



CHILDREN'S SERVICES FUND
OF JACKSON COUNTY

Board of Directors Special Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 19, 2020 - 12:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Board Members Present:

Jovanna Rohs, Ph.D. (Chair)
Ann Mesle (Vice Chair)
Brian Kaberline (Secretary)
Robert Bartman, Ed.D.
Rhonda Holman
Anthony Mondaine
Marietta Parker
Jessica Ramirez

Board Members Absent:

Rachelle Styles (Treasurer)

Staff Present:

Rob Whitten (Executive Director)
Seth Baker
Sue Richter, Recording
Katherine Rivard
Moji Shogbamimu

Guests, Affiliations:

Nancy Atwater, Preferred Family Healthcare
Brandi Bair, Hope House
Angie Blumel, Jackson County CASA
Kelly Broeker, Preferred Family Health
Rhonda Erpelding, KC Healthy Kids
Sarah Forgey, GKCCF
Liz Freeman, Big Bro. Big Sis of KC
Barb Friedmann, Comm. Volunteer
Danielle Robbins Gregory, KC Healthy Kids
Mallory Gobet, Youth Ambassadors, Inc.
Kelsi Green, Mother's Refuge
Emily Hage, First Call
Justin Horton, Cornerstones of Care
Brad Smith, Drumm Farm
Donovan , Comm. Assist. Council

Josh King, MOCSA
Mark Leavell, Great Circle
Angel McDonald, Mother's Refuge
MaryAnne Metheny, Hope House
Melody Morgan, CAPA
Amber Takens, TMC Beh. Health
Claire Terrebonne, Ja. Co. CASA
Casey Thomas, Fam. Conservancy
Eric Williams, Calvary
Amy Couture, Rose Brooks Center
Rachel Casey,
Shelia Montgomery,
Erin Eaton, Salvation Army
Precious Stargill Cushman,

- I. Call to Order Jovanna Rohs
The Children's Services Fund of Jackson County (CSF) Special Session to discuss support for the COVID-19 Public Health Crisis was called to order at 12:31 p.m.

- II. Roll Call and Guest Introductions Sue Richter/Guests
Roll call of the Board Members was taken, and each guest was invited to introduce themselves.

- III. Special Session regarding COVID-19 Jovanna Rohs
It was shared that the overall intent for this special session was two-fold as follows:
- to determine what CSF partners need to maintain operations; and,
 - how CSF should move forward as part of a larger community conversation.

- IV. Partner Survey Rob Whitten
The responses from a recent CSF survey of current partners were summarized in the Special Session board packet distributed prior to the meeting. Responses were broken out into the following categories:

- A. Immediate needs or concerns regarding COVID-19
- B. Implications for CSF funded programs
- C. Capacity for remote services,
- D. Plans to adjust operations,
- E. Emergency funding needs
- F. Other implications

Discussion centered on the obligation of CSF funding to stay within statute but remain effective in supporting partners based on feedback.

- V. Discussion Points Jovanna Rohs/Rob Whitten
Four potential recommendations were introduced for discussion:

- A. Release Q1 reimbursements immediately at 25% of contracted award amount.
- B. Release Q2 reimbursements in mid-June, at 25% of contracted award amount.
- C. Allow staff to work with partners to review and revise service delivery models in existing contracts, especially allowing the inclusion of telehealth services or other remote options.
- D. Create a pool of dollars (Up to \$500k) to allow for technology purchases to support telehealth services within existing programs. Allowance of up to \$10k per program, administered as a grant by staff. Financial reconciliation within 45 days, with unused funds returned to CSF, or withheld from future reimbursement.

Discussion of the above points prior to board action included the following:

Question: Although no problem as far as early release of funds, what are trying to help our partners solve? What will an early release of dollars do in this time of crisis? Only question regarding telecommunications is amount of time to put together a request?

Response: These recommendations address a concern expressed by partners that the need is related to cashflow, particularly for some of our smaller partners. Due to the current crisis partners indicated that using our traditional reimbursement methodology for some partners will be harmful as they are unable to provide the units of service originally expected. Implementing these recommendations will allow partners to deliver services and deploy staff in perhaps a different or faster way.

Comment: With the requested release of funds, the board recognizes that there could be organizations that severely underperform. The board recognizes that at Q4 there could be unfulfilled contracts and a decision regarding whether to pay them the contracted amount may need to be made. While our cashflow assistance will help, the problems for many organizations will be much larger than anything CSF can do, and we still don't have an operating consensus with other organizations. This is just something of which to be mindful.

Comment: Must be very cautious about not utilizing funds outside of the statute, while maintaining flexibility in assisting partners in delivering behavioral health services. Language must be changed on recommendation three from "allow staff" to "encourage staff". We should also put monies aside for tech support and training in addition to the purchase of hardware.

Response: It was the intent of all recommendations to stay within the intent of the statute, which will be the responsibility of staff when evaluating requests.

Comment: May need to re-evaluate recommendation 2, as some organizations may be out of business by June. We need to ensure that those that need an infusion of cash at that point, or who are delivering more than expected can have access to additional money.

Response: Most non-profit ED's will be projecting their cash flow 3-6 months out. This response on our part now could make a difference regarding keeping or cutting a program or position in the future. If we can give some indication now, this might help organizations plan for the future.

Comment: Based on above response would request that this is our plan, but we retain some flexibility.

Question Talking about contracts, what kind of legal process do we need to make and addendum or amend on the service delivery side?

Comment: Greg Lam will be consulted on the appropriate language supporting this process.

