



# BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**February 23, 2018**

**(Rev. 03-23-18)**

**Board of Directors:**

Melida Akiti, Board Chair; Armando Fana, Vice Chairman; Michael Lepera, Treasurer; Joe Rogers, Secretary, Christopher Cade, Jeff Dwyer, Kalinthia Dillard, Lisa McDermott, Nichole Anderson, Rosha McCoy, Sigrid McCawley

**Unable to Attend:**

Lisa McDermott, Michael Lepera, Rosha McCoy

**Other Attendees:**

*ChildNet Staff:* Larry Rein, Donna Eprifania, Donna Skees, Lawrence Plaza, Deena Ponto, Sheryl Williams, Kenneth Brighton, Gillian Moxey, Andriene Treasure Gordon, Sheree Tortora, Andrea Chenet, Wendy Smith, Julie Janello *DCF:* Raul Ocampo, Silvia Beebe, Patty Tilford, *SOS Children's Villages:* Jillian Smath

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

- Melida Akiti, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

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

- Roll was taken and quorum was established.

The January 26, 2018 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 they are not presenting any financial statements this month as they are working on a new format, which was discussed in the workgroup at the January 2018 Board Retreat. They will provide both the January and February financials, in the new format, at the next Board Meeting. Ms. Eprifania also noted that the Finance Committee had an electronic vote to ~~reinstate~~ eliminate the 1% cut to staff. For those staff affected, it will be an approximate \$20,000 need for this year and annually it will be an approximate \$80,000 need. They have identified non-recurring expenses that will offset that need moving forward. The reinstatement of the 1% cut will be effective April 1, 2018.

Joe Rogers noted that even though we will reflect a surplus for the year, from a straight, operational perspective, we will, in Broward, once again have an operational deficit. However, the decision to reinstate the 1% cut was made in the best interest of the employees.

**COMMITTEE UPDATES**

- **Advisory Board Committee**

Larry Rein reported that the Committee met and discussed the census and performance information of the second quarter. Palm Beach is pretty stable in the numbers in home care. In the month of January 2018, they saw an increase in the number of relative caregiver placements. We are embarking on a pilot project to do a program that better serves the most challenging newly depen-





dent, delinquent kids, with a target start date of April 1, 2018. We would be taking four (4) children, the most challenging in Palm Beach County, serving them in a different setting with a close relationship with a very good charter school in Palm Beach, where staff from the group home would actually go to school, be at school, and ensure everything that goes into the school comes back to the group home.

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

Kenneth Brighton, Director of Community Relations, reported the following:

Legislation – Two Bills to highlight: 1) Senate Bill 590 - Kinship Care Bill – mandates DCF to create a family finder program to better use kinship caregivers. Initially, there was some language that mandated that lead agencies create a navigator position to help locally identify kinship caregivers. That language has been changed from mandated to optional, depending on availability of funding. This is a change that we are pushing for. An amendment that is in the process of being added to it addresses the 35% Rule, which is that Lead agencies are not permitted to provide more than 35% of **direct** child welfare services in their region. The change they are potentially implementing is that unless there is a demonstrated need to provide a higher level of 35% of the services. 2) House Bill 1079 - Allocation Model - how lead agencies are funded. We have been working for quite a while on making the model be more equitable across the State. The Bill currently has language that DCF and the Florida Coalition for Children (FCC) has approved, and we feel this should go through and the model will be more equitable across the State.

Funding - There is a potential for an elongated budget session this year. In the House Budget, we are up for \$10.4 million of recurring funding, \$15 million of risk pool funding, and \$10 million of back of bill funding. In the Senate Budget, we are up for \$10.4 million of non-recurring funding, \$5 million of risk pool funding, and \$10 million of back of bill funding. We are trying to get more funding in general as even with the above amounts, it is below what we requested initially. We are trying to get the Senate to take on the House position, which is a higher funding allocation across the Board. The goal is to get more recurring funding.

Larry Rein reported that in the past two years, the federal government has been talking about legislation on restricting use of federal funds to use for residential group care. That Bill had been killed the last two years. This year the Bill was passed. Now the new federal legislation is going to mandate restrictions in the use of residential group care. Federal funds will be given to support residential group care only if it is therapeutic and of a limited duration. Gray Robinson lobbies for ChildNet and Gray Robinson works closely with the Florida Coalition for Children (FCC). The House and Senate will pick conferees to hash out what the actual budget will be. Mr. Brighton will update the Board.

Grants:

- BallenIsles Foundation - Mr. Brighton reported that we received a \$12,000 Grant from BallenIsles Foundation which is for SafePlace Palm Beach.
- AT&T Aspire Grant – ChildNet currently has this grant that funds our Grounded for Life Program. We were invited to apply for a higher dollar amount (\$750,000). Application has been completed and submitted.
- Federal Grant with Broward County – This grant is targeting to end youth homelessness. For ChildNet, that would be for our Transitional Independent Living (TIL) population. The amount of this grant, depending on the what the County decides, and the County is the lead applicant, will be between \$1-15 million.



April 10, 2018 – Palm Beach Care for Kids Luncheon – Boca Raton, FL – we are honoring former Board Member Sarah Marmion. We still need support, sponsors and ticket sales.

