



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 28, 2017

Board of Directors:

Melida Akiti, Board Chairman; Armando Fana, Vice Chairman; Michael Lepera, Treasurer; Joe Rogers, Secretary, Jeff Dwyer, Kalintha Dillard, Ken Nolan, Lisa McDermott, Nichole Anderson, Sarah Marmion, Sarah Thomas

Unable to Attend:

Armando Fana, Lisa McDermott

Other Attendees:

ChildNet Staff: Emilio Benitez, Lourdes Pons, Donna Skees, Dawn Liberta, Theresa Kennedy, Kenny Brighton, Brian Leitstein, Christine Butler, Wendy Smith, Gillian Moxey, Cecillia Shepard, Lawrence Plaza, Julie Janello, *DCF:* Silvia Beebe, Raul Ocampo; *Children's Harbor:* Dr. Elizabeth Wynter

CALL TO ORDER

- 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 June 23, 2017 meeting minutes were reviewed. A modification was noted that on page 3 under "Proposed Budget for FY 2017-2018" that Jeff Dwyer opposed both the Broward and Palm Beach budgets. A motion was moved to approve the meeting minutes with the above noted change made. A vote was taken. The motion was passed unopposed.

FINANCE REPORT – Michael Lepera, Treasurer and Donna Skees, Interim CFO

- Broward – The closing cash balance at the end of June 2017 was \$1.1 million, which reflects a decrease of \$4.3 million from the prior month. Total expenditures for the month were \$6.4 million with \$858,000 less expended this month than in June 2016. The month-end deficit was \$1.1 million with a year-to-date deficit of \$3.7 million. The Daily Spend Rate decreased by \$29,000 compared to June 2016. It was noted that the 6% provider cut is not yet reflected in the financials.
- Palm Beach – The closing cash balance at the end of June 2017 was \$867,000, which reflects a decrease of \$3 million from the prior month. Total expenditures for the month were \$3.7 million with \$612,000 less expended this month than in June 2016. The month-end budget deficit was \$133,000 with a year-to-date surplus of \$714,000. The Daily Spend Rate decreased by \$20,000 compared to June 2016.



COMMITTEE UPDATES

• Advisory Board Committee

Kalinthia Dillard reported that the committee reviewed the Palm Beach Risk Pool Plan. There was a 14% decrease in the average number of children served over the course of the year. The committee discussed the following 5 goals:

Goal 1: Building Safety Management Services to Avoid Unnecessary Removals

- The implementation of safety and prevention services and the increased expertise of child protective investigators (CPIs) in the Safety Management Practice has led to a steady decrease of 16 percent over the course of the year in the cumulative placement of children in out-of-home care.
- The monthly average of 57 child removals is almost identical to four years ago when ChildNet first began operations in Palm Beach County. However, this lower number of removals is now supported by safety and prevention programs that were not available four years ago.

Goal 2: Increase the Use of Kinship Care

- With a 16% decrease in the number of child removals and only a 4% decrease in the number of children served in kinship care over the course of the year, ChildNet is confident it is making good use of kinship care.
- The significant increase in the initial use of kinship care is approaching the local Department of Children and Families' (DCF) target of 66% and has had a positive fiscal impact.
- Use of kinship placements appear to be a challenge for southeast and southwest Florida circuits as this region, including Palm Beach, continues to perform below the state average. However, Palm Beach has experienced a significant increase in the use of kinship care when compared to last year.

Goal 3: More Effective Utilization of Foster Family Homes

- There has been a 5% increase in the number of children in foster home when compared to the same period last year. This increase is significant and in the context of fewer children in care, fewer child removals, as well as the closing several homes at the beginning of the year because the homes were not taking children.
- Increased foster home utilization is further demonstrated by the dramatic and steady increase in the percentage of children placed in foster home when compared to the percentage of total children in licensed care, where the county is approaching state averages, and when compared to the percentage of all children in total out-of-home care, where the county outperforms the state averages.

