

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FEBRUARY 27, 2014 BOARD MEETING
MINUTES

Board Members in Attendance: Mr. Stockton Whitten, Board Chair, Mr. Eric Smith, Board Vice Chair, Ms. Christa Bailey, Mr. Mel Broom, Reverend Dan Walker and Ms. Paula Creed Smith.

Board Members Absent: Mr. Samuel Gutierrez, Board Treasurer, Ms. Kathleen Rich New and Ms. Brooke Deratany-Goldfarb.

Others in Attendance: Mr. Jim Carlson, COO, Ms. Valerie M. Randall, Chief Personnel & Administrative Officer, Ms. Debbie Davidson Cook, Chief Compliance & Utilization Officer, Mr. Geo Ropert, Director of Communications, Ms. Patrice Grier, Staff Attorney. Ms. Rita Elkins, Director of Development and Ms. Laurie Anna Blackburn, Executive Assistant. Also in attendance were Mr. Wen Wang, Moss, Krusick & Associates, Mr. Trenton Miller, IL Youth, Ms. Jessica Hopkins, IL Youth, Ms. Brenda Smith, Foster Parent, Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Jones, IL Youth guardians, Ms. Beverley Lampley, Child Advocacy Center, Ms. Ashley Carraro, BFP, Ms. LaChrista Jones, BFP, Ms. Jessica Miles, Brevard C.A.R.E.S., Mr. Ken Teague, BFP, and Ms. Rachel Bjornstad, BFP. Additional guests included Ms. Anna Baznik, President and CEO, Impower, Ms. Teresa Miles, CHS, Ms. Michelle Scott, CHS, Ms. Laura Higginbotham, Devereux, Ms. Wanda Arocho, Devereux and Ms. Debbie Morgan, DCF.

Mr. Whitten opened the meeting and welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the February 27, 2014 Board of Directors meeting.

Mr. Whitten then introduced the two (2) new board members; Reverend Dan Walker and Ms. Paula Creed Smith and welcomed them aboard and shared that we are glad to have them join us.

Motion: Ms. Bailey moved to approve the agenda. This was seconded by Mr. Broom and the motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Whitten then reminded members that if they had a conflict with any agenda item or had any business relationship with other board members to please complete the Conflict of Interest form (available at meeting) and provide to Ms. Randall.

Mr. Whitten then introduced a new member of the BFP staff and welcomed Ms. Patrice Grier to the meeting in the role of Staff Attorney. Mr. Whitten then requested all present to state their names for the record.

Motion: Mr. Broom moved to approve the January 23, 2014 board minutes. This was seconded by Ms. Bailey and the motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Whitten then asked Mr. Carlson to introduce those guests who are being recognized at this meeting. Mr. Carlson spoke about Ms. Beverly Lampley's dedication and work during her time with Catholic Charities to develop the Interfaith Coalition program. He shared that the Florida Faith Based Council had recognized her and that BFP was presenting her award today. Mr. Carlson shared that during the time of Ms. Lampley's involvement served as the constant in supporting the initiative and that it developed under her leadership. The board applauded Ms. Lampley and she shared that Father Drew has taken the lead for the initiatives as a result of her new role with the Children's Advocacy Center. She shared that Catholic Charities continues to work to develop foster homes within their churches to serve the community. The board thanked Ms. Lampley and congratulated her on her award.

Mr. Carlson then reported that at the recent FCFC awards banquet that BFP had three (3) award winners. He spoke of Dr. Robert Cross who was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award and indicated that he has volunteered for the agency in many capacities including the Referral Pathway subcommittee, the psychotropic medication review panel and also serves on the Brevard C.A.R.E.S. board. He shared that Dr. Cross and his wife attended the FCFC banquet where he received his award. Mr. Carlson then shared there were two (2) award winners who did not make the FCFC meeting and that they were present today to receive their awards. He then introduced Ms. Brenda Smith who was recognized as Foster Parent of the year and shared that Ms. Smith focuses on proving foster care for teenage girls in the age range of 19-21. He gave the award to Ms. Smith and the board thanked Ms. Smith and gave her a round of applause. Ms. Smith was very pleased and thanked the board.

Mr. Carlson then asked Ms. Carraro to introduce the next award recipient Mr. Trenton Miller who received the Outstanding Youth of the year and commented that he is a remarkable young man. Ms. Carraro presented the award to Mr. Miller and expressed that he has taken on several leadership roles within the system of care and that he is outstanding. The board gave him a round of applause and Mr. Miller thanked the board.

Mr. Whitten asked Ms. Smith if she wanted to comment and she indicated that her girls do the hard work and all she has to do is to love them.

