



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 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, Rebecca Brock, Rosha McCoy, Sigrid McCawley, Victoria Thurston

Unable to Attend:

Amy Black, Armando Fana, Lisa McDermott, Jillian Smath, Rosha McCoy, Sigrid McCawley

Other Attendees:

ChildNet Staff: Larry Rein, Donna Eprifania, Julie DeMar, Andrea Cunningham, Julie Janello, *DCF:* Dawn Liberta, *Fifth Street Counseling:* Garry Smyth

CALL TO ORDER – Melida Akiti, Board Chair

- Melida Akiti, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Joe Rogers, Secretary

- Roll was taken, and quorum was established.

The February 22, 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

- Michael Lepera reported that Broward has a surplus of a little over \$2 million. Palm Beach has a \$32,000 deficit. Donna Eprifania reported that we are transitioning to a new accounting software. We have our budget and invoice with DCF set-up as “fund management” but our accounting system is not yet lined up. As we are securing the new accounting software, we are ensuring it ties in with the new corporate structure and any other future initiatives.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

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

Larry Rein reported that Armando Fana is now chairing the committee. The Committee met and was provided a brief update on the census which remains fairly constant.

Discussion was held that we are transitioning to a new group care provider in Palm Beach County, Lutheran Services of Florida, whose Senior Vice President is Mike Carroll, the former DCF Secretary. Their 5-bed group homes are being set-up for the most challenging teenagers in a way that will meet the specifications and requirements of the federal legislation that will be implemented in October 2020. These group homes will be more treatment and clinical-oriented, they will involve interaction with children’s families by the group care provider, and they will require a 24/7 medical presence or availability.



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

- New Director of Community Relations – Larry Rein introduced Andrea Cunningham, the new Director of Community Relations. Andrea comes to ChildNet with 15 years' experience in fundraising and community relations.
- Palm Beach Care for Kids Luncheon – Tuesday, April 9, 2019, 11:30am-1:30pm, Woodfield Country Club, Boca Raton. We currently have 13 sponsors and slated to have approximately 250 attendees. Currently we are at gross \$67,000.

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

Joe Rogers, on behalf of Armando Fana, Committee Chair, reported the following:

- Membership Recruitment – Discussion held that Larry Rein is in discussions with a potential Board candidate who is a former foster care youth.
- Corporate Restructure – Donna Eprifania reported that in the past month, we focused on the platform that needs to be in place. We will need to meet with each of the Boards (Tech Care for Kids, Broward Care for Kids) so that we can solidify the purpose and the use of the revenue generated from these entities. We are working on the operational logistics and still have a target date of 2020. Discussion was held on what the Board composition will look like in the restructure.
- Caseload Plan Update – Julie DeMar reported that the Palm Beach Caseload Action Plan has been completed in its entirety and we continue to monitor caseloads on an ongoing basis. In Broward, caseloads continue to decline and move in the right direction primarily as a result of exits from care and a low intake of cases. In Palm Beach, removal rates are still a little elevated. However, a new training class begins on April 1st. Case management is under by Children's Home Society (CHS) in Palm Beach and under ChildNet in Broward. Melida Akiti requested leadership to work more closely with CHS and to provide the Board with an Action Plan by May 2019.

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

- No report at this time. Next meeting is scheduled for May 6, 2019.

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

- Scorecard – The Committee discussed the changes to the scorecard made by DCF and discussed some of the challenges and positives ChildNet may experience. The scorecard will now look at rolling 12 months for all of the measures.

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

- Melida Akiti noted that several years ago, the Board Chair at that time, engaged a law firm to provide an evaluation to assist with communications between the staff and the Board, as the Board was not being kept abreast appropriately. In addition, the CEO evaluation was implemented by the recommendations of that law firm. In the last 1½ years, we have done an excellent job in increasing communication. In respect to the Gallup Survey that was recently completed by staff, leadership staff has requested that the results be provided to staff prior to the Board receiving the results and action plan.

A motion was moved for staff to be informed of survey results and implementation of action plan prior to Board receiving the results. A vote was taken. The motion was passed unopposed.



NEW BUSINESS

- Fundraising Board Retreat - James Mueller will facilitate the upcoming 2-hour Fundraising Board Retreat on Friday, April 26, 2019.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT – Melida Akiti

- No report this month.

CEO/PRESIDENT REPORT – Larry Rein

- Tallahassee – Mr. Rein reported he has attended several meetings in Tallahassee in the past two months. The legislators this year are more positive than in previous years. Mr. Rein had the opportunity to have dinner, via our lobbyist Gray Robinson, with a future Speaker of the House, Representative Chris Sprowls. Changing the way that the State funds child welfare, it needs to not be back of bill, risk pool, emergency, legislative budget commission, etc., it needs to be “this is what we really need, and this is how we fund it”. Both the Secretary and the Chair of the Health and Human Services Appropriations Committee, in addition to the Governor’s Policy people, all want to work with us on developing that formula. Currently, our request is now in both the House and the Senate budget with placeholders of \$25,000 and \$50,000.

OLD BUSINESS

- There was no old business to discuss.

PUBLIC COMMENT

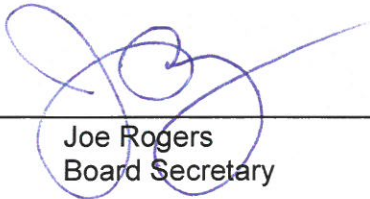
- There was no public comment.

NEXT MEETING DATE

- The next scheduled Board meeting is the Board Retreat on Friday, April 26, 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 8:51 a.m.



Joe Rogers
Board Secretary

5/15/2019

Date

(Corporate Seal)