



CHILDREN'S
SERVICES
FUND
OF JACKSON COUNTY

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 15, 2021 – 2:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

Board Members Present:

Jovanna Rohs, Ph. D (Chair)
Ann Mesle (Vice Chair)
Jessica Ramirez (Secretary)
Robert Bartman
Rhonda Holman
Justice Horn
Brian Kaberline
Ajia Morris

Board Members Absent:

Anthony Mondaine (Treasurer)

Staff Present:

Rob Whitten, Executive Director
Seth Baker
Sue Richter (Recording)

Guest Panelists/Presenters:

Terry Cunningham, Children's Enhancement Project - CommCARE
Justin Horton, Cornerstones of Care

Guests, Affiliations:

Nancy Atwater, Preferred Family Healthcare
Tahir Atwater, Jackson County CASA
Brandi Bair, Hope House
Cheryl Costabile, KVC
Sarah Forgey, Greater Kansas City Community Foundation
Claire Terrebonne, Jackson County CASA

- I. Call to Order Jovanna Rohs

The Children's Services Fund of Jackson County (CSF) meeting was called to order at 2:32 p.m.

- II. Introduction of New Board Members, Roll Call and Guest Introductions Jovanna Rohs

Dir. Rohs welcomed two new board members, Justice Horn and Ajia Morris, to the meeting. Dir. Horn and Dir Morris were recently appointed by County Executive Frank White to the CSF Board. Roll call of the board members was taken, and guests were welcomed and invited to use the chat function to enter their name and organization.

III. Review and Approval of Minutes from February 18, 2021 Meeting.

Mr. Whitten offered that the minutes circulated in the board packet prior to the meeting, would be corrected to reflect the date of Thursday, February 18, 2021 on the first page of the minutes, instead of February 24, 2021.,

A motion was made to approve the minutes with the stated change made to the February 18, 2021 meeting minutes as discussed.

First: Justice Horn

Second: Robert Bartman

Motion: Approved

Aye: 6

Opposition: 0

(Note: Dir. Holman and Dir. Ramirez were not available for this motion)

IV. Review and Approval of Proposed Agenda

Jovanna Rohs

Introduction of Strategic Imperatives

Mr. Whitten offered that future board agendas would reflect the strategic imperatives identified through the recent strategic planning work undertaken by the CSF Board, CSF Staff and in response to feedback from Community Partners. The four strategic imperatives and descriptions were shared, as follows:

- Invest in Children – Invest in the mental health and social-emotional well-being of children in Jackson County and serve as a champion for children and their families.
- Strengthen Partners – Invest in, collaborate with, and convene partners and other organizations to align community resources with the needs of Jackson County children.
- Honor Community – Demonstrate the collective impact of CSF investments by defining and measuring tangible results. Earn the community's ongoing confidence in the work of CSF.
- Optimize Organization - Ensure a diverse and open culture through operations and governance focused on continuously improving outcomes for children.

Dir. Rohs asked for any changes to the proposed agenda. No changes were requested to the agenda circulated prior to the meeting.

V. Investing in Children

A. Board Education – Residential Treatment Challenges & Alternatives

The following provided a presentation regarding the board education topic:

1. Terry Cunningham, Children's Enhancement Program Manager, CommCARE

Ms. Cunningham spoke regarding the approach to bringing high acuity youth back into the community. Her presentation discussed the "cycle of failure" regarding the inability of the community to meet the needs and many challenges of the child moving from a residential placement back into the

family. She also shared the teamwork approach for creative treatment planning to successfully reintroduce the child back into the family and the community.

Dir. Mesle asked if most children come to the attention of the court or an agency because of abuse and neglect issues or delinquency issues. Ms. Cunningham indicated that most referrals come from community mental health centers (i.e., Swope, Truman, ReDiscover, etc.) and Children's Division, due to the lack of alternative placement to a residential facility.

2. Justin Horton, Executive Director of Missouri Programs, Cornerstones of Care

Mr. Horton's presentation focused on the overview, impacts and changes in residential care resulting from Federal and State legislative activity. He discussed the Families First Prevention and Services Act (FFPSA). Mr. Horton explained that each state can implement their response to the act with their own unique plan. The new classification, criteria and process for Missouri residential intervention is called the Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP). Residential facilities previously allowed to be classified as a group or foster home are no longer allowed. Mr. Horton stated that the Missouri prevention plan, although submitted to the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) and the Administration of Children and Families (ACT), has not been made public. The QRTP plan has not been submitted to DHSS. There is also consideration of expanding the placement type of the Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF). Currently, Cornerstones of Care (COC) offers residential care to private citizens and foster care clients. In addition, COC has a program called the Behavioral Intervention Service Team (BIST), which was originally implemented to teachers and adults within schools. This program has been expanded into COC residential treatment facility and now foster homes. This mix of trauma informed care for adults caring for the child creates continuity by providing consistent trauma-informed language and practices for the child both in the school and home. COC also offers case management and therapy services providing a more robust wrap-around service for the client. More Treatment Foster Homes are needed due to the level of care required for this type of client. Relative Treatment Foster care also needs a higher level of support for those relatives willing to take a related child into their homes.

