

Jackson County Community Children's Services Fund Board Meeting Minutes

October 5, 2017, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Mid-America Regional Council Office, Westview Room

Board Members Present:

Rhonda Holman, Chair
The Honorable Ann Mesle
Brian Kaberline
Jovanna Rohs, Ph.D.
Marietta Parker, J.D.
Rachelle Styles
Bob Bartman, Ed.D.

Board Members Absent:

Dred Scott, Ed.D.

Guests: Nancy Atwater – Preferred Family Healthcare; Barbara Friedmann – Community Together; Sally Groves – Hall Family Foundation; Mayra Aguirre – Hall Family Foundation; Ashley Burke – Jackson County; Jaime Masters – Jackson County; Robin Winner – Synergy Services; Christy Weld – Newhouse

Rhonda Holman called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m. The meeting started with a roll call of the board members, and guests were invited to introduce themselves.

Minutes: Dir. Holman presented the minutes from the September 7, 2017 meeting and asked for a motion to approve and/or amend them. There being no amendments it was moved (Dir. Parker) and seconded (Dir. Mesle) that the minutes be approved. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Review/Approval of the Proposed Agenda: The agenda was changed to reflect that the members of the working group for selecting Legal Counsel are: Directors Mesle, Kaberline, Parker, and Scott. The agenda was then approved.

Election of Officers: Dir. Holman stated that in May the board committed to hold officer elections again within 60 days of adopting the initial set of by-laws, when members would be more familiar with each other and the work that lay ahead. There was a brief discussion about when terms actually began, and Dir. Holman read the years when board members terms end. Because officer elections are called for at the annual meeting in January the board discussed whether to proceed with elections both today and again in January. Dir. Bartman suggested that the officers be elected today, and the board can decide about January elections later. The board's membership will have changed somewhat by that time because of voluntary resignations from conflicted members. Dr. Bartman's suggestion was adopted by consensus.

Dir. Mesle nominated Dir. Holman for Chair. The vote was unanimous to re-elect her. Dir. Parker nominated Dir. Rohs as Vice-Chair. The vote was unanimous to elect her. Dir. Cordoba nominated Dir. Kaberline for Secretary. The vote was unanimous to elect him to the office. Dir. Bartman nominated Dir. Styles as Treasurer. She was unanimously re-elected.

Surety Bonding: Dir. Styles reported that the JCCCSF now has secured the surety bonding required by MO statute. It was obtained through the Robert E Miller Insurance Group for up to a \$15 million loss for one year. Dir. Bartman moved that the board ratify the action in terms of the surety bond. Dir. Mesle seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

Dir. Holman reported that the JCCCSF now has a checking account at Commerce Bank. The JCCCSF received approximately \$4.3 million from April through September. Dir. Styles recommended that all invoices be paid once a month at the board meeting. Her recommendation was approved by consensus.

Initial Funding Priorities and Goals: Dir. Rohs presented the report that she prepared, "Proposed Initial Funding Priorities." She started by reviewing the statute that spells out the types of services that the Fund may purchase. She then outlined the focus areas of two other health agencies that fund behavioral health services for youth, Jackson County Mental Health Fund and United Way of Greater Kansas City.

Dir. Rohs went on to discuss the 2011 collaborative research study, "Children's Behavioral Health Needs Assessment." The Kansas City metropolitan area was defined in the report as Allen, Johnson, and Wyandotte counties in Kansas; Cass, Jackson and Lafayette in Missouri, and included portions of Clay and Platte counties.

The study included both provider and consumer surveys. The top three services used by all respondents to the consumer survey were: 1) assessment of behavioral health issues; 2) education to deal with behavioral health issues; 3) specialists to treat child.

The top three services needed by respondents to the consumer survey were: 1) education to deal with behavioral health issues; 2) assessment of behavioral health issues; 3) coordination with other systems of care.

The top three services representing a barrier to access--defined as "Needed Service and Had Trouble Getting" --were: 1) coordination with other systems of care; 2) transportation to/from services; and 3) specialist to treat child. The transportation issue was discussed. JCCCSF is prohibited by statute from spending funds on transportation. This points to the importance of having service providers spread throughout the county.

The top three services representing a gap ("needed service and couldn't get") were: 1) coordination with other systems of care; 2) transportation to/from services; 3) crisis services when child is acute. Dir. Holman reported that a study on how Missouri's Medicaid program should be changed involved focus groups of both policy wonks and consumers. The two groups had very different outcomes and showed the need to hear varied voices and to involve multiple perspectives on social problems like the ones that the JCCCSF will address. She also said that she had seen beautifully designed programs that were not well used because consumers' perspectives had not been well enough understood.

