



# BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**August 25, 2017**

**Board of Directors:**

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

**Unable to Attend:**

Kalinthia Dillard, Lisa McDermott, Michael Lepera, Nichole Anderson, Sarah Thomas

**Other Attendees:**

*ChildNet Staff:* Emilio Benitez, Lourdes Pons, Larry Rein, Donna Skees, Deena Ponto, Theresa Kennedy, Sheryl Williams, Brian Leitstein, Wendy Smith, Gillian Moxey, Emmanuel Anderson, Julie Janello, *Children's Harbor:* Dr. Elizabeth Wynter

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## CALL TO ORDER

- 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 July 28, 2017 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 Skees, Interim CFO

- Broward – The closing cash balance at the end of July 2017 was \$6.4 million, which reflects an increase of \$5.4 million from the prior month. Total expenditures for the month were \$6.3 million with \$48,000 more expended this month than in July 2016. The month-end surplus was \$96,000 with a year-to-date surplus of \$96,000. The Daily Spend Rate increased by \$2,000 compared to July 2016.
- Palm Beach – The closing cash balance at the end of July 2017 was \$5.2 million, which reflects an increase of \$4.3 million from the prior month. Total expenditures for the month were \$3.6 million with \$384,000 less expended this month than in July 2016. The month-end budget surplus was \$52,000 with a year-to-date surplus was \$52,000. The Daily Spend Rate decreased by \$12,000 compared to July 2016.

## COMMITTEE UPDATES

- Advisory Board Committee

Larry Rein reported that the committee did not meet this month. However, Palm Beach remains in the right trajectory. Mr. Rein noted that we will be reporting quarterly instead of monthly to DCF.



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

Gillian Moxey, Community Relations Coordinator, reported on behalf of Kenneth Brighton, Director of Community Relations, that we are keeping up our applications to foundations.

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

CEO Performance Goals for FY 17-18 – Discussion was held that the CEO goals for this fiscal year are heavily focused on financial issues.

Provider Advisory Board Chair as non-voting ChildNet Board Member – Emilio Benitez reported that the Florida Coalition for Children (FCC) has a provider committee in which ChildNet is a member. Best practice is having a non-voting Board member on our Board in order to have more information and to feel that we can have better communication with the provider community. CWLA and Casey Family Programs both feel that this would be mutually beneficial between lead CBC's and the provider community. Mr. Benitez introduced Elizabeth Wynter, CEO of Children's Harbor, who is also the Chair of the Provider Advisory Board, and co-Chair of the Statewide Provider Council, to serve on ChildNet's Board as a non-voting member.

A motion was moved to approve Elizabeth Wynter, Chair of Provider Advisory Board, to serve as a non-voting member of ChildNet's Board. A vote was taken. The motion was passed unopposed.

Caseload Analysis and Statistics – Lourdes Pons reported on the caseload numbers for both Broward and Palm Beach Counties.

Membership Recruitment/Services – Discussion was held that we received an application from Chris Cade from AutoNation. We are in the process of having his background screening completed. Mr. Benitez noted that he has spoken with Susan Greenhawt, who is a retired judge.

New Corporate Structure – No report this month.

COA – Our COA renewal occurs in 2019 so we will be starting the reaccreditation process at the end of August 2017.

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

No report this month.

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

- United Way – Melida Akiti requested that if the Board members' organizations have a membership with the United Way to please encourage them to make "ChildNet" a designee of funds.

#### **PRESIDENT/CEO REPORT – Emilio Benitez**

- Financials – Emilio Benitez noted that this is the first time in many months that we did not have a deficit in our financials.
- DCF Summit – Emilio Benitez reported that Larry Rein is presenting on Safety Management Services at the DCF Summit in Orlando on August 29-31, 2017.





- Legislative Roundtable on the Opioid Crisis – Mr. Benitez noted that he presented at this roundtable in Palm Beach. The suggestion that Mr. Benitez made, which was accepted by the Chair of Senate Appropriations and the incoming Chair of Senate Committee for Children, Families and the Elderly, is that during their committee weeks, that they focus on the opioid crisis, in order to deal with the opioid crisis in a more focused and intelligent manner and to see if we can look at the flow of the money.
- Request for Application for Safety Management Services – Emilio Benitez reported that we received four applications and selected Community Based Care Connections in the 33311 zip code.
- Loss of Lisa Fussell – Mr. Benitez sadly reported the loss of long-time employee, Lisa Fussell, Director of Intake & Placement, who unexpectedly passed away earlier this month.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- There was no old business to discuss.

#### OLD BUSINESS

- There was no old business to discuss.

#### NEXT MEETING DATE

- The next Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 29, 2017 to be held in person.

#### 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 8:47 a.m.

  
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Joe Rogers  
Board Secretary

10/17/2017  
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Date

(Corporate Seal)