Discussion Recap

Following the discussion, the Chair shared the following recap:

1. There seems to be comfort around releasing Q1 reimbursement consistent with the statute.
2. There is a strong interest in the plan to release Q2 funds, but the board will revisit closer to May.
3. We will encourage staff to have conversation with partners around amending the contract with the flexibilities that are consistent around the statute.
4. We will support the pool of dollars around technology in order to encourage the ability to deliver services remotely. This would include hardware or software purchase with support around consultation and training.

Following general discussion and review of the recommendations staff submitted for board member consideration, the following motions were made.

- A. Recommendation 1: Release Q1 reimbursements immediately at 25% of contracted award amount.

Discussion: Reimbursement and outcomes reporting would still be submitted in mid-April to monitor numbers served and program progress. Reimbursement would \$2.9M.

Academic programs would be monitored to ensure that a school-based release would not exceed the academic annual award. Reimbursement beyond 25% would be contingent on mid-April reporting.

[A motion for Q1 reimbursement to partners be immediately released at 25% of the annual contracted award amount.](#)

First: Rhonda Holman

Second: Robert Bartman

Motion: Approved

- B. Recommendation 2: Release Q2 reimbursement in mid-June, at 25% of contracted award amount.

Discussion: Reimbursement and outcomes reporting would still be submitted in mid-July to monitor numbers served and program progress.

[A motion to approve the plan for the release in mid-June of Q2 funds with Board review of this plan closer to that time and prior to release.](#)

First: Ann Mesle

Second: Rhonda Holman

Motion: Approved

- C. Recommendation 3: Encourage staff to work with partners to review and revise service delivery models in existing contracts, especially allowing the inclusion of telehealth services or other remote options.

Discussion: It was observed that there is a difference between adjusting the scope of work and adjusting the budget for a program. Based on what is happening in the community and its impact on partner programs, the board understands that the inability to see clients as they originally anticipated was not a failure in program performance. The board expressed concern that CSF wanted to ensure that partners are not penalized because they did not hit numbers. The board is prepared to see CSF payout more money even if the adjusted scope of work leaves the program under the budget that was awarded.

It was determined that staff are already encouraged to help partners deliver as much as possible in order to assist them to emerge from this crisis period as whole as possible using our funds. It was determined that no board motion was necessary for this recommendation.

- D. Recommendation 4: Create a pool of dollars (Up to \$500k) to allow for technology purchases to support telehealth services within existing programs. Allowance of up to \$10k per program, administered as a grant by staff. Financial reconciliation within 45 days, with unused funds returned to CSF, or withheld from future reimbursement.

Discussion: Clarification regarding the intent was discussed regarding this pool of dollars as well as the timeframe to implement. The intent of this recommendation was to allow programs to get materials to partners in order to operate differently during this timeframe and beyond. It was agreed there would be an application process used, prior to the release of these funds, which would include time it takes for implementation and specifics of what will be purchased and how unspent dollars would be reconciled.

A motion was made to support a pool of dollars with an allowance up to \$10k per program. A timeline and dollar amount anticipated would also be provided, prior to the release of these funds.

First: Brian Kaberline

Second: Rhonda Holman

Motion: Approved

VI. Broader Community Response

Rob Whitten

There was discussion of any CSF interest in participating in a broader community approach to shore up operations. The Greater Kansas City Community Foundation (GKCCF) is setting up a Recovery and Relief Fund and allowing other funders to contribute. CSF could contribute with a stipulation that dollars must be used by child-serving organizations in Jackson County and adhere to CSF statute.

Board members agreed that there is interest in being a participant in the general concept as outlined. It is comforting to know that the GKCCF feels confident that they would be able to adhere to every donors' guidelines. However, many questions remained and would need to be addressed, such as:

- Will there be a steering committee made up of funders?
- Who will be the trustee for this?
- Will the trustee ultimately make the decision?
- What happens to money not used in this process
- How long will it remain open?
- Is it possible to work alongside, instead of within the GKCCF?
- Is there a possibility to work with other Jackson County funds, such as the Mental Health Levy and COMBAT?

The Board agreed that because funds are generated through a sales tax, more control should be retained over the disbursement of any expenditures of this kind. The board expressed interest in hearing more about opportunities to participate in a more collaborative approach with other funders.

VII. Director and Guest Comments

Dir. Jovanna Rohs, Upcoming Application – Tax receipts will need to be monitored over the next few months in anticipation of our upcoming application and how revenues will impact this process. Consideration will also need to be given to the scheduled rollout of this next funding round.

Guests were then asked for comments and asked if the measures discussed by the Board would be found helpful?

Mark Leavell, Great Circle – Great Circle is hearing concerns from families around lost employment and necessities (diapers, food, etc.) that families need. Virtual connection to families is available, but supplies are the crisis level for them now.

Precious Stargell Cushman, Community LINC – Expressed thanks for thoughtfulness by the board and stated that it is heartening to hear the conversation and deliberate commitment by CSF to bettering the situation right now.

Brad Smith, Drumm Farms – The first two quarter payouts will be helpful. The \$10k grant will be significant as most case managers, social workers and therapists are currently using Google Hangouts on cellphones. It is anticipated that Drumm will exceed units of service due to school closings. Drumm is being contacted by these young clients more often than is usual at this time.

Melody Morgan, CAPA - All measures discussed will be very helpful during this unprecedented time. Want to be able to access their children using technology. Being able to do face-to-face sessions with clients, using technology that is HIPPA compliant will be very helpful.

VIII. Adjournment

Ann Mesle

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

First: Brian Kaberline

Second: Rhonda Holman

Motion: Approved

The meeting was adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Sue Richter



Brian Kaberline, Secretary

Next Meeting: April 16, 2020 – Location: TBD, 2:30 p.m.