

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
September 26, 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, and Ms. Kathleen Rich New.

Board Members Absent: Mr. Eric Smith and Officer Michael Cadore.

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. Rita Elkins, Director of Development. Also in attendance were Ms. Valerie Holmes, Brevard C.A.R.E.S., Dr. Andrew Schneider-Munoz, NCIE, Ms. Michelle Scott, CHS, Mr. Bill Bucher, Devereux, Ms. Lisa Kroger, Devereux, Mr. Eric Beck, Bouchard Insurance, Ms. Tiffany Edwards, James Moore, Ms. Laura Higginbotham, Devereux, Mr. Jerry Sansom, Sansom Group, Ms. Betsy Farmer, Promise of Brevard, Ms. Marianne Hendrix, Promise of Brevard, and Ms. Debbie Morgan, DCF.

Mr. Whitten opened the meeting and welcomed all. He then requested those present state their names for the record.

Motion: Judge McKibben moved to approve the agenda. This was seconded by Mr. Gutierrez 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. Goldfarb moved to approve the August 22, 2013 board minutes. This was seconded by Ms. Rich New and the motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Whitten acknowledged the guests and expressed his appreciation to them for their overviews. He also shared that we have a former County Judge who has been appointed to Circuit Judge by the Governor and recognized Judge McKibben. She received a round of applause. Ms. Goldfarb commented that this is the second such appointment received by the Judge.

Dr. Nellius was then asked to present the first guest. She acknowledged Ms. Betsy Farmer whom she has known for many years. She shared that they both have adult children with disabilities and that she (Dr. Nellius) had been on the board of Promise of Brevard but had recently resigned for reasons that would become clear during the presentation. She asked Ms. Farmer to present her organization and Dr. Nellius commented that BFP has entered into an agreement with Promise of Brevard to provide administrative services to this organization.

Ms. Farmer addressed the board. She indicated that her son (age 28) has Downs Syndrome and that he has really been the inspiration for her work in this area. She shared a depiction of the new Promise community layout on an easel and described the uses of each parcel including the current 39 acres just purchased. She shared the vision of having young adult housing which will include those youth with disabilities but also for youth attending universities who will serve to mentor and support the residents. She described the community building which will provide a restaurant, computer lab, a hair and nail salon – run by the youth which will serve adults with special needs as well as other clients and she indicated that Promise is partnering with Special Olympics to serve as a site for this event as well.

She described plans for riding stables, and a residential area for the parents of the young adults who reside at Promise. She stated that 100 families have signed up already. She also told the Board that in Florida 5% of the low income housing tax credits (\$22M) must be designated for those with disabilities and Florida is the only state that does this. She shared that eight (8) businesses will also be located at Promise which will provide employment opportunities for the residents and she stated that the first thrift store – Promise Treasures – has opened as well. Ms. Farmer also spoke about a 17 acre park in West Melbourne where Promise will have a food truck that will offer the vegetables and plants grown at Promise.

Ms. Goldfarb asked how Ms. Farmer came up with all these wonderful ideas and concepts. Ms. Farmer expressed much of this started with her own vision which was augmented by the youth and their families. Dr. Nellius added that when a parent with a disabled young adult looks to the future they are looking for solutions and a safe place where their children can live and be productive when the parent is no longer able to provide the case management activities themselves. Dr. Schneider-Munoz added that the Casey initiative is also working on how to address housing concepts for youth on a national basis and that this aligns very well with that desire and vision. Having no more questions, the board applauded and thanked Ms. Farmer for her presentation.

Next, Dr. Nellius introduced Mr. Jerry Sansom and asked that he address the board. He spoke about the recent legislative meetings in Tallahassee and that this year we are able to be much more proactive in addressing issues with our legislators early in the process. He spoke about meetings with Senator Gardiner's staff, budget committee meetings where Ms. Dixie Sansom and Geo Ropert attended and a meeting with Representative Harrell. He shared that Representative Crisafulli met with the subcommittee chair of appropriations in order to convey the reality of CBC's and the funding; and that Representative Hudson also understands the needs and direction. Mr. Sansom indicated meetings will take place monthly until January when they will increase in frequency. He shared that both Representatives Gardiner and Crisafulli will support valuable issues and needs. Having no questions, the board applauded and thanked Mr. Sansom for his presentation. Mr. Whitten then asked if Mr. Ropert would like to provide his update at this time.

