

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
APRIL 26, 2012
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Board Members in Attendance: Mr. Stockton Whitten, Board Chair, Judge Kelly McKibben, Board Vice Chair, Mr. Samuel Gutierrez, Board Treasurer, Mr. Leo Roselip, Mr. William Ryder, Ms. Brooke Deratany Goldfarb, Reverend Scott Elliott and Mr. Mel Broom.

Board Members Absent: Mr. Michael Cadore.

Others in Attendance: Dr. Patricia Nellius, Ms. Valerie M. Randall, Chief Personnel & Administrative Officer, Ms. Debbie Davidson-Cook, Chief Compliance & Utilization Officer, Ms. Gloria Hensler, Finance Director, Ms. Kelly Swartz, Staff Attorney, and Ms. Laurie Anna Blackburn. Mr. Robert Scurto and Mrs. Jahnea Scurto, Foster parents, and Mr. Steve Murphy were guests at the meeting.

Additionally Ms. Janet Thompson, DCF, Mr. Bill Bucher, Devereux, Ms. Diane Arnold, Devereux, Ms. Valerie Holmes, Brevard C.A.R.E.S. and Ms. Michelle Scott with CHS were present.

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

Motion: Mr. Ryder moved to approve the agenda. This was seconded by Mr. Broom 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.

Mr. Ropert then showed the new video clip that was presented at the Community Meeting on April 13, 2012 and indicated that we are in the process of developing additional video clips for use. He also stated this is available on YouTube.

Mr. Whitten commented on the video and shared that he thought it was well done and effective. He also thanked Dr. Nellius and staff for the work on the community meeting and indicated he was very pleased with the outcome. Ms. Goldfarb shared that she felt the event was great and very professionally done and she was very proud of the report on the outcomes. Mr. Broom commented that he also felt it was a great meeting and observed there were many positive comments. He also shared that he felt that many of the attendees learned more about our programs and system of care.

Motion: Judge McKibben moved to approve the minutes from the March 22, 2012 Board meeting. This was seconded by Ms. Goldfarb and the motion was passed unanimously.

Ms. LaChrista Jones then introduced Mr. & Mrs. Robert Scurto who have been foster parents for over nine (9) years and have fostered over 20 children. She also commented that their home is licensed for all three (3) levels of care within our system. Ms. Jones also reported that the Scurto's have adopted a 17 year old youth four (4) days before his 18th birthday. She commented that May is Foster Parent Appreciation month and that the Scurto's had been invited to the board meeting to share their experiences with the board members. Mr. Scurto addressed the board and shared how he and his wife became involved in fostering children. He indicated that just one day after having received their license, they accepted two (2) children into their home. Mr. Ryder stated that it is outstanding foster parents like the Scurto's who are the key to the well being of the children in the dependency system and thanked them for their commitment. The board thanked Mr. & Mrs. Scurto and applauded their presentation.

Next, Mr. Steve Murphy with Devereux Florida addressed the board. He commented that his organization cannot do the work they do without the foster parents and he commended BFP for focusing on providing foster parents the tools they need to be successful and specifically identified the

Wraparound philosophy. He then shared the current role Devereux has in foster care placement and commented that the transition effective July 1, 2011 was done quickly. He indicated Devereux is currently fully staffed and that training has begun to ramp up. He spoke about the recent addition of four (4) new foster homes and the status of several others who are waiting licensing as well as eight (8) families who had recently completed the PRIDE training. Mr. Murphy then spoke about recent legislative appropriation Devereux had received and thanked BFP for its support. He then spoke about the exciting renovations that are planned for the Viera campus which include the ground breaking for a new wellness center which will include a gymnasium, space for theater as well as proms for graduation and that the facility will also be available to the Brevard community for at risk youth. Finally, Mr. Murphy shared that on December 1, 2012 there will be an event celebrating Devereux's 25th year in Brevard County and that invitations will be sent to the board to attend.

