

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
August 22, 2013 BOARD MEETING
MINUTES

Board Members in Attendance: Mr. Stockton Whitten, Board Chair, Judge Kelly McKibben, Board Vice Chair, Mr. Samuel Gutierrez, Board Treasurer, Ms. Brooke Deratany-Goldfarb, Mr. Mel Broom, Ms. Christa Bailey, Mr. Eric Smith, Ms. Kathleen Rich New and Officer Mike Cadore.

Board Members Absent: None.

Others in Attendance: Dr. Patricia Nellius, Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Valerie M. Randall, Chief Personnel & Administrative Officer, Ms. Debbie Davidson-Cook, Chief Compliance & Utilization Officer, Ms. Gloria Hensler, Finance Director, Mr. Geo Ropert, Mr. Jim Carlson, COO, Ms. Kelly Swartz, Staff Attorney and Ms. Laurie-Anna Blackburn, Executive Assistant. Also in attendance were, Mr. Michael Hussey, DCF, Ms. Valerie Holmes, Brevard C.A.R.E.S., Dr. Andrew Schneider-Munoz, NCIE, Ms. Teresa Miles, CHS, Ms. Michelle Scott, CHS, Mr. Bill Bucher, Devereux, and Ms. Laura Higginbotham, Devereux.

Motion: Judge McKibben moved to approve the agenda. This was seconded by Ms. Rich New 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.

Motion: Mr. Gutierrez moved to approve the June 27, 2013 board minutes. This was seconded by Ms. Bailey and the motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Carlson then introduced the Case Management Agencies; Children's Home Society and Devereux Florida who he shared had served in this role since transition and indicated that each had a presentation to make to the board. He asked Ms. Teresa Miles with Children's Home Society to address the board.

Prior to her presentation, Mr. Whitten asked the members and guests to state their names for the record.

Officer Cadore arrived at the meeting.

Ms. Miles began her presentation addressing the CHS performance in key areas and indicated she would focus on three (3) specific performance measures including time to reunification, re-entry within 12 months and finalized adoptions. Her presentation provided data on the last two (2) fiscal years. She spoke about the reunification issues and shared some family scenarios that impact this measure and over which case management has no control. Ms. Scott added that with the child transformation initiative families will be looked at differently and that this will be a positive change. Regarding those who re-enter care within 12 months, Ms. Miles indicated that after the initial 6-months of post-reunification supports things can and do happen and that there is a need to engage with Brevard C.A.R.E.S. for the in-home and family supports that may help to sustain the placement. She spoke about the areas of focus and emphasis for the coming year and cross walked the CHS values with those of BFP and commented that these align very well. Mr. Whitten thanked Ms. Miles and as there were no further questions asked for the next presentation.

Mr. Bill Bucher from Devereux addressed the board. He commented that his presentation focuses on the last fiscal year rather than a comparison of the last two (2) fiscal years as CHS had done.

He shared the quarter statistics and addressed where there had been a drop in performance and the factors that he believed contributed to these. He also indicated that Devereux had won an award regarding their foster care work of which he was very proud.

Ms. Goldfarb inquired about the DBT program and Mr. Bucher requested Ms. Higginbotham to address this. She did and then requested Dr. Nellius to expand on the program which she did. Ms. Goldfarb then asked Mr. Bucher how many beds would be available at each of the Cocoa and Melbourne facilities and he responded 13 and 15. Ms. Bailey also spoke about the target with dental appointments and that with the recent changes as well as some challenges that relative care givers have, it is challenging to meet that target. There were no more questions and Mr. Whitten thanked Mr. Bucher for his presentation.

Judge McKibben then spoke about the event on August 20, 2013 in honor of Mr. Geo Ropert who received the PR Professional of the Year award from the Space Coast Chapter of the Florida Public Relations Association. She indicated that both staff and board members attended the event and that Mr. Ropert is greatly admired and respected. She also shared that Ms. Stephanie Strodtman had also received an Up and Coming award and that she had been re-elected as Secretary for the Space Coast Chapter. Congratulations were provided to both recipients with a round of applause.

Consent Agenda:

Mr. Whitten asked if there were questions or concerns on the Board Data Report. None were expressed and the next agenda item was discussed.

CEO Board Report:

Dr. Nellius began by addressing the budget that was presented at the June meeting and indicated that while the board approved of the approach to address the deficit that DCF was unable to accept this plan so changes were made which Ms. Hensler will address in the financial section. She spoke about the transition from Secretary Wilkins to Interim Secretary Jacobo. She said she and other CBC CEO's had met with the Secretary and that she is collaborative and pleasant and very sharp. She commented there was a shared perspective with the Secretary and the CBC CEO's that with the new structured decision making tool there is agreement that it is always best to keep children at home as long as they can be safe. Dr. Nellius indicated that at this time, Interim Secretary Jacobo is in place to stabilize the child welfare system and to make recommendations to the administration. Dr. Nellius also commented that the Annie E. Casey Foundation had been requested to work with DCF on the scorecard measures. She also addressed the concerns with Attachment I which will be addressed in the executive session following the board meeting. Dr. Nellius then reported that she and Valerie Holmes will be attending the Georgetown Certificate program and she will not be in attendance at the October board meeting.

Dr. Nellius then addressed case management and the presentations made today. She indicated that in October the Case Management Agency contract will be re-procured and at this point in time in the evolution of the system of care the request will include innovative programs, areas of focus with substance abuse and best-practice models. Ms. Rich New asked the length of the new contract. Dr. Nellius indicated they would likely be in the 4-year period of time with perhaps a renewal, but that this decision has not yet been made.

