

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
June 27, 2013 BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES

**Board Members in Attendance:** Mr. Stockton Whitten, Board Chair, Ms. Brooke Deratany-Goldfarb, Mr. Mel Broom, Ms. Christa Bailey and Ms. Kathleen Rich New.

**Board Members Absent:** Judge Kelly McKibben, Board Vice Chair, Mr. Samuel Gutierrez, Board Treasurer, Officer Michael Cadore, and Mr. Eric Smith.

**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. Rita Elkins, Director of Development, Ms. Kelly Swartz, Staff Attorney and Ms. Laurie-Anna Blackburn, Executive Assistant. Also in attendance were, Mr. Kurt Kelly, FCFC, Ms. Janet Thompson, DCF, Ms. Debbie Dorfman, BFP, Ms. Rose Savoy, BFP, Dr. Andrew Schneider-Munoz, NCIE, Ms. Teresa Miles and Ms. Michelle Scott, CHS.

Mr. Whitten called the meeting to order and welcomed the members and guests to the June meeting. He indicated that until a quorum was present we would address other informational items. He asked Dr. Nellius to begin.

Dr. Nellius stated that it is an honor to recognize some staff members who have worked so diligently for the past 18 months on the COA re-accreditation process and commented that they went above and beyond which resulted in a successful outcome.

She requested Ms. Debbie Davidson Cook to stand and join her and Mr. Whitten. She commented that Ms. Davidson Cook was the heart and soul of the re-accreditation process and that while it was a challenging project, Ms. Davidson Cook never let it show and that once again the agency, under her leadership, received an expedited accreditation. Dr. Nellius then read the plaque and thanked Ms. Davidson Cook for her outstanding performance. The board applauded Ms. Davidson Cook and her accomplishment.

Dr. Nellius then asked Ms. Debbie Dorfman to stand and join her and Mr. Whitten. Dr. Nellius introduced Ms. Dorfman as the “data guru” and shared that she had been a valuable asset to the COA process working in concert with Ms. Davidson Cook. Dr. Nellius then read the plaque and thanked Ms. Dorfman for her contributions to the successful accreditation. The board applauded Ms. Dorfman and her efforts and contributions.

Dr. Nellius then asked Ms. Laurie Anna Blackburn to stand and join her and Mr. Whitten. Dr. Nellius introduced Ms. Blackburn as the Executive Assistant who supports both Dr. Nellius and Ms. Randall. She commented that Ms. Blackburn manages her and her work life which is challenging alone, but that she also serves to support Ms. Randall in a myriad of human resource activities and functions. Dr. Nellius also commented that despite this, Ms. Blackburn always has a smile on her face and she is a delight to work with. Dr. Nellius then read the plaque and thanked Ms. Blackburn for her contributions to the successful accreditation. The board applauded Ms. Blackburn and her efforts and contributions.

Dr. Nellius then asked Ms. Rose Savoy to stand and join her and Mr. Whitten. Dr. Nellius introduced Ms. Savoy as the Administrative Assistant to Ms. Davidson Cook and the entire Compliance team and shared that she had been a valuable asset to the COA process working in concert with Ms. Davidson Cook and others in this project. Ms. Savoy served as “hub-central” for all the updated and reviewed procedures and policies and maintained all the changes for both the printing and uploading.

Dr. Nellius then read the plaque and thanked Ms. Savoy for her contributions to the successful accreditation. The board applauded Ms. Savoy and her efforts and contributions.

Mr. Whitten thanked the staff for their efforts and indicated that he was pleased to be present to participate in recognizing their significant contributions and positive outcome of the COA re-accreditation process.

Dr. Nellius then stated that it is a privilege to introduce Mr. Kurt Kelly the new President and CEO of the FCFC. She commented that he transitioned in February 2013 and that he has done a phenomenal job both acclimating to and leading the association in such a short period of time. She stated that he has gone above and beyond to support the CBC's and Brevard as well.

Mr. Kelly then stood to address the board. Mr. Kelly began by commenting that 1996 was a "telling year" for the CBC initiative and that these agencies have put both the "community" and "care" in the CBC concept. He commented that as a former member of the Florida House where he served on a health care quality committee as the defacto Chair as well as his service on the Children's Alliance in Marion County that the issues and lives the CBC's are here to support are important to him. He indicated that he also served on the board for Kids Central and that in December 2012 he was contacted to interview for the position with the FCFC. He shared that over the last five (5) months he has met with all the CBC CEO's and spent time in their respective districts. In regards to Dr. Nellius, he stated that the agency and Brevard County have a treasure in her. He also commented that the Sansom's are outstanding and incredible lobbyists as well. He stated that Dr. Nellius has the professionalism and right heart to serve in the leadership role of BFP. Mr. Kelly continued that over the next year there will be tough issues that will be faced but that these are worth fighting for. He continued that during the past legislative session the initiative was in more of a defensive posture and that in the future he plans to approach this in a more proactive manner.