Consent Agenda:

The next agenda item was the Consent Agenda. Mr. Whitten inquired if there were any questions or comments on this item and if not, he would entertain a motion to approve.

Motion: Mr. Roselip moved to approve the Consent Agenda. This was seconded by Mr. Broom and the motion was passed unanimously.

CEO Report:

Dr. Nellius then addressed the board and reported that DCF was holding a state-wide educational summit that is focused on tracking the academic performance of foster youth. She shared that the CAPTF banquet will take place this evening and clarified for the members that while BFP provides support and staffs this activity, that is it not a BFP initiative, but rather a community task force with minimal resources. Membership of CAPTA includes the Child Advocacy Center, DCF, Cares, Yellow Umbrella and other community partners. Dr. Nellius shared that there will be a meeting with the CBC CEO's and Board Chairs on May 7th in Orlando with the Secretary.

Dr. Nellius reported that she and the other CBC CEO's in the Region have been meeting to identify resources and ways to increase efficiencies and one of the action items from this meeting was to convene a Board Summit. This venue would allow the board members of each CBC to meet and discuss the current common issues to develop a united voice and collective approach to some of the identified concerns. She proposed this may take place between the end of May and mid to late June. Dr. Nellius then reported that she is working with an organization in Milwaukee who is interested in replication and that members from Brevard C.A.R.E.S. will be going to discuss the program and how this may meet their needs. She also shared that she and Valerie Holmes are speaking with an organization in Sarasota who may be interested in replication and/or having us provide technical assistance. Regarding the recent RFP for a community public/private partnership grant Dr. Nellius reported that a respondent was selected and very well qualified and that the negotiations with this entity will begin shortly.

Mr. Ryder inquired about the Board Summit concept and wanted to know who would be crafting the agenda and facilitating this meeting. Dr. Nellius indicated that she and Mr. Whitten would be crafting the agenda and he would be attending. She shared that one of the desired outcomes is to develop a "before and after" for the group as well as to identify common concerns such as the increase in the census to involve the communities in finding solutions. Mr. Roselip inquired about the respondent to the RFP and asked if we in fact had done business with this organization in the past. Dr. Nellius indicated that we had however, at that time it was under different leadership and management and that since that transition, we had not had any business relationship with the organization.

Mr. Gutierrez inquired if board members should plan to attend the meeting on May 7th and Dr. Nellius indicated that generally these meetings are attended by the Board Chair and that Mr. Whitten will be attending although certainly board members were welcome.

Financial Report:

Ms. Hensler then reviewed the March Statement of Financial Position and indicated that the agency is stable. She then reviewed the March Statement of Activities and shared that we are ahead of budget for the year. Mr. Ryder asked about any potential carry forward and if the Agency would be able to retain these funds. Dr. Nelliuss commented that while the Agency will receive a reduction due to the equity model, it did receive a one-time allocation to help cover some of the deficit and that, with our projected surplus, should be able to cover the resulting deficit.

New Business:

Ms. Hensler then shared that the Auditor peer review letter was included in their binders. She reported that this is a required document that the audit firm provides to its clients to indicate that they have a peer review and that James Moore & Company had passed this review.

Ms. Hensler then spoke about the proposed Reduction in Workforce policy. She indicated that this is a change and revision to the current program in place and that it was created to help assist the agency to retain staff in the event of a major transition to ensure continuity of care for our consumers. She reviewed the current program. Mr. Whitten commented that as the environment has changed dramatically from inception that it is important to revisit this item. Ms. Hensler then reviewed the new proposal sharing that this was in compliance with DCF practice and policy and that it is correctly in use by another CBC. Mr. Roselip asked for the cost difference and Ms. Hensler indicated where that information was provided. There was also discussion on the health insurance component of the proposal and clarification that the payments would be made only after all financial obligations were met.

Motion: Mr. Roselip moved to approve the Policy proposal as presented. This was seconded by Mr. Ryder. Mr. Gutierrez asked to amend the motion to separate the reference to the health insurance in a different policy. Mr. Roselip did not choose to change his motion. The motion was passed with one dissenting vote.

