



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 17, 2019

Board of Directors:

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

Unable to Attend:

Melida Akiti, Rosha McCoy, Sigrid McCawley

Other Attendees:

ChildNet Staff: Larry Rein, Donna Eprifania, Dionne Wong, Julie DeMar, Susan Eby, Deena Ponto, Andrea Cunningham, Julie Janello, *DCF:* Dawn Liberta

CALL TO ORDER – Melida Akiti, Board Chair

- Armando Fana, Vice Chair, on behalf of Melida Akiti, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Joe Rogers, Secretary

- Roll was taken, and quorum was established.

The March 22, 2019 and April 26, 2019 meeting minutes were reviewed. *A motion was moved to approve both meeting minutes. A vote was taken. The motion was passed unanimously.*

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

- Donna Eprifania reported that a Budget Workshop was held on 05-15-19 to discuss a preliminary approach to the new fiscal year. We based our discussion around a static funding or revenue base that we have currently. We have been able to, this year, build out the infrastructure, particularly on the ChildNet side. And because that has been an ongoing process, we have been able to realize surpluses and have been taking steps to ensure we are taking care of some of the concerns that are continually raised by the Employee Council, i.e. workforce environment, security. We had great discussion on workforce, ensuring our provider community and service array is stable, ensuring that ChildNet's infrastructure is where it should be to ensure that we have quality services, that we have the proper base for infrastructure as it relates to case management, in-house and subcontracted out as well as ensure our administrative platform is set-up appropriately as we move into the next fiscal year and look at our new corporate restructure.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

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

Larry Rein reported that the Committee did not meet in April. However, we are still experiencing some challenges in Palm Beach in terms of census and case management turnover and per-



formance. Further discussion of these challenges will be held at the May 23, 2019 committee meeting.

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

Ms. Cunningham reported that the Committee met and discussed follow-up from the April Board Retreat. She will contact the Board members individually who provided contacts of people who may be interested in learning more about ChildNet.

- Broward Care for Kids Luncheon – Wednesday, June 12, 2019 @ 11:30 a.m., Signature Grand, Davie, FL. Received \$50,000 in sponsorships. We have four people who have agreed to give to the “Call to the Heart”, which will be announced at the luncheon (1-\$10,000, 1-\$5,000, 1-\$1,000 and 1-\$250 = \$16,250 for Call to Heart). We believe this will be an inspiration for other attendees to provide pledges or help in other ways. Albert Wilson, Miami Dolphins Wide Receiver, is the honoree. Julia Aquino-Serrano, a former foster parent, will be the keynote speaker, and four former foster youth have been invited to be guests at the luncheon.
- TIL Graduation – Wednesday, June 13, 2019 @ 6:00 p.m. at Broward College, Davie, FL.
- Palm Beach Foster Parent Appreciation Luncheon – Saturday, June 8, 2019 @ 11:00 a.m., The Beach Club on the Waterfront, Lake Worth, FL.
- Lucky’s Market – Coral Springs – selected ChildNet to receive a donation. The process is that anyone who shops at Lucky’s Market receives a token and if they put their token into ChildNet’s bin, we could receive up to \$1,000.
- Foster Parent Recruitment Campaign – The campaign is going very well. We have received many calls for adopting and for fostering.
- ChildNet Website – Our new website is being updated regularly.

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

Armando Fana, Committee Chair, reported the following:

- Annual Board Survey – It was reported that we are keeping the same Board Survey tool as last year. Julie Janello will send the link of the survey to the Board by next week for completion.
- Caseload Plan Update – Julie DeMar reported that they met with Children’s Home Society and requested a corrective action plan due to their increased turnover in April, which creates higher caseloads. The corrective action plan is due May 28, 2019.
- Membership Recruitment – Discussion held that Larry Rein provided the Board Candidate Application Packet to Tex Guignard and we are awaiting its receipt.

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

- Dionne Wong reported that the Committee met on May 6, 2019 and discussed outside counsel engagement, as this is the Committee that will be presented with any engagement of outside counsel. The internal Risk Management Committee meets quarterly to discuss safety and security and emergency preparedness. The Committee agreed to maintain quarterly meetings for FY 2019-2020.



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

- Julie DeMar reported that the Committee discussed the Palm Beach Caseload Action Plan and reviewed the 3rd quarter Scorecard results. Discussion was held on where Palm Beach and Broward fell with the new methodology. Next month the committee will review historical trends on the scorecard.

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

- Next Committee meeting is scheduled for May 22, 2019.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT – Melida Akiti

- No report this month.

CEO/PRESIDENT REPORT – Larry Rein

- Employee Council – Mr. Rein noted that the Employee Council is an incredibly valuable tool to ensure employee concerns are heard.
- Legislature – The Legislature has concluded its regular session. Nearly 36,000 Bills were introduced and only 197 were passed. Good news, an ARNP can now prescribe psychotropic medications for children in foster care.
- Funding - Ultimately the Legislature increased the overall CBC allocation by \$8 million. How the \$8 million will be distributed will depend on the formula that is currently in Statute. Our expectation is that Broward will receive a small portion and we are hopeful that Palm Beach will receive a more significant portion, due to the census.
- Risk Pool – The Risk Pool was funded for over \$8 million – the most it has ever been funded. Currently, ChildNet is hopeful of not needing to access the Risk Pool, but if needed, we can apply for these funds.
- One-Time Funding for Safety Management Services – The Legislature has turned the \$8 million “one-time” funding into “recurring” funding so that we do not have to fear losing this money.
- Back-of-Bill Funding – The Legislature put \$5 million to the Back-of-Bill Funding for the current year. ChildNet should not have to apply for these funds which are intended to help lead agencies with deficits in the current year.
- There is Proviso language in the Appropriations Bill directing CBC’s and DCF to begin developing, for the next legislative session, three (3) models for appropriate child welfare funding. The Governor has requested the Secretary to do the same. The Florida Coalition for Children (FCC), the CBCs, and the child welfare provider community, will be working with the Department to develop those models. This could be a very significant step in the right direction for adequately funding child welfare in the State of Florida. The CEO Council of the FCC, of which Mr. Rein is a member, will be meeting on May 20-21, 2019 in Fort Myers to start discussions on this model. The next Legislative Session begins January 2020.



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 Annual Board Meeting on Friday, June 21, 2019.

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 8:43 a.m.

Joe Rogers
Board Secretary

6/21/2019

Date

(Corporate Seal)