



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 28, 2018

Board of Directors:

Melida Akiti, Board Chair; Armando Fana, Vice Chairman; Michael Lepera, Treasurer; Joe Rogers, Secretary, Amy Black, Christopher Cade, Lisa McDermott, Nichole Anderson, Rosha McCoy, Sigrid McCawley, Victoria Thurston

Unable to Attend:

Lisa McDermott, Rosha McCoy

Other Attendees:

ChildNet Staff: Larry Rein, Deena Ponto, Sheryl Williams, Julie DeMar, Susan Eby, Dionne Wong, Kenneth Brighton, Julie Janello, *DCF:* Dawn Liberta, *Fifth Street Counseling:* Garry Smyth, *SOS:* Jillian Smath

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 August 24, 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

- Michael Lepera reported that the Finance Committee met on September 27, 2018. Broward and Palm Beach continue to remain within the budget. The main topic of conversation was around the items of controllable expenses. We are still covering deficits with the surplus of other line items. Overall, the census is down; however, the expense per child has increased due to special needs of some children in care. Larry Rein reported that they plan to have a more thorough discussion with staff about the budget.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

• Advisory Board Committee

Larry Rein reported that the Committee again discussed the census. ChildNet received an additional \$100,000 grant from AT&T which will fund an Educational Services position in Palm Beach.

• Fundraising Committee – Nichole Anderson, Committee Chair

Kenny Brighton, on behalf of Nichole Anderson, reported the following:

- Legislative Update – We are watching the gubernatorial election closely. The Florida Coalition for Children (FCC) believes child welfare is in a good position with either candidate. ChildNet is prepared to seek an appropriation similar to what we asked for last year. ChildNet presented at the Palm Beach County Non-Profit Chamber. The Priority ChildNet presented, which is supporting the DCF Legislative Budget Request, the Palm Beach County Chamber decided that that will be their number one priority as well, which will support ChildNet in our funding request.



- AT&T – A check presentation is scheduled for October 10, 2018 at Spanish River High School of \$850,000 (\$750,000 for the Grounded for Life Program in Broward and Palm Beach and \$100,000 for the Educational Services position in Palm Beach).
- Foster Care Visitation Center – We had previously received a \$40,000 grant from the Lost Tree Foundation. As this is a matching grant, we were able to secure the matching amount from our Palm Beach landlord. Pre-construction will begin shortly.
- Holiday Campaign – Mr. Brighton reported that we have a great retention of sponsors; however, more sponsors are still needed. Last year we needed 10,000 gifts and gift cards. This year, the number needed has increased.

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

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

- Strategic Plan Retreat – The Retreat will be scheduled in January 2019 to take place on the normally scheduled Board Meeting date. Discussion was held of a more centralized location.
- Caseload Plan Update – We are trending in the right direction. Broward's average caseload is 1:20 and Palm Beach's average caseload is 1:23.
- Workforce Engagement – The Workforce Engagement Committee is an Ad Hoc Committee. Items on the Action Plan are progressing well. The Follow-Up Assessment/Survey needs to be actionable and able to be benchmarked. The next Workforce Engagement Committee meeting is scheduled for November 2018 and then to turn this back over to leadership.
- Membership Recruitment/Services – Rebecca Brock submitted her application and we are currently waiting on her background screening. Mr. Rein noted that we are going to move forward with having a provider representative on the Board. Jillian Smath is interested in this Board position. Discussion was held that having another former foster care youth to serve on the Board would be a good idea.

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

Nothing new to report.

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

Julie DeMar reported that the committee discussed caseloads and that the new scorecard will be available next month.

COA Update – The COA Self-Study was completed timely and we are continuing to prepare for the Site Visit in November 2018.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT – Melida Akiti

- Sunset Workforce Engagement Committee – Ms. Akiti reported that the Workforce Engagement Committee was set-up as an Ad Hoc committee to follow-up on the Group Victory Workforce Action Plan. Discussion was held that communication has been increased within the agency by having all-staff meetings now scheduled on a quarterly basis, the Board Minutes are posted on the website, and a monthly CEO newsletter is sent to all staff. In addition, C-Level staff round on a weekly basis in both counties. Having the above-noted communication levels set in place, Ms. Akiti is asking the Board for approval to sunset the Workforce Engagement Committee after the November 2018 meeting.



A motion was moved to sunset the Workforce Engagement Committee after the November 2018 meeting. A vote was taken. The motion was passed unopposed.

CEO AND PRESIDENT REPORT – Larry Rein

- Senior Team – Mr. Rein handed out the “realignment chart” and reported that the following five (5) staff report to the CEO:
 - 1) Chief Financial Officer – Donna Eprifania
 - 2) Chief Program Officer – Julie DeMar
 - 3) Chief Clinical & Quality Officer – Susan Eby
 - 4) Chief Human Resource & Legal Officer – Dionne Wong
 - 5) Director of Community Relations – Kenneth Brighton

Contract Negotiations with DCF – Mr. Rein reported that ChildNet’s negotiations were completed last week, in three days instead of the scheduled five days. They had discussions with both local and statewide DCF personnel.

NEW BUSINESS

- There was no new business to discuss.

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 Friday, October 26, 2018 at 8:00 a.m.

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 9:00 a.m.

Joe Rogers
Board Secretary

11/1/2018
Date

(Corporate Seal)