Next, Mr. Carlson presented the outgoing leadership team and provided a brief background on the development of this team and shared that this year this team had worked on revising policies, handled the monthly employee recognition program, and had elected the new leadership team and provided the charge to the new team to work on the agency's 10th anniversary celebration. Each leadership team member was asked to come forward, receive a certificate of appreciation and stand with the Board Chair and Mr. Carlson for a group photo. The members present were Rachel Bjornstad, Ken Teague, Colleen Fleming, LaChrista Jones, and Jessica Miles. Members who were not in attendance included Ada Diequez, Osha Goodwin and Tracy Little who will be presented with their certificates later. Nellie Warriner, a former member of the leadership team also would be provided with her certificate as she has recently resigned to accept a position with DCF. The next recognition was for the Linda Marshall Leading Light Award which was presented to Colleen Fleming as this year's recipient. Mr. Carlson spoke about Ms. Fleming leadership in her role as the South Care Center Manager and her involvement in many state-wide projects and initiatives and her role as a trainer for the new structured decision-making process recently rolled out in Brevard. Ms. Fleming was presented with her award and a photo taken with Mr. Whitten and Mr. Carlson. The board gave her a round of applause.

Next, Mr. Whitten announced that Mr. Eric Smith has been approved by the Board of County Commissioners to serve as a County Appointee to the Board in his role of Vice Chair. Mr. Whitten then introduced Mr. Wen Wang to review the agency's audit and 990 Form.

Mr. Wang thanked Mr. Whitten and addressed the board. He reviewed the audit package providing clarification of the information contained. He shared that the audit was clean and this was a good result. He reviewed the facets of the audit including transactions and programs reviewed, sample sizes and reviewed the financial transactions as well. He spoke about the investments and stated that the agency had met all requirements in terms of financial controls and compliance including ensuring compliance with various funding and matching requirements. He complimented Ms. Hensler and her team for doing an excellent job in ensuring this compliance. Mr. Wang spoke about the program reviewed this year, which was the foster care program and shared that he spent one week of the audit reviewing these files. He commented on the evaluation of oversight on sub recipients and shared that there is strong oversight evident here from Ms. Hensler and her team. Mr. Wang asked if there were any questions and none were expressed. He then indicated that the Form 990, also included in the member's binders, contained much of the same financial information and that this has been filed with the IRS. There were no further questions and Mr. Whitten requested a motion to approve the audit and Form 990.

Motion: Ms. Bailey moved to approve the Audit and Form 990. This was seconded by Mr. Broom and the motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Whitten then stated that Dr. Nellius was not at the meeting as she was in Tallahassee working on significant matters and that Mr. Ropert would likely update these during his report.

Consent Agenda:

The next agenda item was the Board Data Report. Mr. Whitten asked if there were any questions. None were raised and the next item was addressed.

CEO Board Report:

Mr. Carlson reviewed the CEO Report for Dr. Nellius. He indicated that Dr. Nellius wanted to express that she has made two (2) trips to Tallahassee recently to work with both the FCFC and the Sansoms and that she had testified before the Health Families Subcommittee regarding local systems of care. He indicated that the procurement process for the case management contract had concluded and that agreement had been reached with Impower to serve in this capacity effective July 1, 2014. Mr. Carlson reported that next week Dr. Nellius and others will be attending and presenting at the Center for the Study of Social Policy Youth Thrive meeting and that Ms. Carraro and Mr. Miller will join her. He then reminded the members of the upcoming National Wraparound Conference and the launch of the National Center for Innovation and Excellence. He reported that we will have representatives from 33 states and 4 countries with 260 registrants to date. He continued from the CEO Board Report, that Ms. Goldfarb has been nominated as a Children's Hero and awards will be presented at the Eckerd Walk of Fame to be held on March 8th at the Radisson Resort Convention Center in Cape Canaveral. He indicated that if board members wish to attend to please RSVP To Geo Ropert. Mr. Ropert indicated this will be a big event and shared that Representative Bill Posey and US Senator Marco Rubio will be in attendance. Mr. Whitten thanked Mr. Carlson for reviewing the CEO report. He then inquired about the report from Brevard C.A.R.E.S.

Brevard C.A.R.E.S Report:

Mr. Carlson indicated that Ms. Holmes was doing training this week on a Wraparound grant and would not be in attendance. The report was included for the board members to review.

NCIE Report:

Dr. Schneider-Munoz was not able to attend the meeting and no specific report was provided.

Legislative Report:

Mr. Ropert addressed the board and indicated that the legislative session will begin next Tuesday and that significant work has been done in advance of the session. He shared there were several key issues that were being addressed and also reported that Dr. Nellius had testified at the Healthy Families subcommittee recently. He also commented that she has done a great job of educating our legislators and dispelling some incorrect data. He also shared that Dr. Nellius and other CBC CEO's were also working to develop language for proposed bills addressing accountability, community involvement and oversight and that this information will be presented to a subcommittee as well. He also shared that a former Judge had presented to the legislators to address some myths and that Senator Altman had requested a full blown presentation about the CBC's. Mr. Ropert commented that Dr. Nellius is doing an outstanding job of identifying specific items and issues and presenting the full picture. He also commented on the great work being done by Dixie and Jerry Sansom.