Mr. Whitten asked about a plan for kids who were in residential, now that there are fewer residential beds available for placement? Mr. Horton responded that there is no clear answer for that. The treatment team members for the client try to identify a facility, home or relative that can care for them. Many require a DMH placement which can be difficult. A drastic last step would be trying to find a placement out of state. There are times when the child must remain in a shelter until a placement can be located.

Dir. Morris asked where the greatest need lies? Mr. Horton responded that the biggest need are homes that can care for teens, large sibling groups or medically fragile clients.

Dir. Rohs expressed her appreciation to both presenters for their willingness to share this information and insight with the Board as CSF continues to invest in children.

B. Financial Report – February/March 2021

Rob Whitten

Mr. Whitten shared the following:

Tax Revenue

- February 2021 - \$1,273,773
- March 2021 - \$ 989,274
- YTD Tax Revenue - \$3,218,750

1Q Comparison

1Q2018	1Q2019	1Q2020
\$3,393,502	\$3,371,871	\$3,296,862

Interest Revenue

- February Interest \$ 130
- March Interest \$ 200

Interest rates have significantly decreased when compared to previous years. Commerce investment department does not anticipate much rebound to interest rates within the next 18 months.

Sales Tax Interest Revenue from Missouri

- March \$ 1,707

This revenue line item is not budgeted. This revenue is derived from interest on the sales tax revenue that the state holds and is distributed randomly.

Mr. Whitten indicated that YTD revenue is 26% of budgeted revenue for 2021, excluding the planned release of \$3.2M from reserve.

Expense

Mr. Whitten offered that 1Q2021 expense remains consistent with budget. The first major disbursement to partners will not be until late April or early May, which is reflected by the \$0 YTD shown in the program support expense category.

Mr. Horn asked for clarification regarding the \$0 shown in the transportation expense line item. Mr. Whitten responded that this line reimburses staff mileage, which has not been utilized to date due to continued remote meetings status.

Financial Position – March 2021

- Current Assets (03.31.2021) \$21,686,035
 - Cash \$ 6,666,035
 - Investments \$15,000,000
- Accrued Liabilities (2021/2022 Contracts) \$16,797,327
- Net Assets \$ 4,918,708

C. 2021 RFP for 2022 Funding

Rob Whitten

Mr. Whitten thanked Dir. Rohs, Dir. Holman and Dir. Mesle for their participation as the funding workgroup and resulting recommendations for board consideration.

Following are the funding cycle parameters proposed:

- Core Funding Cycle Length – Applications would be accepted for a two-year (2022 and 2023) funding cycle. It was noted there would be no core funding cycle offered during 2022, with the next RFP offered during 2023 for funding during 2024.
- Core Funding Cycle Amount – Up to \$30M total for the two years. This would be approximately \$15M per year, with a smaller amount in year one (2022) anticipated, which would allow for rate increases in year two (2023).
- Limitations – CSF would allow two program requests per organization. The program cap would be held at \$300k per program and \$350k for shelter and transitional living program.
- Core Funding Priority Areas – Based on feedback from stakeholders, funded partners and other local funds, the following priority areas were identified:
 - Crisis Intervention Services
 - Individual, Group and Family Counseling Services
 - Home and Community Based Intervention Services
 - Shelter/Transitional Living Services
 - Prevention Services – will be broken out further into:
 - Child Abuse/Neglect
 - Sexual Abuse/Sexual Assault
 - Substance Abuse
 - Suicide Prevention
 - Homelessness Prevention
- Core Funding Reimbursement – This is a change to previous funding cycles as reimbursement will be split into two different types as follows:
 - Prevention – Services will be expense based and continue with quarterly reimbursement.
 - Treatment – Services will be based on units of service and reimbursed monthly instead of quarterly.
 - It was noted that units of service will be defined with reimbursement amount proposed by the applicant.
 - Units of service will better allow CSF to understand the cost of services for different programs.
 - Training, capacity building and indirect costs may be looked at outside of the unit of service.

