

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
March 24, 2011 BOARD MEETING
MINUTES

Board Members in Attendance: Mr. William Ryder, Board Chair, Mr. Stockton Whitten, Board Vice Chair, Judge Kelly McKibben, Board Treasurer, Mr. Leo Roselip, Ms. Irene Burnett, Ms. Helen Voltz, Ms. Brooke Deratany Goldfarb, and Mr. Sam Gutierrez

Board Members Absent: Mr. Mel Broom

Others in Attendance: Dr. Patricia Nellius, Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Debbie Davidson-Cook, Chief Compliance & Utilization Officer, Mr. Chad Carnell, CFO, Mr. James Carlson, Chief Operations Officer, Mr. Geo Ropert, Director of Communications, Ms. Stephanie Strodman, Executive Assistant, Ms. LaChrista Jones, Child and Family Program Manager, Ms. Linda Marshall, Client Relations Specialist, and Ms. Kelly Swartz, Staff Attorney. Also in attendance were Ms. Charla Myers and Ms. Pam Whittington from The Haven, Ms. Michelle Scott, Children's Home Society, Dr. Jack Sidoran, DCF, Mr. Robert Shea, DCF and Mr. Fletcher Valentine, DCF, Ms. Christine Barker, Crosswinds, Ms. Natasha Murphy and Mr. Antwan Murphy, Brevard Family Partnership family, Mr. Joseph Martin, IL Youth, and Ms. Janice Claiborne, Children's Home Society.

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

Mr. Whitten presented Dr. Nellius with the "Children's Hero" award, one of three (3) presented to community leaders by Eckerd Youth Alternatives at the organization's annual "Brevard Walk of Fame" gala held on March 5, 2011. Dr. Nellius was recognized for her talent in transitioning Brevard County's child welfare system of care which has helped to dramatically improve the safety of at-risk children. Mr. Whitten and Mr. Ryder acknowledged Dr. Nellius' work in the community and thanked her for her service and dedication to Brevard's children and families.

Judge Kelly McKibben arrived.

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

Motion: Mr. Whitten moved to approve the minutes from the February 24, 2011 Board meeting. This was seconded by Ms. Burnett and the motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Carlson welcomed guests Ms. Natasha Murphy and Mr. Antwan Murphy along with Ms. Janice Claiborne, Children's Home Society Care Manager. The Murphy family was introduced as one of Ms. Claiborne's families who received services as a result of concerns regarding the safety of their children. The Murphy's shared their story, thanked Ms Claiborne for her involvement with the team which helped to identify needed services. Mr. Murphy shared that he took parenting classes, anger management, counseling, and that the whole family received counseling and behavior analyst services. Mr. Gutierrez thanked the Murphy's for coming and sharing their story with the board.

Mr. Carlson introduced another guest, Mr. Joseph Martin who received services through Crosswinds Independent Living (IL) program. Mr. Martin shared that he exited foster care at age 18 and did not have anywhere to live so he contacted Crosswinds. He now has a house, a fiancée with two children, received his GED through the Fast Track program, and is waiting to attend the local Community College. Ms. Christine Barker expressed enthusiasm for Mr. Martin's progress in the IL program and shared that he will be working as a Teachers Assistant while attending classes to be an air conditioning technician.

Ms. Helen Voltz arrived.

Mr. Carlson noted there are several bills for Independent Living in the House and Senate which are being tracked as they progress through the legislative process. Dr. Nellius credited the community for their foresight in addressing the needs of Brevard's Children and Families and by developing the IL program.

The next item was the Consent Agenda which included:

The Board Report
The Operations Data Report
The Financial Statements
A Legislative Update

Dr. Nellius spoke about the wraparound conference and thanked Ms. Stephanie Strodman and Mr. Geo Ropert for their involvement and leadership in the conference planning. She noted that the invite-only reception was well received. One of the guests, Dr. Kay Hodges, is piloting a new pre and post evaluation tool for Brevard C.A.R.E.S. and has offered to do so on a pro bono basis which will help better serve the children and families. National leaders such as The National Wraparound Initiative, Dr. Eric Bruns, Dr. Janet Walker, Mr. Dan Naylor, Mr. John Franz, and Mr. Gary DeCarolis have all endorsed the work of Brevard Family Partnership.

Dr. Nellius mentioned that she has started crafting a letter for the National Advisory Board which will come back to the board for approval. She recently had a conversation with the president of Child Trends who expressed interest in partnering with Brevard Family Partnership to fund the evaluations for the Brevard C.A.R.E.S. pilot replication sites.

Dr. Nellius informed the board that BFP is at a "critical juncture" with regards to the diversification program and proposed holding an executive session to discuss important upcoming issues. Mr. Ryder commented that this is a very important step which the board needs to evaluate carefully.