Dir. Rohs said that the "Children's Behavioral Needs Assessment" is the most comprehensive report on these issues, and it is still utilized as a resource by others. She said that service categories in the report matched the Children's Service Fund's fairly well, and acknowledged a dearth of service access data collection in the County.

The transportation issue was discussed further. Dir. Bartman asked if there are other agencies that provide transportation. He shared 2 approaches that a local school district took to help connect students and families to services, and the respective costs and utilization experienced with each. Dir.

Rohs said that this access barrier points to the importance of home-based and community-based services that make it easier for consumers to engage with.

Dir. Rohs suggested that the potential funding priorities based on the top four needs are:

- up to 30 days of temporary shelter for abused, neglected, runaway, homeless or emotionally disturbed youth;
- home-based and community-based family intervention programs;
- prevention programs which promote healthy lifestyles among children and youth and strengthen families, Individual, group, or family professional counseling and therapy services.

Dir. Rohs discussed the Values Statements in the report, saying that they might also be referred to as Guiding Principles. These statements, she shared, should be included in the RFP to help applicants and others better appreciate JCCCSF aspirations and ethics [1) accountability; 2) adaptability; 3) collaboration; 4) integrity] driving the JCCCSF's goals. Discussion of the report and Dr. Rohs' recommendation revealed that the JCCCSF wants to foster collaboration and coordination among service providers and end user convenience, in keeping with themes that emerged from the "Children's Behavioral Needs Assessment."

Dir. Holman raised the issue of access and referred to last month's discussion with the Chair and ED of the St. Charles County Children's Services Fund. That Fund mapped where services were made available and found that too many people who needed and wanted them couldn't access them. Dir. Bartman said that the RFP should stress the access issue. There was consensus that discussion of consumer access would be a requirement in requests for funding. Dir. Bartman also urged that the RFP should encourage applicants to collaborate with community partners. He suggested that such applications receive extra credit for working with 2 or more other organizations.

Dir. Holman brought up the issue of information systems. Dir. Rohs said that it would be so helpful if one could call just one place for information such as how many homeless children or youth are in a certain school. She said that some groups, such as those that serve homeless populations, are coming together to collect and share data. This is an activity that the JCCSF needs to know about and tap into, if possible. Dir. Holman reminded the directors and guests at the meeting that information systems and functional networks require, and in turn, enable collaboration; but they also require ongoing investment. Funders do not usually support such projects and if so, only on relatively short-term bases. If good information systems and functional provider networks are important to improving the quantity and quality of care for children, youth and their families, funders will need to address this aspect of system performance. Private funders in particular have greater latitude to do this. Dir. Kaberline said that we could provide information that no one else has, especially in Jackson County.

Dir. Cordoba added that we need to ask specific questions about how agencies will collaborate and then require a memorandum of understanding regarding this. He also said that from his perspective as Director of Student Services for the KCMO School District, some of the figures cited in Dr. Rohs' report are very conservative. For example, counselors may not be aware that students are couch surfing and miscount them when reporting on homeless youth to federal agencies. Dir. Mesle said that she has learned that it can be significant when someone responds that s/he "lives" some place versus saying that s/he "stays" some place.

The board unanimously adopted Dir. Rohs' recommendations for the Fund's initial set of preferred services.

1. Up to 30 days of temporary shelter for abused, neglected, runaway, homeless or emotionally disturbed youth
2. Home-based and community-based family intervention programs
3. Prevention program which promote healthy lifestyles among children and youth and strengthen families, and
4. Individual group, or family professional counseling and therapy services

Dir. Holman tasked Dir. Rohs with developing specific goal statements for these service areas so that they can be included in the RFP and inform the ways that the Board will assess its service purchases and contractor performance. Dir. Rohs said that goal statements will also help with finding appropriate benchmarks, scales, etc. to aid assessments. Using existing well-developed assessment tools will help us avoid reinventing the wheel.