- Core Funding Timeline
 - April 26, 2021 – Funding announcement/Letter of Intent (LOI) available
 - Early May 2021 – Three funding information sessions to be held.
 - May 21, 2021 – LOI responses due for review by staff
 - June 25, 2021 – Invitation to apply extended with application available.
 - Early July 2021 – Two application training sessions to be held.
 - July 30, 2021 – Applications due
 - August/September 2021 – Application review and scoring by CSF staff.
 - Mid-to-Late October 2021 – Board members receive application summaries with staff feedback. Board workgroup convenes to determine funding recommendations.
 - Early November 2021 – Partner interviews and follow-up
 - November 18, 2021 – Funding slate approval at Board Meeting.

Mr. Whitten offered that only LOI's received that could not be funded by statute would be eliminated during the LOI process, with the intent to save those agencies from having to complete the whole application process.

Dir. Horn asked how many LOI's does CSF usually get during a funding cycle? Mr. Whitten responded that during the previous funding cycle 121 LOI's were received, with 97 programs receiving funding.

Dir. Rohs pointed out the bigger changes being recommended were as follows:

- a. The proposed funding cycle is being offered as a two-year award and that CSF would like to be very intentional that this is understood by the partners.
- b. Board Members will only receive application summaries, instead of reading through the application in its entirety. This is a big change, due to staff being in place to do this work and provide this information. The full application will always be available should a board member decide they want to read it.

Dir. Kaberline expressed appreciation to the Committee in moving these changes forward. He felt this would allow a good use of Board time by allowing them to focus on the big questions, and confidence that the staff expertise would allow this summary approach, with the full application still being available, a good direction for the organization.

Dir. Mesle questioned whether CSF had sufficient staffing to complete all necessary work, or if additional talent was needed to assist staff in their efforts. Mr. Whitten asked for this discussion to be tabled for now.

A motion to approve the proposed funding guidance and timeline was made.

First: Brian Kaberline
Aye: 8

Second: Ann Mesle
Opposed: 0

Motion: Approved

- One-Time Funding Opportunity
An additional one-time funding opportunity was proposed by the funding workgroup, based on feedback from the stakeholder sessions as follows:
Focus – The focus would be based on technology enhancements.
Timeframe – Late spring/early summer 2021
Amount – Total opportunity would be up to \$2M, allowing \$25k per organization.
Process
 - Brief application with budget
 - Staff review and approval.
 - Award notification and contract
 - Organization acquires resources.
 - CSF reimbursement, following acquisition of pre-approved expense.

Dir. Kaberline asked if there was still a backlog of technology needed, or did CSF address this last year? Mr. Whitten indicated that during the four town hall sessions a specific question asked if the technology grant was helpful. The response was a resounding yes. In a follow-up question regarding if that funding met the need, the answer was a resounding no. Mr. Whitten does not anticipate many requests from smaller partners. However, with larger partners this type of equipment is usually needed and the last to get replaced in most agencies.

Dir. Horn indicated his concurrence that this is an opportunity for CSF to be proactive in the community. Well before COVID hit there were non-profits in the community that needed these upgrades. Schooling and how non-profits must now work has been forever changed, with a continued need for these updates remaining.

[A motion to approve a one-time funding opportunity was made.](#)

First: Jessica Ramirez

Second: Ajia Morris

Motion: Approved

Aye: 8

Opposed: 0

D. State of Missouri Legislative Update

Rob Whitten

Mr. Whitten offered the following updates:

- Medicaid Expansion – Although Governor Parson's budget included Medicaid expansion, this initiative was not included in the budget forwarded by the House to the Senate. There have been mixed messages from the Senate regarding support. Because approved by voters, there is still some hope that the Senate will include the monies for expansion, which will then send it back to the House for additional reconciliation. The cost analysis shows that the \$103M for Medicaid expansion would trigger a \$1.9B release of federal funds coming back into the state, which would include \$200M for mental health.
- Office of Childhood – The Governor signed an Executive Order earlier this year which establishes this new office. The legislature took no action to reject the

order within the established 60-day timeframe (March 24, 2021). Phase two integration is underway, with the new office to be established by August 28, 2021. This will impact approximately 145 state employees with \$600M of state funds going into that Office of Childhood.

- **HB 865-Early Childhood Education Boards – Sponsor: Shields**
This bill provides authorization for any county or city not within a county to levy a property tax to establish an early childhood education board which shall provide childhood education programs or services. Although lots of movement occurred on this legislation in the first 30 days post filing, no action has been taken. It is anticipated that this bill will not pass during the current legislative session.

