



ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
September 13, 2023

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Board Members in Attendance:

- Mr. Dan Rodgers, Board Chair
- Ms. Paula Ferrell, Board Treasurer
- Ms. Tracy Newman, Board Member
- Ms. Christa Bailey, Board Co-Chair
- Ms. Brittany Bartusek, Board Member

Board Members not in Attendance:

- Ms. Samantha Johnson, Board Member

Others in Attendance:

- Mr. Phil Scarpelli, FOA President and CEO
- Ms. Rebecca Melick, Brevard C.A.R.E.S. Executive Director
- Mrs. Taheerah Jones, Board Liaison

Dan Rodgers calls the meeting to order at 4:32.

Mr. Rodgers reminded members that if they had a real or perceived conflict of interest to please complete the Conflict-of-Interest form. None reported.

Consent Action Items

Mr. Rodgers asked the Board to make a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion: Mr. Rodgers moved to approve the agenda. This was seconded by Ms. Bailey and the motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Rodgers asked the Board to make a motion to approve the minutes from the August Advisory Board meeting.

Motion: Mr. Rodgers moved to approve the meeting minutes from the August Advisory Board Meeting. This was seconded by Ms. Ferrell and the motion was passed unanimously.

Informational Items

Mr. Scarpelli starts the meeting sharing he will be having weekly lunches with either a senator or a representative, to discuss our impact within the community. These gatherings will also include foster and adopted families who will share their stories.

Mr. Scarpelli also shares that he met with a delegate from Titusville, who is not only an adoptive parent but also deeply passionate about learning and understanding the plight of child welfare.

Mr. Scarpelli goes on to discuss the history of child welfare in Florida. He states that from then to now, the goal has been to innovate and engage the community to disrupt the stagnation that once characterized the system. In the past, children remained in care for extended periods, largely due to systemic stalling, while children in need of services were numerous. However, since then, significant progress has been made with the federal government enacting additional laws to further propel us forward. Mr. Scarpelli emphasizes the importance of board members becoming familiar with these types of stories and the evolution of child welfare over the last two decades.

Mr. Scarpelli mentions he will not attend the next advisory board meeting because he will be attending a national network of child welfare agencies conference in Texas.

Mr. Scarpelli states as the county's population grows, it will inevitably lead to the emergence of new cases involving families in need of our assistance. Therefore, when he speaks with legislators, he aims to convey our passion and commitment to relentlessly pursue a deeper understanding of the population we serve.

Mr. Scarpelli advises if the Advisory Board Members have any questions or concerns to contact him directly.

Mr. Rodgers introduces Ms. Melick to present the Executive Director Report.

Ms. Melick shares that one of the officers/commanders wrote a lengthy nomination for the MRT Program. In the nomination, they specifically highlighted how the program's efforts have significantly reduced the workload for their Patrol Officers and Community Service Division, as evidenced by the decrease in call volume. This success story gained considerable attention, as it was published in three different media outlets.

Ms. Melick shares our Family Stabilization Support Program and recently had an opportunity to feature a testimony from one of the families they serve, highlighting the support they received. This family not only received tangible assistance but also benefited from connections to additional services. The impactful testimony was well received, and we are considering sharing it on our social media platforms.

Ms. Melick recently attended an internal meeting with our Quality Assurance Team and Family Allies to strategize for the upcoming year and explore ways to streamline documentation for our case managers. The objective is to achieve improved QA outcomes across the Family of Agencies.

Ms. Bartusek shared her recent experience of utilizing the MRT program for a patient in a suicidal crisis. She emphasized that her call to MRT resulted in their prompt assistance. During the interaction, she effectively communicated the patient's needs to the MRT team, and she mentioned that they plan to follow up with the patient. Overall, she conveyed that it was a positive experience.

The next meeting will be held on October 11, 2023, in person at the CCC office.

Mr. Rodgers asks if anyone wants to comment and then adjourns the meeting at 5:08 pm.

Member/Public Comment:

There was none.

The meeting adjourned at 5:08pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Taheerah Jones
Board Liaison