

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MAY 24, 2012 BOARD MEETING
MINUTES

Board Members in Attendance: Mr. Stockton Whitten, Board Chair, Judge Kelly McKibben, Board Vice Chair, Board Treasurer, Mr. Mel Broom, Ms. Brooke Deratany-Goldfarb, Mr. Michael Cadore, Reverend Scott Elliott, Mr. Eric Smith, and Ms. Kathleen Rich-New

Board Members Absent: Mr. Leo Roselip, Mr. Sam Gutierrez, Mr. William Ryder

Others in Attendance: Dr. Patricia Nellius, Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Debbie Davidson-Cook, Chief Compliance & Utilization Officer, Mr. Geo Ropert, Director of Communications, Ms. Gloria Hensler, Finance Director, Ms. Stephanie Strodman, Public Relations Coordinator, and Ms. Laurie-Anna Blackburn, Executive Assistant. Also in attendance were Ms. Amy Thomas, Intervention Services, Ms. Diane Scott, Intervention Services, Mr. Michael Welch, Merrill Lynch, Mr. Don McGee, Merrill Lynch, Ms. Teresa Miles, CHS, Ms. Michelle Scott, CHS, Ms. Valerie Holmes, Brevard C.A.R.E.S., Mr. Vern Melvin, DCF, Mr. Bill Bucher, Devereux, and Ms. Phebe Powell, DCF.

Mr. Whitten opened the meeting by introducing and welcoming our newest new Board Members, Mr. Eric Smith and Ms. Kathleen Rich-New, who had been approved by the board and were attending their first meeting.

Mr. Whitten called the meeting to order and requested those present state their names for the record.

Motion: Judge McKibben moved to approve the agenda. This was seconded by Mr. Cadore and the motion was passed unanimously.

Motion: Judge McKibben moved to approve the April 26, 2012 board meeting minutes with minor edits to be provided to Ms. Randall. This was seconded by Ms. Goldfarb and the motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Whitten then asked if any board members had any conflicts of interest to report per the Board Policy. None were reported.

Next, the guests were introduced; Ms. Amy Thomas, Intervention Services, Mr. Michael Welch and Mr. Don McGee, Merrill Lynch.

Ms. Amy Thomas with Intervention Services (ISI) was introduced and she made a presentation to the board regarding the ISI programs and services. ISI began providing services in 1994 with counseling services available in Orlando only. They expanded to Brevard, Seminole and Osceola counties in 1999 at which time they began providing foster care services. In 2004 ISI began providing Independent Living services to at-risk youth. They are currently serving 650 youth through this program. Ms. Thomas shared that in 2005 ISI began their adoption program, and in 2006 ISI founded The Village, which is a transitional living home for 18-23 year olds who are transitioning out of the foster care system. The Village has a focus on education and employment for young adults.

Ms. Thomas further shared that they began mental health services in 2007 by working with the Department of Juvenile Justice in Brevard and Orange, as well as tutoring program for child welfare youth. In 2009 in partnership with Brevard Family Partnership, ISI began offering the Parenting with Love and Limits which is an evidenced-based program for families. This program works closely with Brevard CARES clients, serving approximately 40 families per year. Recently ISI began intake and placement services for youth coming into care. In 2011 ISI served 8,000 families in the community.

Ms. Diane Scott with ISI continued with the overview and shared that ISI's goal is to keep children in the local community. Recently ISI, BFP and our partners celebrated their 500th adoption since 2005. Additionally, ISI mental health and behavioral health services provide psychiatric assessments for vulnerable individuals in Brevard County. Ms. Scott expanded on the Parenting with Love and Limits program, which works with children between ages 10 and 18 who are presenting undesirable behaviors in the home to assist parents alleviate crisis, with in home family coaching and intense, short term crisis prevention and training.

The board members thanked Ms. Thomas and Ms. Scott for their information and the presentation. Next, Mr. Don McGee and Michael Welch from Merrill Lynch addressed the board.