Mr. Ropert addressed the board and shared that Representative Hudson understands the funding formula as well as systems of care and the impact some of the models have on the provision of quality care. He spoke about the Healthy Families subcommittee meeting where one Judge's view, based on his local experiences, provided a less than favorable perspective of the CBC initiative to those subcommittee members. He expressed concern as many of the members are new and do not have a historical view of Florida's child welfare system. Ms. Swartz commented that our local Judge would have provided a very different view than the Judge selected to speak. Dr. Nellius commented that this Judge spoke from his unique perspective related to his Circuit and that it is not representative of the state. She indicated that she has the transcript of his comments that can be forwarded to any board member wishing to read it. She concluded that this testimony created a perception of the system that is not representative state wide.

Next Mr. Eric Beck with Bouchard Insurance was asked to provide an overview of the agency's insurance coverages. He addressed the board and shared that the prior carrier had determined it did not want to continue in this arena (child welfare) based on a 200% loss ratio. He stated that the Alliance for Non Profit Insurance, originally from California, had entered the state a few years ago and is our current carrier. He also commented that he met with Kurt Kelly and many CBC CEO's during the Dependency Summit to address statewide insurance concerns and issues for the CBC's. He provided an overview of the agency insurances including incident and aggregate limitations and shared that all three (3) agencies are covered in the same policy except for the D&O insurance which is separate for each agency. He discussed ongoing concerns with limiting awards and capping these regardless of the number of agencies named in suits but acknowledged this is a difficult discussion and that there is strong opposition.

He stated that the date of February 1, 2005 is the original date of insurance coverage and this continues for us regardless of change of carrier. Some discussion took place and the question was asked regarding the increase to the total insurance cost for this year. Mr. Beck replied indicating that the final total cost was negotiated down from the initial bid which was a strong savings to the agencies.

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 referencing the July scorecard where BFP ranked 6th and expressed appreciation to the providers who have participated in the scorecard subcommittee work. She shared that DCF is working with Jim Casey on the scorecard measures. Dr. Nellius stated that a board Recruitment Subcommittee was held and that two (2) potential candidates were to be presented, but that the evening prior to the meeting, she was contacted by both to indicate that as they are working on federal contracts they would be unable to attend board meetings during the day. She shared that some potential candidates were proposed by Mr. Gutierrez and Mr. Smith and that meetings with some of these will take place. She reminded all board members that they are welcome to submit potential board member candidates.

She then spoke about BFP having been designated as the second Youth Thrive Framework site with the first being the State of New Jersey. She said that one of the requirements is that Independent Living or former foster youth are engaged in all levels of the system of care. She shared that she had wanted to include a former consumer on the board and that Ms. Bailey had been approved and is a valuable member of the Board. She indicated that she has identified a former Independent Living youth who had also been employed by Brevard C.A.R.E.S. and that she would like to explore board membership with this youth. There were no objections.

Dr. Nellius confirmed that Ms. Emily Furlong with Rollins will be attending the Board Retreat to conduct Philanthropic training. She also thanked Ms. Goldfarb for speaking at a recent Melbourne Beach Rotary event where she accepted, on behalf of BFP, a donation from the club in the amount of \$2500.00. She also expressed gratitude to Mr. Eric Smith, and asked the members to thank him when they see him, for his donation as Title Sponsor for the upcoming Run/Walk for Love in the amount of \$2500.00. Dr. Nellius shared that there is a stellar line up on speakers confirmed for the upcoming WRAP conference in March 2014 and she indicated that she and Kelly Swartz are working to define and structure the new ASO organization. She asked Ms. Swartz to comment. Ms. Swartz indicated that she is working with Jane Callahan, outside counsel, to define the structure of this new entity as well as the board constellation and that Promise may become part of the sibling group. Dr. Nellius spoke about the Dependency Summit and that it was a great event and that Ms. Dixie Sansom and Ms. Kathleen Rich New attended. She asked Ms. Rich New to comment.

Ms. Rich New shared that she had met with Kurt Kelly and learned about the FCFC. She then shared information from a workshop she attended regarding teens in foster care and Trauma Informed Care. She provided some examples of the challenges these youth face, that perspectives are very different and that this was a wonderful overview of their issues, concerns and how best to approach and work with these youth. Dr. Nellius interjected by discussing family "norms" which while they may not seem always to be in the child's best interest, they are the "norms" with which the youth are comfortable and shifting their culture and norms is also stressful when placed in care. She indicated that this is why the BFP system is moving to the Trauma Informed Care approach to the system of care and she thanked Ms. Rich New for her comments.

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

Ms. Holmes addressed the board and indicated that the ACHA site visit went well in preparation for the agency to become a Medicaid provider. She shared that the COA self-study was submitted on September 10th and the on-site visit will take place between November 10 and 12. She also shared that the agency received a mini-grant from ABC for \$2500.00 which will help with the Cribs for Kids program slated in the Titusville area. The board thanked Ms. Holmes for her report.