Motion: Mr. Roselip moved to schedule an executive meeting to be held on April 28, 2011 immediately following the regularly scheduled board meeting. This was seconded by Ms. Voltz and the motion was passed unanimously.

Dr. Nellius provided some brief legislative updates, including current bills in the House and Senate, funding issues, and an update on the Barahona case in Miami.

Action Item: Mr. Ropert will send out a synopsis of the bills and the activities occurring in the House and Senate to all board members.

Dr. Nellius reported that she, Mr. Roselip and Mr. Carlson met with the director of Connected by 25 to discuss ideas regarding bringing the program under Brevard Family Partnership. Dr. Nellius shared that the parties discussed the prospect of possibly dissolving the current program as it is established and completely re-branding the initiative with a focus on exclusive needs of Brevard's youth. Mr. Ropert stated that he agreed with the recommendation that Cby25 should come under the leadership of Brevard Family Partnership and establish a new brand and identity.

Mr. Carnell distributed the Statement of Activities and the Statement of Financial Position. He commented on the Wraparound Conference budget and expenses, along with the In-Home support, and Substance Abuse and Mental Health (SAMH) budget issues. Dr. Nellius emphasized that although there are financial constraints and issues to be resolved, Brevard Family Partnership will not reduce services to children and families in the community and that in spite of limitations BFP has been committed to annually increasing capacity of services.

Mr. Ryder reported on the meeting with Secretary Wilkins and the Board Chairs. Mr. Ryder feels that in spite of the circumstances surrounding the Barahona case, Secretary Wilkins was focused and will be a very positive influence for the Community Based Care initiative.

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

Judge McKibben welcomed Mr. Gutierrez back as a re-elected member board. The recruitment committee met on March 11, 2011. Judge McKibben reported that there are two (2) individuals she expects to submit applications for board membership. She discussed GOV006 and the background screening requirements which the committee feels are quite cumbersome, particularly the fingerprinting requirement before the board approval. Judge McKibben proposed reversing the order and allowing a candidate to be fingerprinted after the board has approved to move forward with the recommendation. Ms. Burnett expressed her feelings on this issue and endorsed revising the background screening requirements.

Motion: Mr. Whitten moved to revise the GOV006 policy on Background Screening and Fingerprint requirements, to allow potential members board approval prior to being subject to a background screening and fingerprinting. This was seconded by Ms. Voltz and the motion was passed unanimously.

Judge McKibben presented the board orientation tool and highlighted the major changes made to the tool.

Motion: Mr. Roselip moved to accept the changes to the orientation tool. This was seconded by Judge McKibben and the motion was passed unanimously.

Judge McKibben commented on the possibility of Dr. Nellius hosting optional training and orientation sessions for board members who are interested in attending. The recruitment subcommittee suggested that these meetings be scheduled immediately after regularly scheduled board meetings and the topics will be selected by Dr. Nellius. Dr. Nellius agreed to this, and recommended that the process be implemented on July 1, 2011.

Motion: Mr. Roselip moved to schedule the orientation meetings with Dr. Nellius after regular board meetings, beginning July 1, 2011. This was seconded by Ms. Voltz and the motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Roselip commented on the fund development committee, noting that they have not officially met to date. The goal of the committee is to raise funds for the agency, whether through grant writing or fundraising. The staff members are unable to fundraise and therefore the board needs to be involved. Developing a volunteer program would benefit the organization but it must be done right and treat the volunteers well and act quickly when individuals volunteer to participate. Mr. Roselip developed a volunteer manual which he distributed and asked the board to review and discuss at a future date.

Ms. Kelly Swartz, Staff Attorney at Brevard Family Partnership distributed the conflict of interest policy. She explained that the purpose of the policy is to avoid duality of interest and any appearance of conflict. Ms. Swartz stated that the goals are to identify potential conflicts, have full disclosure, and bring issues before the board to vote on and determine if there is a potential conflict. Mr. Roselip expressed that he feels the definition of conflict of interest surrounds the issues of whether an individual is receiving financial gain. Mr. Ryder suggested that if Mr. Roselip has further questions about conflict of interest he speak to Ms. Swartz in detail at a later date.

Ms. Linda Marshall presented the Risk and Compliance Satisfaction Survey.

The board decided to defer the Adoption Process overview until the April board meeting due to time constraints. Mr. Ropert informed the board that there are two spaces available for Children's Week in Tallahassee and if any board member would like to attend he needs to know today.

Motion: Judge McKibben moved to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Ms. Voltz and the motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Strodman
Recording Secretary

Approved at the Board of Directors Meeting April 26, 2011