Dir. Horn asked if the CSF has been asked to take a position, or do we just monitor this legislation? Mr. Whitten responded that to this point CSF has tended to just monitor, although CSF has been asked to join in letters of support on behalf of some legislation. CSFs were asked to weigh in on support for the Early Childhood Education Boards. There may be opportunities for us, while remaining apolitical, to advocate on behalf of children. Dir. Rohs added that rather than indicating how to vote on a particular piece of legislation the CSF Board stands to educate on the impact of legislation.

- **HB 557 & 560 – Child Residential Home Notification Act**
Mr. Whitten indicated that this passed out of the House by a vote of 149-1. This bill would remove exemption from regulation for religious or faith-based private boarding schools and residential centers who believed they were exempt. This has moved to the Senate and a public hearing was to be held on April 14, 2021.
- **HB 1276 – Services to Homeless Youth**
Mr. Whitten indicated that this bill seeks to provide homeless youth seeking supportive services. This is an area that the statutes allow CSF to fund. This was moved out of committee and referred to Legislative Oversight on April 14, 2021.
- **HB 627 – Child Development Accounts**
This bill seeds a savings account for higher education, by providing \$100 at child's birth. The account would accrue interest, and could be invested in. Should the money not be used by age 30, the funds would revert to the state. It was reported that this bill had passed in the House and will now move to public hearings by the Senate.
- **Raise the Age**
This legislation which raises the legal age in criminal cases from 17 to 18 was passed in 2018. As the legislature did not provide funding for the juvenile system to handle the resulting increase in cases, many county prosecutors are not following this. Jackson County is following the law. There are reported court challenges regarding an "unfunded mandate". The legislature could fix the issue with a budget appropriation.

VI. Strengthening Partners

Partner Engagement: Interim Reporting & Site Visits

Seth Baker

Mr. Baker, CSF Program Manager, provided the plan for partner contacts and reporting as follows:

- Full reporting by partners will be completed twice per year. An interim report will be due at the end of the second quarter, and the final report due upon completion of the fourth quarter.
- An abbreviated report will be due following the first and third quarters of the funding cycle. This report will include a reimbursement request and the numbers of children served.
- Program Officers will complete two site visits for each partner per year. These visits will align with the abbreviated reporting cycle and include a questionnaire, which will be completed by the partner and returned to the assigned CSF Program Officer prior to the site visit.
- Additional site visits might occur if requested by the partner or if CSF believes additional contact is warranted.

Dir. Rohs indicated that she was pleased to hear that the abbreviated reporting was received well. She also thanked Ms. Forgey's willingness to assist in the modification of the reports for CSF partners.

Dir. Mesle also expressed support for reducing the load on partners, while still ensuring the information needed continues to be received. She indicated this will help the CSF become more effective and efficient moving forward.

Mr. Baker also offered that Ms. Shogbamimu's budget efforts in the above process remain vital in the partner engagement process to make this program successful.

VII. Honoring Community

Rob Whitten

A. Audit – Fiscal Year 2020

The field work for the audit has been completed. Mr. Whitten hopes to convene the audit committee in the coming weeks to review the completed audit, with the goal to present to the full board during the May meeting. Mr. Whitten shared that audit committee members Dir. Rohs, Dir. Mondaine, Dir. Kaberline and Dir. Holman, will be contacted shortly to find a mutually convenient date to convene.

B. Framework for Evaluation

Mr. Whitten shared that exploratory conversations have begun to identify best practice for the evaluation for outcomes. He shared that this effort is a very nuanced business, and not as straightforward as issuing a standard proposal to

secure a service such as auditing firms, or an office copier. To assist in this effort, Mr. Whitten has requested a scope of work from a vendor he has worked with previously. His goal is to better understand our needs and possible options in this area, as we start to measure impact. Mr. Whitten has also discussed this with other CSF peers across the State who have more experience. He found that they have the same difficulty measuring impact. Some indicated that they measure the funded organizations' success in meeting outcomes as their standard, or they have developed shared outcome that they require their partners to use.

C. Organization Updates

1. Great Circle

An update was provided to the information previously received regarding the federal investigation of Great Circle on the eastern side of the State. The State of Missouri has issued notice that \$1.9M in Medicaid billing was deemed "improper", with a request for repayment. Issues included missing or inadequate documentation. Great Circle has appealed and said that there is no indication that services were not provided or medically necessary. As an intermediary step Great Circle has reimbursed approximately 60% while the appeal moves forward. It is unknown if this issue is related to the federal investigation. Although these issues are completely unrelated to any programs funded by the CSF, this issue will continue to be monitored.

