



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 27, 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:

Amy Black, Armando Fana, Tex Guignard

Other Attendees:

ChildNet Staff: Larry Rein, Donna Eprifania, Dionne Wong, Julie DeMar, Susan Eby, Deena Ponto, Sheryl Williams, Andrea Cunningham, Yyone Cowan, Felicia Whittingham, Sylvia Santa, June Richards, Tara Collins, Edelyne Guerrier, Kendalese Rose, Julie Janello, *DCF:* Dawn Liberta

CALL TO ORDER – Sigrid McCawley, Board Chair

- Sigrid McCawley, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Amy Black, Secretary

- Roll was taken, and quorum was established.

The August 23, 2019 meeting minutes were reviewed. *A motion was moved to approve the meeting minutes. A vote was taken. The motion was passed unanimously.*

CHILDNET BOARD EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARD – Larry Rein

- The September 2019 ChildNet Board Employee Recognition Award was presented to two staff: 1) Broward - Kendalese Rose, Lead Child Advocate, Case Management Unit A4 – Kendalese attended along with her Supervisor, Edelyne Guerrier, Director, Tara Collins and Program Officer Sheryl Williams. 2) Palm Beach – Sylvia Santa, Eligibility Coordinator, Rev Max Department – Sylvia attended along with her Supervisor, Felicia Whittingham, Director, Yyone Cowan, and CFO, Donna Eprifania. Both awardees received a gift card and glass award for their exemplary service to ChildNet's mission.

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

- Mr. Cade reported that the Finance Committee met and discussed the implementation of the new finance system. Financials will be provided at the next Board meeting.

Broward ended the month in a surplus posture even with the inclusion of the one-time annual clothing allowance expenditure; while Palm Beach ended the month slightly under budget by \$44,000 which also included the one-time annual clothing allowance totaling approximately \$98,600. Every year, children that are in foster or group care are entitled to a \$200-\$300 annual clothing allowance, which is usually given just prior to the start of the new school year. This expense is approximately \$200,000-\$300,000 annually between both counties. One of the things that now



needs to be addressed is as we license relatives and non-relatives (we have historically not afforded them any annual clothing allowances), and as we are trying to support them, we will need to consider this into the budget in the future. Melida Akiti recommended making the clothing allowance part of our fundraising goal.

End of year projections – We have submitted our invoices to DCF for both counties. In state funding, we will have greater than a \$3.2 million surplus in Broward and approximately an \$83,000 deficit in Palm Beach.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

- **Advisory Board Committee – Armando Fana, Committee Chair**

Larry Rein reported that the Committee met and discussed that this administration of DCF is very different than what they had in the past. Now, the Department leadership regionally (Dennis Miles, Regional Managing Director) is more responsible for ensuring that his region is performing well on the things that are important to the Secretary and the Department. This is different than the way historically things have operated where the CBC and its CEO were often directly responsible to the Secretary. The Department developed a CBC performance summary which shows, among other things, removal rates. It shows that removal rates in Palm Beach are twice that of Broward and significantly higher than the State average.

The Committee also discussed the challenge of serving really challenging teenagers. ChildNet has a pilot project in Palm Beach that has a 4-bed group home, for boys, that costs more than twice as much as what a normal group home would cost. We have a relationship with a charter school where a staff member of the group home takes the youth to school, stays at the school, works with the youth in class, and ensures when he brings the youth home that the gains and changes they make at school are transferred to the home. Three of the four youth are doing exceptionally well. We are starting discussions to have this project in Broward as well. We are looking to expand the project in Palm Beach with a legislative budget request to have a 4-bed group home for girls.

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

Andrea Cunningham reported the following:

- ChildNet Cocktails and Conversation – This event was held on Saturday, September 21, 2019 at Sigrid McCawley's home. There were approximately 50 attendees and we had two former youth speak. We raised approximately \$13,000 and generated a lot of interest in touring ChildNet.
- Holiday Drive – Andrea has the wish lists of the children that she could send out to the Board members. Suggestion made to check with our providers to streamline and not duplicate names of children, so that each child in our care receives gifts.
- Annual Appeal – This is our first year doing an "annual appeal". It will be sent out through email and social media. The goal is to bring in new support. We will also be sending out a formal annual campaign letter targeted to donors who previously have given over a certain amount to ChildNet.



