



CHILDREN'S
SERVICES
FUND
OF JACKSON COUNTY

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 18, 2021 – 2:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

Board Members Present:

Ann Mesle (Chair)
Jessica Ramirez (Vice Chair)
Brian Kaberline (Secretary)
Justice Horn
Ajia Morris
Jovanna Rohs

Guest Presenter:

Todd Patterson, Public Progress

Guest, Affiliations:

Nancy Atwater, Preferred Family Healthcare
Tahir Atwater, Jackson County CASA
Lindsay Bonebrake, Peace Partnership
Athena Brattin, Peace Partnership
Rick Chambers, Center School District
Cheryl Costabile, KVC
Amy Couture, Rose Brooks
Lisa Erickson, Empowering Parents
Sarah Forgey, Greater KC Community Found.
Traci Francis, Hope House
Emily Hage, First Call
Chad Harris, Cornerstones of Care
Heather Heaster, St. Luke's/Crittenton

Board Members Absent:

Anthony Mondaine (Treasurer)

Staff Present:

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

Sally Hornstra, Cornerstones of Care
Alicia Janssen, Mother's Refuge
Josh King, MOCSA
Sarah McMillian, St. Luke's/Crittenton
Kamera Meaney, University Health
Jon Neely, YMCA
Gwen O'Brien, Synergy
Courtney Rice, Youth Ambassadors
Kelly Sales, Brookside Charter School
Susan Pinne, St. Luke's/Crittenton
Lindsey Stephenson, KVC
Justin Speer, YMCA
Laura Willeke, Child Protection Center

- I. Call to Order Ann Mesle
The Children's Services Fund of Jackson County (CSF) meeting was called to order at 2:33 p.m.

- II. Roll Call and Guest Introductions Ann Mesle
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

A. Board of Directors Meeting – September 16, 2021 Minutes

Dir. Mesle asked for comments regarding the minutes circulated in the Board packet. Dir. Mesle indicated a desire for the minutes to be less lengthy. Dir. Kaberline requested a change be made in the Financial Report to reflect August, 2021 instead of April.

A motion was made to approve the September 16, 2021 meeting minutes with correction made to the Financial Report as stated above.

First: Brian Kaberline Second: Jessica Ramirez Motion: Approved
Aye: 5 Opposition: 0 Abstention: 0
(Note: Dir. Morris was not available for this motion.)

IV. Review and Approval of Proposed Agenda

Ann Mesle

Dir. Mesle asked for any comments or changes to the proposed agenda. There were no comments or changes voiced by members.

V. Investing in Children

A. Financial Report – September/October, 2021

Moji Shogbamimu

The following highlights from the Financial Activity Report circulated in the Board packet, prior to the meeting were discussed, with the following highlights noted:

Tax Revenue

- September 2021 \$ 1,240,064
- October 2021 \$ 1,076,293
- YTD Tax Revenue - \$11,752,815

MTD/YTD Comparison:

	2018	2019	2020	2021
September	\$ 946,737	\$ 1,032,207	\$ 1,028,850	\$ 1,240,064
October	\$ 778,153	\$ 839,644	\$ 821,023	\$ 1,076,293
Total	\$10,745,370	\$10,938,831	\$10,479,945	\$11,752,815

Interest Revenue

- September 2021 \$ 1,946
- October 2021 \$ 328
- YTD Interest \$ 7,809

- YTD Revenue \$11,761,877

Expense

Ms. Shogbamimu indicated that expenses were on track and there was nothing atypical to report in September or October. She did note that the program support line included both third quarter partner reimbursements of \$3.1M, and \$45k for the technology grant reimbursements.

Operating and overhead expenses were reported at 71% of budget

Dir. Mesle asked why Administration expense was so far under budget (YTD \$13,433 vs. Budget 73,200). Ms. Shogbamimu explained that this line included membership, office supplies, printer and marketing expenses which have been underspent and it was unlikely that the budgeted amount would be reached this year.

The financial position was reported as follows:

Financial Position – October, 2021

• Current Assets		\$23,167,843
Cash	\$ 8,167,843	
Investments	\$15,000,000	
• Accrued Liabilities (2021/2022 Contracts)		\$10,290,953
• Net Assets		\$ 12,876,891

An investigation into CSF cash position indicated that there was currently no strong benefit to invest long term, but monitoring will continue.