2. Guadalupe Center

An article from the KC Star on April 3, 2021 was brought to the attention of the CSF Chair and Executive Director by Dir. Mesle. The article reported that the CEO, Cris Medina, was on administrative leave. A further article on April 5, 2021 indicated that Mr. Medina was retiring after 40 years. CSF has been in touch with Mr. Beto Lopez, current acting CEO. Mr. Lopez stressed that the two funded CSF program were unrelated to the investigation, although no details of the investigation could be disclosed.

VIII. Optimizing Organization

A. Election of Board Officers

Jovanna Rohs

The following slate of officers was presented as a recommendation from the Nominating Committee for Board consideration:

- Ann Mesle, Chair
- Jessica Ramirez, Vice Chair
- Brian Kaberline, Secretary
- Anthony Mondaine, Treasurer

Dir. Horn asked a question regarding the length of terms for these positions. Dir. Rohs indicated that Board Officers serve a one-year term. However, there have been two-year terms. Mr. Whitten indicated that the by-laws state Officers are a

one-year term, but the by-laws also allow an Officer to serve a second one-year term. To date the chair and vice chair positions have served for two-year terms. Dir. Horn suggested that it would be important the leadership serve for the length of the fiscal year, instead of changing a chair in the middle of a fiscal year. Mr. Whitten indicated that the fiscal year runs January through December for budget purposes, and that the funding cycle, which sometimes offers a two-year commitment, is different.

A motion to bring the recommended slate of officers was brought forward by the Nominating Committee.

First: Nominating Committee Second: Robert Bartman Motion: Approved
Aye: 8 Opposition: 0

Dir. Rohs indicated her appreciation to those willing to serve and looks forward to Dir. Mesle chairing the next meeting.

Mr. Whitten recognize Dir. Rohs for her willingness to serve for the past two years as the CSF board chair, especially with the challenges presented during a pandemic. He also congratulated her on her recent election to the Oak Grove School Board.

B. Strategic Planning Update Rob Whitten

Mr. Whitten offered a recap of the strategic planning process as follows:

- Stakeholder Surveys were completed by 66 partner organizations, five CSF Board Members and seven funders.
- Town Halls were held. During four sessions there were a total of 54 participants
- Board Work Sessions have been completed, consisting of four, two-hour sessions. These sessions included work on the Mission and the development of the Strategic Imperatives (including the description, objective, and progress metrics)

Staff will now work on the tactics to support the progress metrics. The plan is to present the final strategic agenda for board approval in May, followed by dissemination to stakeholders.

C. Staff Updates Rob Whitten

Mr. Whitten recognized the staff anniversaries of Seth Baker, Katherine Rivard and Moji Shogbamimu for two years of service.

IX. Director and Guest Comments

The following Director comments were offered:

- Dir. Rohs extended her appreciation to the staff who were recognized for two-year service anniversaries.
- Dir. Kaberline expressed his appreciation to Dir. Rohs, Dir Holman and Dir. Mesle for their past contributions to the "heavy lifting" that was initially required, including the creation of by-laws, the Executive Director search, and the addition of the additional CSF staff members.
- Dir. Kaberline also appreciates the new board members coming on and the fresh direction from the recent Strategic Planning efforts. He feels the "ramp up" period is over and now CSF is "hitting gear".
- Dir. Mesle agreed and suggested we will see some orientation for our "newish" board members. She reminded about the early challenges of starting up the CSF with no money, but huge responsibility which required much work. She stated that It is exciting to have new board members.
- Dir. Rohs offered that CSF is going in a new direction with staff reviewing applications, and feels the new Strategic Plan is very exciting and will be a huge change for the Board.
- Dir. Bartman expressed appreciation for Dir. Rohs and other Board Members, complementing them for the hard work that has been done. He welcomed the new Board Members and expressed gratitude for "senior" staff. He feels CSF is moving in the right direction and expressed hope that the community realizes the importance of the fund.

Dir. Rohs opened the floor to Guest Comments.

Hearing none, Dir. Rohs again extended thanks to Ms. Cunningham and Mr. Horton for their presentations.

X. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:26 p.m.

First: Robert Bartman

Second: Ann Mesle

Motion: Approved

Aye: 8

Respectfully submitted: Sue Richter



Jessica Ramirez, Secretary

Next Meeting: May 20, 2021 - 2:30-4:30 p.m.