Board Engagement in Services Contractor Selection: Dir. Holman and 4 other board members have met at different times with the 2 community foundations in Jackson County. Both expressed interest in working with the Fund to provide "back room operations" for its first funding round. They understand that the arrangement may only be needed once. The 2 organizations need to know how many times a year service contracts will be awarded and how much of the work of reading and rating contract proposals the Board wants to do. Dir. Holman said that at this time she has no recommendation on which foundation to choose, though there is a clear difference in the capacities of the 2 to take on a project like the one that the Fund is proposing. She will provide both community foundations with information about the Fund's support service needs and invite them to propose how they would do the work and the fees they would charge for the services.

Discussion included several matters. Dir. Parker said that currently the board is not equipped to do the first steps in the process (communication with potential and actual applicants and receiving applications); but the board should do the scoring of applications. Dir. Mesle said that if foundation personnel and JCCCSF Board members scored applications, it could be instructive to compare Board members' scoring to the scoring done by the foundation's personnel. Dir. Holman stated that the Board will need to give more thought to how it will involve appropriate expertise in the review process.

She added that the community foundation's ability to collect and manage outcome data will be an important consideration. She connected the importance of reliable data collection and management to the fact that the JCCCSF must be reapproved by voters within 7 years at the longest, and perhaps sooner since experience across the state suggests that voter approval appears to be more likely during Presidential elections. Therefore, the ability to collect data and report positive outcomes to the public must be factored into the choice of who provides back room operations support.

Dir. Bartman stated that both organizations can do good jobs, and that we need to decide quickly if the RFPs are going out the end of November. Dir. Holman summarized the discussion, noting that:

- the Board wants to be very involved in scoring applications, reviewing and scoring proposals that have been pre-screened for eligibility (IRS designation, target clientele for proposed services, etc.) and fit with the Fund's goals. Applications should be reviewed and scored by at least 2 Board members.

- For the 2018 calendar year there will be one broad RFP for 2018, and possibly one or more smaller funding rounds to address newly emerging needs or specifically targeted areas.
- Contracts will need not be based on a calendar year, especially contacts with school districts.
- Funds from awarded contracts will be paid in arrears, based on evidence of eligible expenditures for services delivered.

Legal Counsel Search: Dir Mesle reported that the working group has had a fair number of conversations about lawyers. She has identified 4 lawyers that have the types of expertise needed to help the JCCCSF establish itself appropriately. A formal email has been sent to these attorneys/firms explaining who we are and that we are looking for organizing counsel. They were asked to respond with information about their expertise, fees, references, and if they are available. One responded that he does not have time, a second one said s/he may have time. She has never met the other two and is not sure what they'll say. They are to respond by October 13th, and then Dir. Mesle will send out an email to the board. Dir. Mesle emphasized that the plan is to select different counsel for the Fund's ongoing needs.

Executive Director Search: Dir. Holman, Dir. Cordoba and Dir. Parker have contacted three search firms. We will be able to make a choice after information is received from all three. Dir. Kaberline asked whether the firm will research relevant compensation and Dir. Holman said that the firm will be expected to do that. To expedite the search process, the board wants the working group to move forward with a contract once a decision is made.

Banking Update: In Dir. Scott's absence Dirs. Styles and Holman confirmed that the Fund's account has been funded by the County and that 2 payments have been made from the account to 1) cover the cost of the surety bond and 2) to pay for administrative support services.

Communications: Dir. Kaberline recommends a website arrangement like COMBAT's on the County's website. He suggested that the site have an opening statement which could come from the group before the next meeting. Dir. Holman said it could include RFP information, director bios and minutes of past meetings. Dir. Kaberline said he will move forward with establishing an online presence for the Fund.

Administrative Support Update: Dir. Holman reported that the goal is to contract for temporary help by November. We are not sure about the number of hours that we will need to start with. Dir. Parker and Dir. Cordoba will move ahead with the temp firm that Jackson County uses, Penmac Staffing Services.

Guest Introductions and Public Comments: Robin Winner, Synergy Services: there is a group made up of school liaisons with homeless students. That group stays on top of the different ways HUD and HHS do things in their programs for serving these students' needs. The Clay County Children's Services Fund hopes to be up and running in January. Jaime Masters said she would share how COMBAT scores and how to deal with a large number of applications. Besides her usual duties she is now the Acting Director of COMBAT. Barb Friedmann from Community Together commented that COMBAT and the JCCCSF must look different from each other. JCCCSF needs to be seen as a distinctly different funding resource, which is something to keep in mind as we develop a website and communicate with stakeholders.

Adjournment: Dir. Parker moved for adjournment, and Dir. Cordoba seconded the motion. There was a unanimous vote to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Next Meeting: November 2, 2017, MARC offices.