B. Approval of 2022 Budget

Moji Shogbamimu/Rob Whitten

The following 2021 Budget versus 2022 Budget comparisons and assumptions were presented:

Revenue/Program Support

Category	2021 Budget	2022 Budget
Tax Revenue Received	\$12,240,000	\$13,750,000
Investment Income	\$15,000	\$15,000
Transfer from Reserve	\$3,184,196	\$3,722,575
Total Revenue	\$15,599,196	17,487,575
Core Funding	\$14,426,970	\$15,624,380
Strategic Initiatives	\$200,000	\$500,000
Program Support (Total)	\$14,426,970	\$16,124,380

Assumptions:

- Tax Revenue - Revenue for 2019 was \$13.5M, so \$13,750 is an estimate based on current trend.
- Interest Income - Interest rates not predicted to improve until 2023
- Reserve - The reserve easily covers the potential \$3.7M transfer
- Core Funding - Although Core Funding was approved by Board at \$15M, may be able to push that amount, due to past utilization percentages never achieving 100%.
- Strategic Initiatives – Included \$290k in proposed funding slate with board approval and \$210k in additional initiatives. Funding would come from reserve.

Dir. Rohs asked for an explanation regarding the difference between the proposed \$15.8M reflected on the upcoming funding slate and the \$15.6M for core funding in the budget. Mr. Whitten explained that it was due to the difference between the accounting piece and the funding piece. The budget reflects anticipated calendar year funding for 2022, with the academic year funding in 2022 capturing the last half of the 2021 funding cycle and the first half of the 2022 funding cycle.

Operating & Overhead

Category	2021 Budget	2022 Budget
Personnel	\$602,623	\$634,241
Professional Contracts	\$201,150	\$510,420
Administration	\$73,200	\$108,700
Occupancy	\$38,954	\$41,384
Professional Insurance	\$33,700	\$39,200
Technology	\$8,600	\$11,750
Transportation	\$2,500	\$5,000
Depreciation	\$11,500	\$12,500
Operating & Overhead (Total)	\$972,226	\$1,363,195

Assumptions:

Personnel – Includes a cost-of-living adjustment for staff and 20% health insurance increase

- Built on current staffing plan

Professional Contracts

- Minor increase for audit fees
- Reduction in support needed from GKCCF, due to no application process in 2023
- Increase to Public/Community Relations - \$30k-\$100k
- Increase to consultation - \$100k-\$350k due to campaign, equity work and theory of change development,

Administration

- Anticipated marketing and printing costs related to the campaign.

Occupancy

- Alternative space will not be sought until after the election.

Technology

- Phones and computer equipment replacements

In summary, the overall increase of over 40% in operating and overhead is due to \$300k in anticipated campaign costs that CSF is allowed to cover.

Dir. Mesle expressed caution regarding where the fund can and cannot spend money. Mr. Whitten indicated that CSF marketing costs will support public education about CSF efforts and will follow the opinion received by legal counsel.

Program support is 93% of budgeted expense, with personnel at four percent of expenses. The remaining expense is overhead at three percent.

Dir. Kaberline asked if consideration had been given to staffing levels, given the amount of work program officers have assumed. Mr. Whitten stated that internal staffing discussions indicated that an increase may be required following the results of reauthorization efforts.

Dir. Mesle asked if there had been thought given regarding adding part time positions. Mr. Whitten indicated that it had not but could certainly be a consideration in the future.

A motion was made to approve the 2022 Budget as presented.

First: Ajia Morris

Second: Justice Horn

Motion: Approved

Aye: 6

Opposed: 0

Abstention: 0

C. Approval of 2022 Funding

Rob Whitten

It was determined that a single motion would be made to include all funding categories listed below:

1. Core Funding

Mr. Whitten shared the timeline and review process for the 113 applications that were submitted totaling \$18.5M for year one and \$19.1M for year two. Staff scoring and recommendations were then reviewed by the Board Work Group. Mr. Whitten thanked Dir. Mesle, Dir. Horn and Dir. Morris for serving on this committee. He also extended his appreciation to Dir. Mesle, Dir. Morris and Dir. Ramirez for serving on the interview committee as part of the decision-making process.