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

Michael Lepera, Committee Chair, reported the following:

- Quarterly Strategic Plan Update – Brief discussion held on the first quarterly strategic plan update. It was noted that we are moving the quarterly report to be provided the month after the quarter ends (October, January, April and July).
- Caseload Plan Update/CHS Update – The Palm Beach caseload numbers are now the lowest since ChildNet has been there (since 2012). The challenge is that they are handled by new staff as CHS continues to overhire as they have been asked to. CHS has filled the following positions: CEO filled by Andry Sweet, Regional VP filled by Bronwyn Stanford, Executive Director filled by Charles Scherer, who Ms. Stanford worked with in Miami, and Ms. Stanford created a second position of Program Director over Case Management, so that there are now two Program Directors. The CHS Corrective Action Plan has been extended to one (1) year.
- Membership Recruitment – There is still a need to fill the vacancy left by the departure of Dr. Roshia McCoy. The number of board directors needed in each county is 9 for a total of 18 board directors. Sigrid McCawley reached out to Palm Beach directors to provide names of potential candidates in order to start the vetting process.

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

- Dionne Wong reported that the Committee discussed that there has been no engagement in outside counsel in the last quarter. Ms. Wong noted that there had been some transition in the Legal Department and noted the hiring of the new In-House Legal Counsel of Allyson Gaiser and Angela Claud. The legal team is responsible for both counties of ChildNet.

- **Program Quality Committee**

- Julie DeMar reported that the Committee focused on the review of the Quality Management Report and upcoming year plan that we are required to provide to DCF. They continued discussion on the Management of Operations Procedures (MOP) and discussed service quality.

NEW BUSINESS

- Jillian Smath reported that regarding the hurricane preparedness that we recently went through, that her staff at SOS told her how amazingly prepared ChildNet had been with the preparations.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT – Sigrid McCawley

- Next Board Meeting - Ms. McCawley noted that the next couple of Board meetings will be held in her offices downtown in the hopes of more in-person attendance by the Board members.

CEO/PRESIDENT REPORT – Larry Rein

- Report on Unaccompanied Minors – Mr. Rein reported Ms. Akiti raised the question at the last board meeting on unaccompanied minors, and Mr. Rein reported we virtually had no impact. His House in Miami-Dade has a contract with the federal government to serve unaccompanied minors.
- Tallahassee – Mr. Rein reported on the FCC's quarterly meeting with Secretary Poppell. Mr. Rein reported that the Secretary had heard through meetings with FCC that parents who are Medicaid-eligible lose their Medicaid when children are removed. The Secretary said he was going to do



something about that, and retroactively effective 09-19-19, parents will be able to retain their Medicaid when the children are removed.

- Funding Models – The legislature codified, in the language in the Appropriations Bill, that the Department and FCC should come up with 3 new funding models for child welfare for presentation to the legislature at the next Session. An FCC/DCF Workgroup met throughout the summer and presented their recommendations to the Secretary. The Secretary will present the three models. The model that he is most supportive of is an update of the original FCC formula for adequately funding child welfare in the State of Florida based on the number of children and their needs. The Secretary has until 10-15-19 to present his recommendations to the legislature and to the Governor.
- Dependency Case Management Efficiency Workgroup – 35 case managers and supervisors across the state, representing all of the CBCs, have been identified to participate in the workgroup. We will have participation from two staff in Palm Beach and two staff in Broward. Mr. Rein is cautiously optimistic of significant improvements.
- Staff Engagement – Mr. Rein spoke about the creation of the Employee Council. Their input and recommendations are now shared at all quarterly all-staff meetings and at the weekly Director's meetings. There is now monthly formal electronic communication from the CEO to staff, and soon a quarterly newsletter will be created and distributed to all staff.
- New Government Relations Committee – Melida Akiti asked about the status of the new Government Relations Committee. A recommendation was made to contact Stephanie Toothacker to gauge her interest and availability to serve on this committee.
- Citrus Health Network – They are the new CBC lead agency in Miami-Dade, and we are looking to partner with them.

OLD BUSINESS

- There was no old business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- There was no public comment.

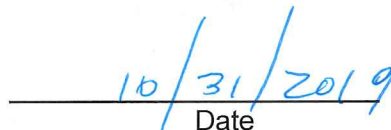
NEXT MEETING DATE

- The next scheduled Board meeting is Friday, October 25, 2019 to be held at Boise, Schiller & Flexner, LLP, 401 E. Las Olas Blvd., Suite 1200, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301.

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 9:15 a.m.


Amy Black
Board Secretary


Date

(Corporate Seal)