To the board members, Mr. Kelly implored them to become engaged and if they already are, to become more so. He shared his view that it is critical that board members participate with the CEO, staff and lobbyists with the legislators to bring the CBC model where it was and belongs. He spoke about the upcoming legislative positions including the President Senate and stressed that these legislators need to hear from the board members. He commented that the current Secretary is not as aligned with the CBC model as may be reported and that the strengthening of the FCFC has occurred and he plans to increase its visibility.

Mr. Whitten thanked Mr. Kelly for his great comments. He stated that the FCFC has the right leader at the right time and that the 9-year success in Brevard tells us that the CBC model works.

The next item was the new video featuring our IL youth. Mr. Ropert showed the video and commented that this was used to open the Trauma Informed Care summit recently held. The board viewed the video and was appreciative. Mr. Whitten thanked Mr. Ropert for this.

#### CEO Board Report:

Dr. Nellius shared that just the evening before she had been informed that Mr. Ropert had received the Public Relations Professional of the Year award, presented by the Space Coast Chapter of the Florida Public Relations Association. Dr. Nellius commended Mr. Ropert for this award and spoke about the other awards received by the agency for its image, publications and tools. She reported that under his leadership the agency has increased the caliber of its publications.

It was also reported that the agency is anticipating final communication that the lawsuit will be officially dismissed. Dr. Nellius also shared that six (6) more adoptions will take place today and that on June 7, 2013, 15 children were adopted into their forever homes.

Dr. Nellius asked if any board members had been in attendance and Ms. Rich New indicated she had attended. Ms. Rich New commented that it was her first adoption event and that there were teenagers included in the adoption. She shared that these young adults signed documents that they were agreeing to be adopted and she thought it was a wonderful experience.

Dr. Nellius continued discussing the launch of the Trauma Informed Care-Positive Youth Development Summit and that the event exceeded her expectations. She indicated that national leaders were in attendance and were very engaged during the event. She shared that the young adults, when asked about their needs, spoke about aspects of their life that others had not considered. She continued that while she would have thought their issues would be with transportation and work challenges that these youth provided a different perspective. She reported they spoke about not having a choice about being on psychotropic medications or being provided with specific therapist. It was reported that in some cases the therapists would share discussions with the youth with the foster families and the youth felt violated.

Dr. Schneider Munoz arrived. He commented that in the past the youth were focused on unrealistic expectations and gave examples of youth wanting to be in rock bands or other endeavors. He stated that during the summit he heard more focused and realistic goals such as to complete an education with a vocation in mind for the future. Dr. Nellius continued indicating that 12 of the youth in attendance completed forms to be on the Youth Advisory Committee and that there was positive youth feedback from the presenters. Dr. Nellius also shared that the Center for the Study of Social Policy decided to have Brevard Family Partnership serve as a pilot site for their THRIVE model and she was excited about this new development. Dr. Nellius then shared that she and Ms. Swartz would be travelling to Tallahassee after the board meeting to attend the first Attachment 1 group meeting. She advised the board that in advance of the new business section, she wanted the board to know that she would not be presenting a balanced budget for FY 2014. She discussed the specific unfunded line items and the small funds in the current year surplus that could be used to plug the deficits, but expressed that that would leave no funds for an internal risk pool for increased census, increased services or in the event of a high-end placement need. Mr. Kelly spoke and shared that he had been contacted by another CBC CEO who had learned that APD will not cover those youth in the IL program who need their services; leaving the resulting needs to be paid by the CBC's. Dr. Nellius commented on the current equity formula which is flawed and gave an example that the agency serves 2500 children, but it is only funded for 800; the number in FSFN. She stated that she will continue to advocate for the children served in prevention to be counted in this formula.

Mr. Whitten then inquired if there were any public comments. None were made. Dr. Nellius then asked Ms. Miles if she wished to comment on the Trauma Informed Summit. Ms. Miles expressed that she felt the right people were in the room to hear the message and included leadership from the system partners. Dr. Nellius also commented that the training will likely be provided again and will be required by all staff in the system of care.