Mr. McGee provided an overview of services provided by Merrill Lynch to BFP in March 2011 which is an endowment theory of investing assets. Merrill Lynch managers determined based on risk parameters that BFP's risk portfolio should be moderately conservative. Mr. McGee shared that 44% of BFP's portfolio is in equities, 52% in bonds, and small portion in cash. The investment BFP made is \$400K with this model, and will be adding a laddered CD model of approximately \$250K which is currently being developed. To ensure equity, Merrill Lynch invests in equal portion of large and small investments, as well as equal portion of long term and short term bonds. As of April 2012 the portfolio was up 8.64%. It is performing as expected. Mr. McGee noted that Merrill Lynch managers monitor downside risk regularly.

Ms. Hensler added as a point of reference the actual cash that is available to BFP through these investments. Data as of March 2012 shows a total interest income of \$44.00 dividend income of \$14,003.00, gains/losses on sales resulted in a loss of \$1500.00 and management fees at \$5800.00. Total net cash flow is \$7,000.00. Mr. McGee added that this portfolio was up about \$16K from its start to current. Ms. Goldfarb inquired if these funds are considered "green money" for BFP. Ms. Hensler confirmed that this portfolio is made up of non-governmental money, although some of the money is earmarked due to donor stipulations. As there were no follow up questions, Mr. Whitten thanked Mr. McGee for his time and sharing of information.

Consent Agenda:

Mr. Whitten asked the board members to review the Data report. There were no questions.

Staff Reports:

Dr. Nellius then addressed the Board Report and welcomed the new board members and thanked them for their willingness to serve.

Dr. Nellius noted the second community meeting will occur on June 14th which is for mid-level managers and system of care providers. The primary purpose of these meetings is for strategic planning and to obtain feedback from the community. Also, Dr. Nellius shared that the Board Summit will be held on May 30th, 2012 which is for regional peers to discuss the current landscape of child welfare, and to strategize on how CBCs can be more effective and efficient. She referenced the Jacksonville ITN community meetings which BFP staff had attended to get a feel for DCF's objectives. Additionally, Dr. Nellius noted that May is National Foster Care month, and she thanked our foster families and foster care agencies for their dedication to children and families. June 2nd from 10-2 at Wickham Park is the annual foster/adoptive appreciation picnic.

Dr. Nellius referenced the DCF scorecard and her attempts to collaborate with DCF to address the metrics, but there has been no resolution. CBC CEOs are currently working together on this issue. In March BFP was 2nd on the scorecard for all CBC agencies in the state. (The April report was not released until after the Board meeting)

Dr. Nellius reported on the status of the Child Welfare Transformation, which is intended to make improvements to the Protective Investigator (PI) program, including salary increases for PIs. It has been determined that transformations to the System of Care will be made from entry to exit, with a new risk assessment and entry tool to be implemented. The state has imposed a mandated change for this assessment tool which will adversely impact child welfare staff and attempt to make improvements to FSFN. Dr. Nellius noted that there has been no funding set aside for training staff on this major change in assessments.

Dr. Nellius is working on the annual calendar for the board, and is soliciting input from the board on any guests that they would like to attend future board meetings. She noted that at Mr. Cadore's request, Chief Ronald Krueger from Rockledge Police Department will attend, and she will also approach Judge Mahl to determine his interest in attending. Judge McKibben suggested inviting the Guardian ad Litem group. Ms. Rich-New suggested extending an invitation to the new Sheriff in Brevard after the election.

Dr. Nellius shared how difficult it is to obtain grants in the economic climate, and BFP is currently in the process of hiring a Director of Development. BFP has been working with Brevard Public Schools on the implementation of the Head Start grant as Brevard C.A.R.E.S. has been awarded a portion of the grant in the amount of \$1.25 million as a sub recipient to facilitate services as the main service provider. Ms. Holmes shared that the Brevard C.A.R.E.S. model is closely aligned with the national Head Start model. There is a contract pending and the logistics are being worked out with the school board. The school board will be responsible for managing the financial aspect. Brevard C.A.R.E.S. will be a service coordinator. .

