NEXT MEETING DATE

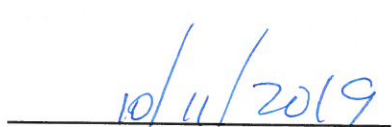
- The next scheduled Board meeting is Friday, September 27, 2019.

CONCLUSION

- Having no further business, a motion was *moved* to adjourn the meeting. *A vote was taken. The motion was passed unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 a.m.



Amy Black
Board Secretary



Date

(Corporate Seal)