



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 23, 2022

Board of Directors:

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

Unable to Attend:

Michael Lepera, Nancy Gregoire Stamper

Other Attendees:

ChildNet Staff: Larry Rein, Donna Eprifania, Jason Tracey, Julie DeMar, Susan Eby, Rae Bullard, Andrea Cunningham, Deena Ponto, Alisha Patterson-Major, Krystal Kenison, Brittany Burnette, Julie Janello, *DCF:* Elisa Cramer, Teresa Janeczek, Dawn Liberta, Dennis Miles

CALL TO ORDER – Amy Black, Board Chair

- Amy Black, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Rebecca Brock, Board Secretary

- Roll was taken, and quorum was established.

The August 26, 2022, 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:
 - August 2022 – Alisha Patterson-Major, Education Services Specialist, Krystal Kenison, Director of Service Coordination and Susan Eby, Chief Clinical Quality Officer

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

- Service Overview – Andrew Wallick, Director of Service Quality, provided an in-depth overview of the Service Quality Department, which is overseen by Susan Eby, Chief Clinical Quality Officer. The Service Quality Team also consists of two Service Quality Managers, a Lead Adolescent Care Coordinator, an Adolescent Care Coordinator, and an Administrative Assistant. The Service Quality Team provides contract monitoring, performance improvement plans, provider trainings and technical support, contract performance metrics, ICAN staffings and foster care referrals, and credentialing. The Adolescent Care Coordinator Team's purpose is to focus on supporting adolescent youth to obtain the skills necessary to appropriately transition to adulthood. Their primary focus is on adolescents aged 13-17, with special concentration on age 15-16 years old, to assess appropriate services, assess engagement in services and youth teams, work directly with life coach



or mentor, participate in permanency or placement staffings and court hears, and identify any service issue trends with providers who serve adolescents.

ITEM FOR BOARD REVIEW AND APPROVAL – Michael Lepera, Board Chair

- **Approval of P&P CN 003.053 – Kinship Placements (formerly Relative Caregiver Program)** – this P&P is being presented by the Program Quality Committee.

A motion was moved and seconded to approve P&P CN 003.053 – Kinship Placements. A vote was taken. The ayes have it and the motion was adopted.

Melida Akiti requested that any recommendations or comments from a Board Director be included as follow-up on the next Board Agenda.

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

- Meghan Russell reported that the Finance meets next week. Larry Rein reported that we are in receipt of the DCF contract amendments for both contracts.

COVID-19 UPDATE – Larry Rein, CEO and President

- **COVID-19 Update** – Larry Rein reported that this is the last COVID-19 update meeting. ChildNet's target date for everyone to be on-site at least once a month is set for October 10, 2022. The leadership will be on-site at least once a week in Broward and Palm Beach. Communication was sent to all staff outlining how we were going to return into the office.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

- **Advisory Board Committee – Col. Josefa Benjamin, Committee Chair**

Col. Benjamin reported that the September 22, 2022 Advisory Board Committee meeting was the last meeting as this committee is being sunset. Discussed at the meeting was that there is an uptick in the number of removals in Palm Beach. In terms of reunification, ChildNet is the best in the state. The subcontracted provider for SafePlace in Palm Beach, Florida United Methodist Children's Home (FUMCH) is struggling. Their struggle is a combination of things including their inability to hire and retain staff. We are in discussions with them and DCF about using ChildNet staff to fill in and sustain that program in the short-term while allowing them time to fill their vacancies. Susan Eby gave a presentation on the collaborative meetings that ChildNet has with community providers.

- **Fundraising Committee – Andrea Cunningham, Director of Community Relations**

Andrea Cunningham reported on the following:

- **Palm Beach Care for Kids Luncheon** – Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at Woodfield Country Club, Boca Raton. We will be honoring Dr. Heidi Schaeffer as our Champion for Children honoree. We also will be recognizing Marsh McLennan as our Community Advocate Award recipient.
- **Broward Care for Kids Cocktail Reception** – Thursday, May 11, 2023 at the Lauderdale Yacht Club. We will be honoring Melida Akiti for her unwavering, passionate commitment to the children and youth we serve.
- **Thanksgiving Drive** – our Thanksgiving Drive is in full swing. If interested, please contact Andrea Cunningham.



- Thank-A-Thon - Our Thank-A-Thon calls have gone very well. Thank you to all of the Board members who have reached out to our donors. The feedback from the donors has been very positive. This will set us up for our annual giving campaign.