Goal 4: Reduce the Use of Residential Group Care

- ChildNet has met or surpassed the monthly targets for the number of children in residential group care for each month of the fiscal year, except August.
- At the end of June, there were 110 children in residential group care, surpassing the fiscal year goal of 122 children and demonstrating the shift in the county's culture for child placement.
- The financial impact of an average of 83 less children in residential group care is a cost savings of approximately \$5 million. However, a more challenging youth population of primarily teenagers and their siblings remain in residential group care and the cost of their care has increased the average cost of residential group care.



Goal 5: Utilization of Appropriate Resources

- ChildNet has had no instances during this fiscal year of paying for therapeutic services for children in dependency when the services can be paid for by Medicaid or the local Managing Entity.

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

Grants - Kenny Brighton, Director of Community Relations, reported that between Broward and Palm Beach, we are working on 11 new grants. One of the ones we submitted that is providing an exciting opportunity is with an entity out of Miami called Social Venture Partnerships. This is a group of investors who have made their money investing in entrepreneurial technologically-based ideas. We are pitching them the ChildNet Apps that our case workers use. If we make it past the initial rounds, we will have an opportunity to present to their Board and should we be funded it will be \$100,000 of funding plus consulting services from their experts.

Legislative Committee Week – starts in September 2017. Legislative Session begins in early January 2018. The Legislature funded two separate stand-alone Bills for \$100,000 each.

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

Caseload Analysis and Statistics – Sigrid McCawley, on behalf of Armando Fana, reported that the caseloads continue to trend down.

Membership Recruitment/Services – Discussion was held that we have two (2) potential Board candidates, one in each county.

New Corporate Structure – Christine Butler reported that Stuart Ames, from Stearns and Weaver, recommended that until we have assets and liabilities established so that DCF can review and deem approval, that although approved by the our Board, we are to hold off on the actual formation so that we do not incur the cost associated with those structures until it has been approved by DCF.

COA – Beginning in September 2017, the cycle begins for our reaccreditation.

- **Program Quality Committee – Kalinthia Dillard, Committee Chair**

No report this month.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT – Melida Akiti

- Florida Coalition for Children (FCC) Conference – Melida Akiti reported that she attended the FCC Conference and she recommends all Board members to attend next year.
- Board Director Goals for FY 2017-2018 – Melida Akiti noted that each Board Director has a strength so she is requesting each Director to provide an individual goal that focuses on their strength.
- Board Meeting Schedule Change – Melida Akiti suggested having the Board meetings, starting in August 2017, be held via telephone and then in person on alternating months. The in-person meetings are to include presentations where the Board is to receive a bio on the presenter. The updated Board meeting schedule for FY 2017-2018 is as follows:
 - Via Telephone: August 2017, October 2017, December 2017, February 2018 and April 2018
 - In Person - September 2017, November 2017, January 2018, March 2018, May 2018 and June 2018 (Annual Board meeting)



PRESIDENT/CEO REPORT – Emilio Benitez

- Provider Advisory Board - Emilio Benitez noted that Dr. Elizabeth Wynter, CEO of Children's Harbor, is also the Chair of the Provider Advisory Board. Dr. Wynter reported that the FCC has suggested that the Provider Advisory Board Chair sit on a Lead Agency's Board as a non-voting member which gives a voice to providers. Dr. Wynter will provide a copy of the Bylaws for the Child Welfare Provider Advisory Board of Broward County for review.
- DCF just put out a request to monitor the monies that were provided for Safety Management Services. DCF last year allocated one-time funding for safety management services that were intended as a process of bridging the gap between families that are at-risk of having children being removed and the Child Protection Investigators (CPI). When ChildNet received the funding, we chose to fund two programs, one an Incubator Program and the other with Henderson, to provide that link and support between the CPIs and the families.

NEW BUSINESS

- There was no old business to discuss

OLD BUSINESS

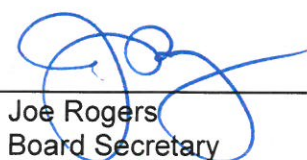
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NEXT MEETING DATE

- The next Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 25, 2017.

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 9:01 a.m.



Joe Rogers
Board Secretary

10/17/2017

Date

(Corporate Seal)