Ms. Valerie Holmes then presented two (2) prospective board member candidates for Brevard C.A.R.E.S. to the board. She recommended Dr. Barry Kronman and provided some details about his interest, experience and what he would bring to the Brevard C.A.R.E.S. board.

Motion: Judge McKibben moved to approve Dr. Kronman for the Brevard C.A.R.E.S. board. This was seconded by Mr. Ryder and the motion was passed unanimously.

Next, Ms. Holmes proposed Mr. Ralph Martinez who completed the Brevard C.A.R.E.S. program in 2006 and is interested in being a speaker for the organization. She provided some information about his work history and how she felt he would be a good addition to the board.

Motion: Mr. Ryder moved to approve Mr. Martinez for the Brevard C.A.R.E.S. board. This was seconded by Mr. Gutierrez and the motion was passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Mr. Whitten then addressed the concept of quarterly subcommittee meetings which had been deferred from the last meeting. He requested Judge McKibben to provide an overview of this change. She indicated that quarterly meetings perhaps on a Saturday morning or on a standing date and time would provide an opportunity for members to have set dates for scheduling purposes. She also commented that by having the subcommittees meet at the same time that members could participate in other subcommittees if they were interested. There was considerable discussion on this concept among the members.

Motion: Judge McKibben moved to establish quarterly subcommittee dates on a Saturday morning. This was seconded by Mr. Gutierrez. The motion was passed by a vote of five (5) to three (3).

Recruitment Subcommittee Report:

Mr. Gutierrez presented two (2) prospective board candidates and indicated that each had been interviewed by two (2) members of the Board Recruitment Subcommittee. He shared information about each candidate and indicated that he recommended that both be approved for the BFP board. Ms. Goldfarb commented that she felt that both were great candidates and that the board is lucky to be able to have them on board.

Motion: Ms. Goldfarb moved to approve both Kathleen Rich New and Eric Smith as new board members. This was seconded by Judge McKibben and the motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Whitten then spoke about the attendance requirements and that the Bylaws state the Agency will conduct 10 meetings annually and that the board had previously determined that board members would be required to attend a minimum of eight (8). There was discussion on the number of meetings that might be missed and/or an approach regarding absences if these were consecutive and what action the board has/would take for a member who missed the required minimum. Judge McKibben indicated that this was more of a reminder of the requirement and that the board would evaluate absences and reasons on an individual basis.

The next agenda item was the revised Conflict of Interest policy which had been changed in February to include the inquiry at the beginning of each board meeting to surface any conflicts with the agenda items.

Motion: Mr. Roselip moved to approve the updated changes to the Policy. This was seconded by Mr. Ryder and the motion was passed unanimously.

The next item was the Strategic Plan Goal 11: Recruit foster homes to optimize available placement options for children in out-of-home care.

Objective 11a: Strategically recruit foster homes to meet the needs of children who enter foster care.

Dr. Nellius recounted that as a result of the budget cuts last year we consolidated the child placing agencies and that now Devereux holds the responsibility to recruit foster homes for the system of care. As a result of the consolidation there was some decrease in the total number of homes, however, this has stabilized and four (4) new homes have been licensed, six (6) are finalized waiting for the DCF license process and eight (8) families have recently completed the required PRIDE training. She also shared that with the Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) that the expectation of foster parents has increased as well as their participation in the process to enhance the standards and performance. Dr. Nellius also remarked that in terms of the strategic goal presentation we have almost finished the three (3) year report and will shortly begin the development of the five (5) year strategic planning purpose, with much input from the community.

Judge McKibben asked to confirm the June 14th date for the next community meeting and suggested that board members who were not able to attend the April 13th meeting may wish to plan to attend this one.

Motion: Mr. Roselip moved to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Mr. Gutierrez and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie M. Randall
Recording Secretary

Approved at the Board of Directors meeting on May 24, 2012