- **Governance Committee – Dr. Victoria Thurston, Committee Chair**

- **ChildNet Board Committee Structure** – The committee reviewed the Committee Structure as we wanted to reassess the need of the committees and determine who should serve on which committee. Amy Black noted that with so many new Board members, we slotted them into certain committees when they joined. The Committee Structure shows the break-down of Board members and the committees they serve on. It also shows the required number of Board members to serve on each committee. Currently, the following committees do not need any additional Board members to serve on them: Audit Committee, Finance Committee, and the Governance/Executive Committee.

Palm Beach Advisory Board Committee – discussion held that this committee was started when ChildNet took over Palm Beach County to ensure that Palm Beach information was captured and shared with the Board. As ChildNet has grown and we have become very close in how we run Palm Beach and Broward together, recommendation was made to sunset this committee and the ask would be to move any of the Palm Beach Advisory Board committee members, who are interested, over to either the Legal/Human Resources Committee, the Program Quality Committee or the Adolescent Services Committee.

Legal/Human Resources Committee - recommendation was made to add two (2) additional board members to this committee.

Program Quality Committee – Recommendation to add any of the interested PB Advisory Committee members to this committee and a recommendation of a quarterly Program Quality summary report of both Broward and Palm Beach and to provide the backup documentation for the board members.

Adolescent Services Committee – currently, only one Board member serves on this committee, Melida Akiti, whose service on the board terms out in November 2022. Therefore, more Board members are needed to serve on this committee.

Fundraising Committee – there is not an official committee at this time. Recommendation is to have Board members who have strong ties in the community to serve on this committee. It was noted that the committee members do not have to go out and fundraise. Discussion on possibly changing the name of this committee.

Any Board member interested in serving on one of the above committees should reach out to both Amy Black and Larry Rein.

A motion was moved and seconded to Sunset the Palm Beach Advisory Board Committee. A vote was taken. The ayes have it and the motion was adopted.

- **Discussion of 2022-2025 Strategic Plan**

Larry Rein reported that he spoke with the previous strategic plan facilitator, James Mueller. A meeting has been scheduled for next week with Mr. Mueller, Larry Rein and Amy Black, Board Chair to flesh out the details of the strategic plan retreat.



- **Membership Recruitment** – Larry Rein met with Ms. Sabria McElroy, who was recommended by Sigrid McCawley, and a partner at Boies Schiller. In addition, Ms. McElroy is a former teacher. An application has been sent to her for completion. In addition, Melida Akiti has recommended a potential candidate who resides in Broward and a meeting will be set-up with her.

- **Program Quality Committee – Joe Rogers, Committee Chair**

The committee reviewed several procedural updates in preparation of the Council on Accreditation (COA) site visit on November 7-8, 2022. They have requested to interview some of the Board Directors as well. We have turned in all documentation on the self-study. All leadership is going through the standards to determine which Board Directors, staff and clients may need to be interviewed.

NEW BUSINESS

- There was no new business.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

- **ChildNet's Anti-Racism Workgroup Update** – Julie DeMar reported that the Workgroup is working on a project regarding our children in group care. They have compiled that data and are currently reviewing it. They talked directly to a lot of children and learned about why children want to live in group care. Some of the general thoughts is that this is something that we need to be working on when children are a little younger and prior to their entry into the system. The Workgroup is putting together that data to be able to present some potential changes to the way that we create our profiles for children and the information that we share.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT – Amy Black

- Ms. Black noted that more information will be provided at the next board meeting on the Board Committee Structure and Strategic Plan Review. Ms. Black also encouraged the board to help promote ChildNet, i.e., offer to write thank you notes, etc.

CEO/PRESIDENT REPORT – Larry Rein

- **Legislative Update** – The legislature is not currently in session. Legislative staff, however, are convening meetings to gather input. Mr. Rein was part of a small group from the Florida Coalition for Children (FCC) that provided information and recommendations to Senate staff that may inform a “glitch bill” intended to correct and respond to unforeseen and unintended consequences of the multidisciplinary team staffings that were required by Senate Bills 80 and 96 two years ago. House staff will be convening a similar meeting with the same FCC representatives.
- **Department of Children and Families (DCF)** – The relationship with DCF Tallahassee is evolving and strengthening. Mr. Rein has been asked to participate in meetings with either the Secretary or her immediate staff to assist in finalizing the new report card for next year. DCF is very responsive and has really listened to CBC lead agency input. The most recent draft of the report card included very substantial changes, and they have asked Mr. Rein and a small group of lead agency CEOs to continue to provide input as they finalize the new version of the report card. Mr. Rein remains concerned about DCF centralization. The local DCF staff do not have the power they previously had. Now they must get approval from Tallahassee before moving forward. There needs to be a better way to have the local DCF team be better informed and empowered.



PUBLIC COMMENT

- There was no public comment.

NEXT MEETING DATE

- The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 28, 2022 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 9:19 a.m.

Rebecca Brock
Board Secretary

Date

(Corporate Seal)