Next Mr. Ropert spoke about Children's Week in April and reminded the board members to advise him if they wished to participate. He indicated that Ms. Bailey and her family would once again participate and that the Bailey children were planning to send letters to the Chairs of both House and Senate requesting to meet with them. Mr. Ropert also shared that Mr. Eric Smith would be attending as well as an adoptive family from Tallahassee who adopted four (4) children. Mr. Ropert then indicated that the Advisor booklet was available to each board member which provides the information on all the legislative individuals. He then passed out thank you notes that were developed from children's art work and asked that the board members use these to send thank you notes to donors to the agency. Finally Mr. Ropert also indicated that each board member was provided with the printed Annual Report and he indicated that much of the distribution of this brochure will be done electronically.

New Business

Financial Report:

Mr. Whitten indicated that Ms. Hensler had briefed him on the financial statements from January 2014 as Mr. Gutierrez was unable to attend the meeting and that he would review these. He shared that based on his briefing he did not have many concerns and asked Mr. Carlson to speak to the spike in out-of-home-care. Mr. Carlson indicated that we are over budget in this line due to the increase in the number of children primarily placed in foster homes. He continued that the agency continues to spend more in the Independent Living line to those youth who have qualified for extended foster care. He shared this is running an additional cost of approximately \$8500 per month. Mr. Carlson shared that while this is an additional cost, it is for a great reason in that these youth obtained their high school diplomas or GED's and many (45) are attending college which is a wonderful outcome.

Next Mr. Whitten requested Mr. Carlson to review the Strategic Goal for the month:

Goal 3:

CASE MANAGEMENT – Promote stability and preserve institutional knowledge using a single case management model with team support.

Strategy: Monitor caseloads, performance, and turnover to safeguard continuity of care Strategies

Strategy: 3e. Identify and present options for CPI/DCM staff communication, training, and other interactions to facilitate coordination

Action Plan:

3e. Co-locate with Child Welfare Legal Services and Protective Investigators

Measure and Target:

Operations: Year 1: 2013-2014: Convene monthly system meetings

Mr. Carlson indicated that a focus to increase the communication with CPI and the DCM's was ongoing and that the recent Transformation training supported this strategy very well. He spoke about the current and anticipated co-location model and shared that in Rockledge both Child Welfare Legal Service and the PI's are co-located. He also shared that while this is currently true at the South Care Center in Palm Bay that DCF plans to return to the Minton Road location and that this is unfortunate but a decision they have made which will impact the co-location model between CMA and Child Welfare Legal Service and the PI's. Finally Mr. Carlson reported that initially the agency was convening monthly meetings but has moved to weekly meetings with the providers and that on a monthly basis the group meets to address corrective actions from DCF. Mr. Smith inquired if there was a financial implication to the planned move of DCF from the South Care Center location. Mr. Carlson discussed the concerns and issues that DCF had and their decision to make the move. He did comment that it would be preferable to have the three (3) entities co-located.

As one guest had not arrived, Mr. Whitten stated that the board meeting would stand in recess for five (5) minutes pending the arrival of the guest.

Mr. Whitten reconvened the meeting and stated for the record that Mr. Broom had left. He then asked Mr. Carlson to introduce the guest. Mr. Carlson thanked Mr. Whitten and introduced Ms. Anna Basnik, President and CEO of Impower. He shared this agency has served as the sole adoption support agency for BFP since the beginning and also provided functional family therapy. He continued that Impower had bid on all ten case management units and the contract had been awarded to Impower. He also commented that Ms. Basnik had strong and wonderful representation on a state-wide level and asked Ms. to address the board.

Ms. Basnik addressed the board and indicated that Impower is excited to further its relationship with Brevard Family Partnership. She stated that Impower has been doing business in Brevard County since 1999 and that in March 2013 the agency went through a rebranding process. She discussed the former logo and name (Intervention Services) and gave examples of how this was misunderstood and did not reflect the services or philosophy of the agency. She spoke about the origins of the word "Impower" and that this is the philosophy of the agency; that they "impower" clients, families, staff and each other in a positive, "you can achieve" and "you are empowered" approach. Ms. Basnik shared that the agency began serving individuals in 1994 in mental health in Seminole County-both at home and in schools and now operate in six (6) Counties. She indicated that in 1999 there was a deliberate shift in their culture and philosophy to use positive and empowering words such as "child well-being" rather than "child welfare." She commented on other standard language that they have found other ways to express in a more positive manner. Ms. Basnik also reported that Impower has done case management in Osceola County works in Independent Living, has Intake and Placement and has also worked under a contract with DJJ. She reported that Impower served 9,000 clients last year. In looking at July 2014 Ms. Basnik indicated that Brevard County will be their largest service area and they are very excited about this. In terms of the model she shared there is a significant focus in their design for substance abuse and that while there will be specialty units that all staff will receive in-depth training in this area. Ms. Basnik then commented that their agency has three (3) priorities: the children and families they serve, the staff, and the communities in which they do business. Ms. Bailey commented that she and her family had been a consumer of Impower and they provided outstanding service and support. Having no questions, Mr. Whitten thanked Ms. Basnik for her comments.

Mr. Whitten then asked Mr. Roper if he had invited Judge McKibben to the Walk of Fame event and if he would please do so.

Mr. Whitten then asked if there were any public comments. None were expressed.

Mr. Whitten then stated that the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie M. Randall
Recording Secretary

Approved at March 27, 2014 Board of Directors Meeting