New Business:

Ms. Gloria Hensler distributed copies of the April Financial Statement of Activities and April Statement of Financial Position to the board members. She reviewed both documents with the members and pointed out specific areas regarding certain expenses in the month of April. She shared that there is a surplus in the total budget which will be held for future deficits.

Mr. Whitten spoke to the GOV 006 policy, New Board Member Terms, and noted that the terms will need to be set for the new board members. Ms. Rich-New and Mr. Smith both verbally accepted a three (3) year term.

Old Business:

Dr. Nellius shared information about the ITN subcommittee meeting in Mr. Roselip's absence. Mr. Roselip has expressed that he feels BFP does not need a standing committee, but an ad hoc committee to call and meet on an as-needed basis. Dr. Nellius expressed her concern that the critical ITN information needs to be shared to a responsible group in the event that she is unavailable or a crisis occurs. She feels this is a meaningful process. Ms. Rich-New inquired if there have been negative media campaigns to other CBCs whose contract is up for renewal. The board members agreed that the meetings would be held on an as-needed basis when there is business to attend to.

Ms. Goldfarb reported on the recruitment subcommittee meetings. With the addition of Mr. Smith and Ms. Rich-New BFP now has eleven (11) board members, with the option to have up to fifteen (15). She expressed the need to recruit members in all areas of Brevard who are committed to youth and families, who ideally have a high-profile in the community as the board transitions into philanthropic activities. She would like all board members to actively consider recruiting qualified members. Dr. Nellius shared the specific skill sets BFP is seeking in board members, specifically name recognition and someone involved in philanthropic activities. There is a potential for a successful consumer to be on the board and Dr. Nellius discussed the potential implications and details of that process. Mr. Whitten stressed the importance of having board members from all areas of the county, as well as discussion around increasing the number of members up to fifteen (15).

Mr. Whitten reported on the DCF meeting with Secretary Wilkins with CBC CEOs and Board Chairs. The Secretary stated that all CBCs must be on board with the priorities of DCF, inferring that any local priorities are secondary to the DCF priorities. The secretary is now also serving as the Chief Operations Officer of the state in addition to being Secretary of DCF. Ms. Rich-New asked what the DCF priorities are, to which Dr. Nellius indicated includes public transformation, standardization, performance, downsizing administration, cost efficiencies, and risk aversion.

Mr. Whitten shared that the Secretary indicated his priority was to “fix” the child welfare System, after indicating that this System was a model for the nation. Dr. Nellius informed the board that Florida is currently 4th in the nation, moving up from 16th in six (6) years. The board discussed the Secretary’s hesitation towards prevention. Ms. Goldfarb indicated her optimism in BFP meeting the data and metric requirements as we consistently outperform other local CBCs.

Dr. Nellius shared that the changes being implemented are adversely impacting the System of Care. There has been a 32% increase of children coming into care in recent months due to PIs aggressively acting in a risk aversive manner, as well as child placing agencies operating at full capacity. Judge McKibben added that the law requires PIs to make an attempt to prevent removal, and after a tragic event in child welfare, the pendulum tends to swing upward; however in Brevard there has been an increase without any major tragic events occurring, which speaks to the current state of affairs and the priorities of DCF.

Dr. Nellius thanked the board and then stated that the Strategic Goal for this month; Strategic Plan Goal 11: Recruit foster homes to optimize available placement options for children in out-of-home care. She shared that BFP has always worked with CPAs to do child-specific targeted recruitment. Devereux is now the sole child placing agency, and BFP is currently working with them to increase their recruitment efforts.

Mr. Ropert addressed the board and explained the five (5) packets of information provided to each board member to distribute. The packet includes a welcome letter, legislative priorities, Brevard County Commission Resolution of Support, CARES and BFP brochures, and a BFP promotional DVD.

Judge McKibben indicated that June is the last meeting of the fiscal year and there is no board meeting in July or December. Dr. Nellius will bring the updated board calendar to the June board meeting.

Motion: Mr. Broom moved to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Ms. Rich-New and the motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Strodman
Recording Secretary

Approved at June 28, 2012 Board of Directors Meeting