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

**Board Director Resignation** – It was noted that Kalinthia Dillard resigned from the Board.

**Provider Advisory Chair as non-voting ChildNet Board Member and/or Providers as Advisory Board Members** – Discussion held on how the Board wanted to proceed on designating a provider, from the Advisory Board, which is typically the Chair, as a non-voting Board member of ChildNet's Board. There are two options: 1) Amend By-Laws to designate the Provider Advisory Board Chair as a non-voting member on ChildNet's Board, or 2) Have individual designations that would expire when the person resigns from the Provider Board, and then ChildNet would have to designate someone else.

Armando Fana stated that what we have experienced over the last year is some trepidation from the provider community, so this would give us an opportunity to engage them more and bring somebody on board who can be an active member of the Board, while non-voting, they at least can provide us feedback from the provider community.

Joe Rogers stated that we should not be as specific as saying the Chair of the Provider Advisory Board would serve as a non-voting member on our Board. We should have some flexibility, so possibly wording it as "a non-voting member who is a representative of the provider community" (for both Broward and Palm Beach).

*A motion was moved to direct staff to develop general language to present to the Governance Committee to present to the full Board. A vote was taken. The motion was passed unopposed.*

**Caseload Plan Update** – Deena Ponto reported that as/of the end of January 2018:

Broward's total number of case workers was 153 where 31 are provisionally certified and 122 are certified case workers.

Caseload Range	Total
0 – 10	24
11 – 20	47
21 – 30	76

Caseload Range	Total
31 – 40	6
41 – 45	0

Palm Beach's total number of case workers was 74 where 32 are provisionally certified and 42 are certified.

Caseload Range	Total
0 – 10	13
11 – 20	22
21 – 30	33

Caseload Range	Total
31 – 40	6
41 – 45	0

**Membership Recruitment** – Discussion held that an attorney is needed on the Board as Jeff Dwyer terms out June 2018. Jeff Dwyer suggested Andrew Bray. Larry Rein will contact him.

**Scorecard** – N/A



- **Program Quality Committee**

Larry Rein reported that the committee met, however, quorum was not met. He noted that Rosha McCoy is the new Committee Chair. The Committee reviewed several procedures and are making recommended changes. The Committee also reviewed the new format for the Scorecard.

- **Legal Report – Andriene Treasure Gordon, Legal Counsel**

The first HR/Legal Committee meeting will take place on Monday, February 26, 2018 so the first legal report will take place at next month's Board meeting.

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

- **Board Retreat Recommendations** – We have already seen changes being made. Finance – will be reformatting the financial report; Legal Transparency – new HR/Legal Committee created with Sigrid McCawley as Chair, Jeff Dwyer and Joe Rogers. Quality - will follow the 12 quality indicators, which will also include the caseload report and monitoring. Ms. Akiti has asked that the Caseload Update Report not be just about numbers; we need to get to the root cause of the high caseloads.
- **Consultant (Group Victory) Update** – An AdHoc committee was created, Workforce Engagement Committee, where Joe Rogers is the Committee Chair. This Committee will update and monitor the Group Victory Report recommendations/findings.
- **Legal Counsel Update** – We continue to retain Tripp Scott to assist with legal matters.
- **CEO Panel Interview** – Ms. Akiti reported that the CEO Panel reviewed 91 applications. Out of the 91, 50 had Master's Degree. Out of the 50 applicants, 6 candidates were selected. However, 1 candidate withdrew their application so 5 candidates were interviewed. The final 2 (two) candidates selected are: 1) Larry Rein and 2) Harold Patrick. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Interviews will be with the judiciary, stakeholders and staff.
- **Board Member Individual Goal Update** – Melida Akiti thanked her fellow Board members for going above and beyond, i.e. creating an AdHoc committee, participating on CEO Panel, etc. Joe Rogers commended Ms. Akiti as well.
- **Tech Care for Kids (TCFK)** – Joe Rogers brought up TCFK and that we have a separate Board for it and wanted to know where we were going with TCKF. Melida Akiti recommends inviting Catalina Avalos, from Tripp Scott, to the next Board Meeting to discuss TCFK and how to move forward. Larry Rein noted that he and Donna Eprifania are researching with other CBCs. Ms. Eprifania noted that we have requested an extension to preserve our trademark and our existence for TCFK. The last extension must be completed by September 2018.

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

- **Better Engagement and Communication with Staff** – Mr. Rein reported that the key thing in our communication to staff is to let them know they are thought of very highly by our stakeholders and by those in the child welfare community. ChildNet has a program called "Tokens of Appreciation" where staff receives recognition from the community and from within the agency.



### NEW BUSINESS

- Armando Fana announced that the agency in which he works, City of West Palm Beach – Housing and Community Development, is providing \$50,000 in funding to Vita Nova. Vita Nova runs the program for youth, ages 18-24, who have aged out of foster care, and provides housing to help prevent homelessness.

### OLD BUSINESS

- There was no old business to discuss.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

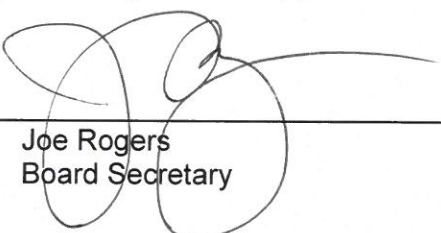
- There was no public comment.

### NEXT MEETING DATE

- The next monthly Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 23, 2018.

### 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 9:08 a.m.

  
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Joe Rogers  
Board Secretary

3/23/2018  
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Date

(Corporate Seal)