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# BOARD MEETING MINUTES

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**February 22, 2019**

**Board of Directors:**

Melida Akiti, Board Chair; Armando Fana, Vice Chairman; Michael Lepera, Treasurer; Joe Rogers, Secretary, Amy Black, Christopher Cade, Jillian Smath, Lisa McDermott, Nichole Anderson, Rebecca Brock, Rosha McCoy, Sigrid McCawley, Victoria Thurston

**Unable to Attend:**

Lisa McDermott, Michael Lepera, Nichole Anderson, Rosha McCoy

**Other Attendees:**

*ChildNet Staff:* Larry Rein, Donna Eprifania, Julie DeMar, Susan Eby, Dionne Wong, Deena Ponto, Kenneth Brighton, Julie Janello, *DCF:* Dawn Liberta, Dennis Miles, Patty Tilford, *Fifth Street Counseling:* Garry Smyth

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**CALL TO ORDER – Melida Akiti, Board Chair**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Joe Rogers, Secretary**

- Roll was taken, and quorum was established.

The January 25, 2019 meeting minutes were reviewed. *A motion was moved to approve the meeting minutes. A vote was taken. The motion was passed unopposed.*

**FINANCE REPORT – Michael Lepera, Treasurer and Donna Eprifania, CFO**

- Donna Eprifania reported that on February 2, 2019 we submitted our 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter projections to the Department, and in both counties, we are in the black. We are anticipating a \$1.5 million surplus in Broward before the anticipated deficit of \$1.9 million is restored for adoption subsidies along with all of our excess funds earned from FY 17-18. In Palm Beach, we are in a positive posture of \$400,000 with an anticipated need of \$400,000 for adoption subsidies. In January 2019, we received the dollars that were held back for extended foster care. In March 2019, the Finance Committee will receive a more detailed comparison with the variance report. All of the efforts that we put into place with the creation of the Chief Clinical Quality Officer position and the retooling of that division has realized a positive outcome.

**COMMITTEE UPDATES**

- **Advisory Board Committee**

Larry Rein reported that the Committee met and discussed full placement census data. We remain steady with the number of children in care which is currently slightly more than 1,600. We have had an increase in the number of removals (15% higher number of children removed per month) over the past couple of months. We are continuing to look at cases in care and are trying to move cases to ensure no one is languishing in care.



- **Fundraising Committee – Nichole Anderson, Committee Chair**

Kenneth Brighton, on behalf of Nichole Anderson, reported the following:

- Legislative Update – Larry Rein, Kenny Brighton and Melida Akiti attended the Rally in Tally at the beginning of February and met with over 15 legislators, the Governor's Chief of Staff and the Lt. Governor. Several providers attended this event as well. The feeling from the legislators and their staff was that they had very high expectations for this Session in terms of funding and policies as compared to other Sessions. Larry Rein will attend both Broward Days and Palm Beach Days in Tallahassee in March 2019.
- VIP Reception for Care for Kids Luncheon Sponsors – Wednesday, February 27, 2019, 5:30-7:30pm, Sklar Furnishings, Boca Raton.
- Palm Beach Care for Kids Luncheon – Tuesday, April 9, 2019, 11:30am-1:30pm, Woodfield Country Club, Boca Raton.
- Broward Care for Kids Luncheon – to be held in June 2019.

- **Governance Committee – Armando Fana, Committee Chair**

- Membership Recruitment – Discussion held on potential Board candidate who is a former foster care youth who currently works with 4Kids of Florida. Larry Rein will provide the Board Candidate Application Packet to this candidate.
- Corporate Restructure – Goal of corporate restructure is May 2020. Further discussion to be held at the March 2019 Board Meeting on the project plan.

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

- Outside General Counsel Guidelines - Sigrid McCawley reported that ChildNet's Outside General Counsel Guidelines (OCG) were discussed and supported for the purpose of setting forth terms to govern outside attorney's general responsibilities concerning: conflicts of interest, confidentiality, fees, budgeting, invoicing and staffing. Dionne Wong indicated that the Committee also discussed internal protocol for outside counsel engagements. It was noted that OCG will be incorporated into future outside counsel engagements and engagements will be done through the CLO's office. It was further discussed that engagement of outside counsel and related costs and budget will be reported to this Committee.
- Risk Management Committee – The Risk Management Committee resumed meeting in January 2019 and is scheduled to meet on a quarterly basis. That schedule is subject to change should it be warranted. The Committee reviewed and discussed the Risk Management Policy and the Committee's purpose ensuring the purposes are met. The approach will focus on organizational trends that may create organizational risk and proactive action planning.
- Civil Litigation Update – Discussion was held about civil litigation updates and appropriateness of communication about such matters at this Committee. It was agreed upon that the CEO and/or CLO will discuss noteworthy matters with individual Board members and that questions from the Board concerning litigation would be addressed in the same way.