#### Legislative Report:

Mr. Ropert indicated the session is over and that the FCFC has the agency's priorities for the upcoming session. He shared that legislative meetings will begin in September and that board member voices are powerful to the legislators. Dr. Nellius also shared she intends to bring the IL Youth Council to Tallahassee next year so the legislators can hear directly from these youth. Ms. Miles also indicated that board members are welcome to "ride along" with the dependency case managers to get a firsthand view of the families we serve.

Ms. Goldfarb arrived.

**Motion:** Ms. Rich New 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.

**Motion:** Ms. Rich New moved to approve the May 23, 2013 board minutes. This was seconded by Ms. Goldfarb and the motion was passed unanimously.

#### 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. Dr. Nellius commented that in the most recent scorecard the agency has moved up to 13<sup>th</sup> place and that the scorecard committees will begin meeting in July to focus on one measure each with the intent of returning to the top five (5).

#### New Business:

Dr. Nellius spoke about the current situation with the unfunded mandates in the budget. She expressed her desire to be able to demonstrate by line item those areas that are mandated but unfunded so that it is easily observable by our legislators. Mr. Whitten inquired if the budget was to be presented to DCF to which Ms. Hensler replied affirmatively. Mr. Kelly also interjected and wondered about the advisability of plugging this deficit with carry forward dollars even if they were sufficient. He commented that he agreed with Dr. Nellius' strategy. Dr. Nellius continued that cuts were made to every line in the budget except for the providers and services to the children and families which has left the agency with no room for error. It was reported that the agency has not yet received an updated amount of funds from the Department which will lower the current \$137,000 deficit in the adoption line. It was also reported that \$150,000 of the current carry forward had already been used to cover deficits in other lines in the budget. Ms. Goldfarb commented that this would seem to demonstrate the impact of the continuing cuts to the agency. Dr. Nellius agreed and indicated that the performance of the agency is directly tied to the timeframe when the cuts began; the agency ranked in the top five (5) when funded and since the reductions have started that the performance has declined.

**Motion:** Ms. Rich New moved to accept and approve the proposed FY 2014 budget for the agency. This was seconded by Ms. Goldfarb and the motion was passed unanimously.

#### Financial Report:

Ms. Hensler referred to the materials in the binders which included the May Statement of Activities and Statement of Financial Position. She indicated that there was nothing substantive to report and that she had provided a narrative to the Board Treasurer as she was aware he would not be coming to the meeting.

#### New Business:

Mr. Whitten then addressed the audit proposal. He indicated this was required as the current audit firm would become the outsourced accounting firm for the agency therefore requiring a new audit firm. He indicated this was a qualified firm and reviewed the terms of the five (5) year engagement. He also indicated the fees initially and during the five (5) year period was substantially reduced from the current firm.

**Motion:** Ms. Goldfarb moved to accept and approve the proposed audit firm and engagement terms. This was seconded by Ms. Rich New and the motion was passed unanimously.

Dr. Nellius also commented that another increase to our FY 2014 budget was due to the premium rate increases for our agency insurance at approximately a 45% increase.

Ms. Hensler then shared with the board that as a result of the outsourcing of the accounting that the accounting firm would need to have bank signatory authority based on the amount of the payment and described the thresholds for various levels of partner signatures. As a result, she continued, several BFP GOV policies were included in the board binders for review and approval. Ms. Hensler reviewed each GOV policy and the changes made. She also commented that the board had been provided with Brevard C.A.R.E.S. GOV BC 1008 (also signatory authority) so that the BFP Board could approve the change for the effective date of transition. She shared that this revised GOV policy will be presented to and executed by the Brevard C.A.R.E.S. Board in August.

**Motion:** Ms. Rich New moved to approve the proposed revisions to both BFP GOV 201 and Brevard C.A.R.E.S. BC GOV 1008 (Signatory Authority). This was seconded by Ms. Goldfarb and the motion was passed unanimously.

**Motion:** Mr. Broom moved to approve the proposed revisions to BFP GOV 206 (Bank Accounts). This was seconded by Ms. Bailey and the motion was passed unanimously.

**Motion:** Ms. Bailey moved to approve the proposed revisions to BFP GOV 208 (Accounting Practices). This was seconded by Ms. Goldfarb and the motion was passed unanimously.

Dr. Nellius then referenced the need for a board recruitment subcommittee meeting and proposed August 1, 2013. She invited all board members to attend and indicated that an e-mail confirmation with the time would be sent to all members.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie M. Randall  
Recording Secretary

Approved at Board Meeting August 22, 2013