The next item addressed was to determine the date for the November meeting which per the calendar would fall on Thanksgiving and Dr. Nellius asked if the members would prefer the week prior to the Thanksgiving holiday or the first week in December.

The board decided to have the November meeting on December 5, 2013.

Dr. Nellius then inquired about the proposed date for a Board Recruitment Subcommittee of September 4, 2013 at 9:00 AM. She also invited any board members who wished to participate to attend as well. Mr. Eric Smith indicated he would like to participate.

Action Item: Ms. Randall will send an invitation to current subcommittee members and Mr. Smith with the date and time.

Dr. Nellius then addressed the upcoming 10th anniversary of the agency and she would like to have a board subcommittee convene to begin work on this in January. She requested members who would like to participate to advise Ms. Randall.

Dr. Nellius then spoke about the upcoming Board Retreat in January and her suggestion of having a speaker from Rollins attend to address philanthropic activities. This was accepted by the board.

Judge McKibben then addressed the current board vacancies and suggested that the board may want to revisit Governance Policies addressing officer terms and perhaps consider extending those for the officers. She indicated she will work on revising the specific policies and will provide to the board members prior to the next meeting for consideration.

Ms. Goldfarb asked for clarification of the roles with CHS and Devereux regarding dependency and foster care. This was clarified by stating both do case management work for BFP and Devereux also has the CPA contract for foster homes.

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

Ms. Holmes addressed the board and began by sharing that the COA accreditation for this agency begins September 9, 2013 with the delivery of the self-study electronically and that the site visit is scheduled for November 10-12. She also shared that Brevard C.A.R.E.S. entered into an arrangement with the Lady of Lourdes Church and will be providing training to clergy about Brevard C.A.R.E.S. She also indicated that on August 27, 2013 there will be a site visit as part of the process to become a Medicaid Provider. She spoke about a grant with Crosswinds for ungovernable youth and that recently Crosswinds and Brevard C.A.R.E.S. made a presentation in Tallahassee. She indicated she will learn about the award in approximately 30 days. Dr. Nellius commented that Mr. Don Winstead will be making a visit to Brevard C.A.R.E.S. on September 6th and this could bode very well in terms of potential replication for new IV-E states.

NCIE Report:

Dr. Schneider-Munoz addressed the board. He indicated that Ms. Judy Nee, a board member of the NCIE would also be in attendance at the Brevard CARES visit as well. He explained a bit of her background and indicated this was a very positive step in the building of relationships as well as possible funding sources. He continued that Ms. Nee was also going to serve in some manner as a sponsor to the upcoming National Wraparound Conference. While addressed in the CEO Report, Dr. Schneider-Munoz expressed his excitement that the charitable status designation of the 501(c)(3) had been received by the NCIE and he thanked those BFP staff members who were instrumental in the completion and delivery of the complex application process. He remarked that he had been told that he would need to hire a consultant to do this for the NCIE and he commended the BFP staff who worked to accomplish this important work. He then spoke about the work with the Jim Casey Youth Opportunity Initiative and that his involvement in that has resulted in funding of the NCIE. He showed the binder that he developed which is a model for a Youth Leadership Institute which will be rolled out to 12 other sites.

He also indicated that Sister Linda who is the President of Holy Family Institute and involved with the Pittsburgh Wraparound program will likely also be attending the Wraparound Conference.

In addition he indicated that Judge Bill Thorn who is a national leader in Trauma Informed Care may also attend and present a workshop.

Legislative Report:

Mr. Ropert addressed the board and began by sharing that the first day of Committee Meetings is scheduled for September 23, 2013. He directed the members to the legislative priorities that had been developed as well as the legislative talking points that were also provided for board members to use in these discussions. He encouraged the board members to engage in this process.

New Business:

Financial Report:

Ms. Hensler shared with the board that due to the lateness in our contract being executed and the transition activities that had to occur with the outsourcing of accounting that the July Financial statements would be presented at the next meeting along with those for August. She did share with the board that as a result of the efforts and significant changes made by BFP leadership and the impact of these decisions that the July administrative overhead did drop to 3.2%. She then directed the board members to the sample financial statements in their binders which will be the format used for our upcoming financial statements with the outsourcing company. She reviewed the format and identified new reports that will be included in the financials beginning next month. She then addressed the budget and issue with the adoption subsidy line which technically was in deficit resulting in the non-balanced budget to the board in June. She reported that this line was changed to reflect what we believe will be funded for adoptions.

The next item was to address the proposed annual board calendar/agenda including the board's decision to have the November meeting on December 5, 2013.

Motion: Ms. Rich New moved to approve the proposed annual board calendar/agenda. This was seconded by Mr. Broom and the motion was passed unanimously.

The next item was the NCIE recommendation of Mr. Paul Kirst to be accepted as a new board member of the NCIE. Dr. Schneider Munoz presented this candidate for consideration and described his role, experience and expertise.

Motion: Ms. Goldfarb moved to approve Mr. Paul Kirst as a board member for the NCIE. This was seconded by Judge McKibben and the motion was passed unanimously.

Dr. Nellius then reviewed the Strategic Plan Goal #1: PARTNERSHIPS/RESOURCES – Facilitate collaborations and partnerships to meet the unique needs of the families served in the community. Objective: Prepare a community awareness and outreach program to increase public involvement and investment in child safety. Dr. Nellius reviewed several activities that will support this goal and indicated that we are in the early stages of developing these strategies.

Mr. Whitten asked if there were public comments and none were made.

Having no further business, Mr. Whitten adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Valerie M. Randall
Recording Secretary

Approved at Board of Director Meeting September 26, 2013