



ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

October 11, 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
- Mr. Don Johnson, Family of Agencies CFO
- Mrs. Taheerah Jones, Board Liaison

Dan Rodgers calls the meeting to order at 4:35.

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: Ms. Ferrell moved to approve the agenda. This was seconded by Ms. Newman and the motion was passed unanimously.

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

Motion: Ms. Newman moved to approve the meeting minutes from the September Advisory Board Meeting. This was seconded by Ms. Bailey and the motion was passed unanimously.

Informational Items

Mr. Scarpelli informs us that he had a meeting with Shevaun Harris, the DCF Secretary, to gain insights into the direction the department is heading. Despite some progress made in the last two

decades, she hopes for ongoing growth and flourishing relationships. She inquired if we would be interested in cofacilitating some work groups statewide to talk about the challenges in child welfare. Mr. Scarpelli mentions BFP, CARES and Family Allies are all in. We want to be a part of the solution and not the problem!

Mr. Rodger asks if there are any questions for Mr. Scarpelli.

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

Ms. Melick shares that in September the Family Stabilization Support Team presented in conjunction with Dr. Holmes and the Central Florida Cares Health System to discuss various aspects of the program at the DCF Summit. Also, last week some of the team members from FSST met with Embrace Families to share details about the program. It was a great meeting, and they are interested in duplicating what this team has done.

Ms. Melick shares in the previous month we observed Child Welfare Worker Appreciation Week and organized a Grab'n Go Luncheon for our staff to celebrate their dedicated efforts each day. The gesture was warmly received and greatly appreciated by the team.

Ms. Melick mentions that our first supervisor has successfully obtained their Supervisor Certification from the Florida Certification Board. Moreover, we have additional staff members who will be prepared for their exams in the near future.

Ms. Melick informs us that there have been multiple news features about the Mobile Response Team. On September 27th, WFTV showcased the success of the MPD MRT in a segment. A family member of one of our clients participated in the story, sharing her experience. Additionally, the same client was interviewed for another story on a different news station, emphasizing the team's significance not only for the individual they served but for the entire household.

Ms. Melick mentioned their participation in a "Coffee with Partners" event at the Children's Advocacy Center, where community partners convened to explore avenues for enhancing relationships and the effectiveness of our collective efforts. Additionally, she informed us about an upcoming community baby shower scheduled for October 14th from 10 am – 12 pm at Discover Life Church.

Mr. Rodgers introduces Don Johnson to present the Financial Reports

Mr. Johnson shares we are already through the 1st quarter of the fiscal year. The first quarter financials will be ready soon. The largest change is that we are required to submit spending plans and quarterly budget projections to DCF.

Mr. Johnson also discusses that we are going to figure out how to develop a spending plan and ensure that our expenditures align with our allocated funding. Despite CARES operating somewhat independently, broader-scale changes to CBC's have an impact on the funding stream. We are actively exploring the most creative and minimally disruptive ways to enhance efficiency. While the financial forecast is not particularly favorable, CARES is currently successful at adhering to the budget.

Mr. Scarpelli highlights the need to reassess healthcare costs. The focus is now on seeking vendors who are open to presenting proposals that encompass both payroll processing and benefits. The escalating insurance expenses are adversely affecting our frontline employees.

Mr. Rodgers asks if anyone wants to comment and then adjourns the meeting at 5:17 pm.

The next meeting will be held on November 8, 2023, in person at the CCC office.

Member/Public Comment:

There was none.

The meeting adjourned at 5:17pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Taheerah Jones
Board Liaison