



ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

November 8, 2023

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Board Members in Attendance:

- Ms. Christa Bailey, Board Co-Chair
- Ms. Paula Ferrell, Board Treasurer
- Ms. Brittany Bartusek, Board Member

Board Members not in Attendance:

- Mr. Dan Rodgers, Board Chair
- Ms. Samantha Johnson, Board Member
- Ms. Tracy Newman, 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

Christa Bailey calls the meeting to order at 4:40 pm.

Ms. Bailey 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. Bailey asked the Board to make a motion to approve the agenda.

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

Ms. Bailey asked the Board to make a motion to approve the minutes from the October Advisory Board meeting.

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

Informational Items

Mr. Scarpelli shares he went to Tallahassee to meet with the Secretary, her team, and the CBC CEOs across the state to discuss communication, trust, and partnerships.

Mr. Scarpelli also stated there are 17 contracts for the agencies out for bid starting with the 5-year renewals.

Mr. Scarpelli also shared the Community-Based Care organizations came together independently to talk about some things they can work on. Whether addressing diversion prevention or dependency, the goal is to support the well-being of the children under their care.

Mr. Scarpelli mentioned Secretary Shevaun Harris will be attending the Celebration of Adoption Ceremony taking place on November 13, 2023.

Ms. Bailey introduces Ms. Melick to present the Executive Director Report.

Ms. Melick recently attended a few events within the community which included the Community Baby Shower and Buddy Walk for Down Syndrome.

Ms. Melick mentions CARES referrals have increased possibly due to the events throughout the county and social media awareness especially for the Cribs for Kids program.

Ms. Melick shares the MRT team will have an upcoming news story on News 6 Orlando, and they will let her know when they have a projected air date. There have been talks about possibly expanding the team due to an increase in calls. In October they responded to 60 crisis responses with only 2 therapists. They are currently developing relationships with Cocoa and Palm Bay Police Departments. There aren't imbedded teams at these locations, but they are a part of the training process.

Ms. Melick mentions the phone system for the MRT team will be switched to better assist them due to concerns arising from the current provider.

Ms. Melick shared information about the Family First Prevention Services Act which is a federal law dedicated to preserving children's placement within the home. It places a strong emphasis on utilizing evidence-based services to prevent children from entering out-of-home care. Title IV-E funds are authorized to cover the cost of the services. We are currently in the early stages of identifying CARES families eligible for existing services, aiming for an initial 30% engagement in services throughout the case's duration. As we progress into the new year and additional services become accessible, our goal will expand accordingly.

Ms. Melick also shared there is still a vacancy for our Parenting with Love and Limits Therapist, and they are hoping to fill that position as soon as possible since there is currently a waiting list for the program.

Ms. Bailey introduces Don Johnson to present the financial report.

Mr. Johnson shared we are in the process of the prior year audit and the goal is to have everything wrapped up before the Christmas holiday.

Mr. Johnson reports CARES is 2% under budget and the one area that is slightly above would be the cell phones due to new employees and replacing old equipment.

Ms. Bailey asks if anyone wants to comment and then adjourns the meeting at 5:31 pm.

The next meeting will be held on January 10, 2024, in person at the CCC office.

Member/Public Comment:

There was none.

The meeting adjourned at 5:31pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Taheerah Jones
Board Liaison