- **Program Quality Committee – Rosha McCoy, Chair**

- Scorecard – Dr. McCoy reported that the Committee did not meet. However, Julie DeMar reported that DCF made some significant changes to the Scorecard without notice to the CBCs. Now some of the measures that were looked at on a quarterly basis will now be looked at on an





annual basis. DCF has re-run the outcomes for quarters 1 and 2 based on their new methodology. We are still seeking to understand fully how each of these algorithms are measured and how it will impact our performance. In the past, they used red, yellow and green for the scores and now it is just red and green. We are clarifying with DCF what the new rules are for the scorecard.

- **Workforce Engagement Committee – Joe Rogers, Chair**

- Dionne Wong reported that the Employee Engagement Survey was open February 4-19, 2019. Results of the survey will be shared with the whole staff in April 2019. The survey was closed with 69% workforce participation.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Board Retreat Follow-Up** – Donna Eprifania reported that at the January 2019 Board Retreat, the Board identified three (3) Wildly Important Goals (WIG). Ms. Eprifania's handout, provided to the Board, notated the following: Wildly Important Goal, Evidence of Goal Progress in One Year, Evidence of Goal Progress in Three Years, Action Steps to Reach Goal, Board Champions, and Staff Champions.

The three goals are as follows:

- 1) Create a 1% total budget contingency fund through a combination of fundraising and revenue maximization.
- 2) Increase inventory of foster homes in Palm Beach and Broward by 30%, which will also lead to increased community awareness of ChildNet.
- 3) Create a fully implemented new corporate structure with management company and two unique organizations with individual boards by May 2020.

Julie Janello will send the Goals to the Board so that they can select which of the three goals they wish to be Board Champions for.

- **Fundraising Board Retreat** - James Mueller to facilitate the upcoming Fundraising Board Retreat either in March or April 2019. Julie Janello to email Board for their availability.

## **BOARD CHAIR REPORT – Melida Akiti**

- **Nichole Anderson** – Melida Akiti reported that Nichole Anderson terms out her Board service today. Ms. Akiti spoke with Ms. Anderson who is interested in continuing her participation with the Board past her term out date. It was noted that pursuant to ChildNet's By-Laws, Article IV, Section 7, Advisory Bodies, it states that "The Board of Directors or the Chair of the Board of Directors acting on behalf of the Board may from time to time appoint persons to act singly or as a committee to provide expert advice and support towards fulfillment of the mission. Groups of advisors may include an Honorary Board, an Advisory Board, a Friends Committee, and/or other advisory groups". Therefore, Nichole Anderson will serve as an "Advisory" member of the Fundraising Committee, and she shall serve at the pleasure of the Board for a period of time as determined by the Board.

Ms. Akiti presented an appreciation award to Nichole Anderson for her 8-year tenure on the Board.



## CEO/PRESIDENT REPORT – Larry Rein

- Meeting with DCF Secretary Poppell – Mr. Rein reported that he met with new DCF Secretary Chad Poppell on February 18, 2019 in Tallahassee. He described the meeting as very positive. The Secretary seemed especially responsive to, and in agreement with, the things that Mr. Rein described as ChildNet's priorities and essential to the continued improvement of Florida's child welfare system. The first was improved workforce engagement, stability, retention and support for all frontline staff, dependency case managers and child protective investigators. The second was an intensified focus on true clinical quality and service outcomes that genuinely improve the lives of children and families. The Secretary noted that his selection of Dr. Patricia Babcock as his Deputy Secretary was precisely for this reason. They also spoke about the need for substantial overall increases in child welfare funding to adequately support these initiatives and the need to develop a formula to inform and direct the adequate and appropriate funding of the state's child welfare system. The Secretary noted that he has had initial discussions with the Governor that suggest he might be responsive to these efforts.
- Foster Home Recruitment Campaign – April 1, 2019 is the kick-off of the Foster Home Recruitment Marketing Campaign, starting in Palm Beach and then expanding into Broward. In addition, a new Foster Home Recruitment Coordinator has been hired.

## OLD BUSINESS

- There was no old business to discuss.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

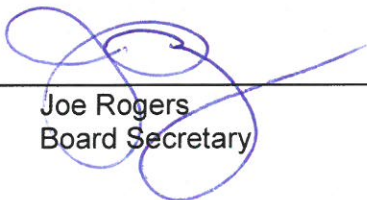
- Dennis Miles reported that he is glad to be back at DCF and is very pleased to see the progress that ChildNet has made.

## NEXT MEETING DATE

- The next scheduled Board meeting is Friday, March 22, 2019.

## CONCLUSION

- Having no further business, a motion was *moved* to adjourn the meeting. *A vote was taken. The motion was passed unopposed.* The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 a.m.

  
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Joe Rogers  
Board Secretary

4/26/2019  
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Date

(Corporate Seal)