NCIE Report:

Dr. Schneider-Munoz addressed the board and thanked Dr. Nellius and Mr. Ropert for their great contributions to the publication materials regarding the Center and the National Wraparound Conference. He indicated he attended a national conference and many of these leaders were impressed with the collateral and requested the Save the Date notices he had with him. He also shared that what had brought so many top leaders to the WRAP conference is the wonderful work that is being done in Brevard and he gave kudos to those BFP staff working on the Wrap conference. He shared that Child Trends will attend and will be offering technical assistance as a value add to the conference. He spoke about the ongoing Casey investment in the Center and its focus on youth initiatives. He also indicated he continues to work with DCF and they are accepting some of his recommendations.

New Business:

Ms. Hensler indicated that the loan agreement between BFP and the Center required more clarifying language and that this will be proposed for Board approval and will be made retroactive to the effective date of the agreement for clarification purposes. She indicated that the following language under the payment clause (final sentence) is required in order to articulate the intent of the agreement:

This loan is repayable beginning 36 months from the effective date of this agreement, April 1, 2013, or the date executed, whichever is later. A repayment schedule will be prepared 6 months prior to the beginning of the scheduled repayment of this loan. **An amount, up to the full amount of the loan may be forgiven each fiscal year at the sole discretion of the Brevard Family Partnership Board of Directors.**

Motion: Ms. Rich New moved to approve the additional language to the loan agreement between BFP and the Center. This was seconded by Mr. Broom and the motion was passed unanimously.

Financial Report:

Ms. Hensler introduced Ms. Tiffany Edwards who presented the July and August Financial Statements. These were provided to each board member. Ms. Edwards reviewed the financial statements, explained why there was higher revenue in July – as the agency was provided with two (2) months of the contract dollars and pointed out that both services and Independent Living expenses are running ahead of budget. She reviewed the new formats and explained the documents and indicated that if the board members wished to have additional information to let Ms. Hensler know and she will pass on the request. Mr. Gutierrez requested that a column be added to show the percent of change month to month and Ms. Edwards indicated she would forward a template for his review. There were no additional questions and the board thanked Ms. Edwards.

Judge McKibben then referenced the proposed changes to the terms of the three (3) Board Officer roles. She shared that it was thought the board may want to have greater flexibility than currently offered and that these proposed revisions would do that and allow board members to remain in Officer roles longer than currently permitted. She also indicated this would not impact the current Gov policy on Officer elections and notifications.

Motion: Ms. Goldfarb moved to approve the proposed changes allowing for four (4) one year terms or two (2) two year terms for each Officer position. This was seconded by Mr. Broom and the motion was passed unanimously.

Dr. Nellius then reviewed the Strategic Plan Goal #2: Goal 2:

- QUALITY ASSURANCE – Collect and use data and research to forecast needs and to improve services

Objective:

- Maintain strong emphasis on evidence based practices and performance measures for QA/QI

Strategy:

2a. Optimize best practices/evidence based practices in the community to improve quality of services

Action Plan:

- Add additional points for accreditation to procurements.
- Credential providers and programs according to credentials, years of experience, education and specialty.

Define referral pathways and profile of populations served by each subcontracted program.

Dr. Nellius reported that Ms. Davidson Cook was chairing the Pathways to Excellence subcommittee which is looking at programs and evaluating these and outcomes to ensure that we make the best possible matches to better meet the needs of our consumers. She also spoke of the provider credentialing initiative, also led by Ms. Davidson Cook which will define and provide more specifics about our providers so that best matches can be made with and for our consumers. The push for continuing more evidence based programs is also moving along with a total of four (4) currently in the system of care.

Mr. Whitten asked if there were public comments. Ms. Goldfarb shared that she had taken a tour of the Devereux facility and that everyone was wonderful and helpful and that she will serve as a guest reader there. Ms. Goldfarb spoke about two upcoming events with other local organizations that she feels do great work. This Saturday morning Sally's House is having a fashion show to raise money at the Eau Gallie Yacht Club and she is also participating as a model. That evening Club Esteem is having a fund raiser and she invited all to help support these two great organizations. She also commented on one youth she is working with and that she is very excited that he is moving toward his HS diploma and evaluating further education.

Mr. Bill Bucher suggested that Ms. Goldfarb also tour the Devereux facility cafeteria which he claimed was "great" and accommodates many different dietary needs. He then introduced Ms. Lisa Kroger who will be leading the Devereux operations in Brevard once Mr. Bucher leaves.

Mr. Whitten then directed the members to the attendance list and shared that this is an important aspect of board membership and that he will be speaking with Mr. Cadore.

Dr. Nellius then shared her upcoming vacation plans and reminded the board about the week she will be away at the Georgetown Institute. Mr. Whitten then thanked staff for all they do to support the organization.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie M. Randall
Recording Secretary

Approved at the October 24, 2013 Board Meeting