The following core funding recommendation was made as follows:

	Calendar	Academic	Total
2022/2022-2023	\$10,606,866	\$5,231,596	\$15,838,462
2023/2023-2024	\$10,969,178	\$5,496,717	\$16,465,895
Total			\$32,304,357

Proposed funding would provide services in seven of the ten areas allowed by statute as follows:

Service Type	Number of Programs	Number of Children Served	2022	2023
Home & Community Based Intervention	24	11,304	\$4,371,676	\$4,531,068
Individual, Grp. & Family Counseling	27	10,364	\$4,410,704	\$4,545,139
Outpatient Counseling	1	150	\$34,630	\$34,915
Prevention Services	39	40,793	\$5,459,422	\$5,709,313
Services to Teen Parents	1	35	\$15,000	\$124,352
Temporary Shelter Services	3	540	\$550,000	\$550,000
Transitional Living Services	5	641	\$897,030	\$971,108

The 66 calendar year and 34 academic projects were then displayed at an organization level, with a request for approval from the Board.

Dir. Rohs shared two observations. The first, that there appeared to be six new organizations and second that for those organizations currently funded the majority were getting an increase over current 2021 funding. Mr. Whitten confirmed that both of those statements were true.

Dir. Kaberline asked about the substantial increase between 2022 and 2023 funding requests for both MOCSA and Community LINC. Mr. Whitten indicated that he would get that specific information and follow-up with all Members.

2. Strategic Initiatives

When asked about the two strategic funding initiatives by Dir. Rohs, Mr. Whitten explained that going back to the core funding focus being direct services to kids with measurable outcomes, there were two programs that were not a good fit for that approach. Lee's Summit Cares was a program with both a community organizing approach and an interesting program to fund as a pilot and determine impact and scalability. The St. Luke's/Crittenton Trauma Smart program follows a staff capacity building model. Although funded in the past through many partners this will move the program forward by requesting the organization receiving the service will request funding rather than the organization offering the service.

The following strategic initiative recommendation was made:

	Calendar	Academic	Total
2022/2022-2023	\$100,000	\$190,000	\$290,000
2023/2023-2024	\$100,000	\$164,698	\$264,698
Total			\$554,698

3. Special Consideration: The Salvation Army

Due to the anticipated closure of the Salvation Army Children's Shelter in April of 2022 the following recommendation was made:

The current 2021 contract would be renewed for the first three months of 2022 at 25% of their current award of \$231k. This would result in a contract award for first quarter 2021 of \$57,750.

Dir. Rohs requested that during this period CSF staff should work with the Salvation Army to best meet their needs as they ramp down.

A motion was made to approve the three types of funding, the Core funding for 2022/2023, the Strategic Initiatives funding for 2022/2023, and the Special Circumstance funding for 1Q2022.

First: Jovanna Rohs
Aye: 6

Second: Justice Horn
Opposed: 0

Motion: Approved
Abstention: 0

In response to a question by Dir. Rohs Mr. Whitten offered that notices of award and declination would be emailed to applicants the afternoon of November 19,

Dir. Mesle expressed appreciation to all who participated in the application efforts.

D. Approval of Afghan Refugee Support

Previous board action allowed up to six awards of \$25k each to organizations providing refugee support. After due diligence by staff, only one organization, Jewish Vocational Services (JVS) had the capacity to provide the mental health services previously discussed.

The following was recommended for consideration by the board for JVS:

Allow CSF to partner with JVS for a six-month response with the amount not to exceed \$131,670, with the opportunity to come back to the board after the outlined initial phase should further support be required.

- \$28,000 in contract social workers
- \$30,000 in interpreter services
- \$19,000 in training for interpreters
- \$20,000 in staff support
- \$12,000 in overhead and incidentals (i.e., supplies)

A motion was made that would allow CSF to partner with Jewish Vocational Services through a contract award of \$131,670 for six months of support to resettle Afghan refugees in the areas of contract social work and interpreter services.

First: Justice Horn
Aye: 6

Second: Ajia Morris
Opposition: 0

Motion: Approved
Abstention: 0

E. Technology Grant Update

Rob Whitten

It was reported that 47 awards totaling \$943,710 had been made since the grant opportunity first opened August 11, 2021. There are ten pending applications totaling \$200,986. Mr. Whitten would like to do outreach to partners to close the application process by the end of the year.

VI. Strengthening Partnership

Katherine Rivard

Ms. Rivard reported that CSF Program Officers have recently completed site visits. The following observations were shared:

- School-Based Partners
Some partners have had challenges accessing the same client levels that they had prior to the pandemic. Agency staff report an increase in mental health concerns with the youth being served, resulting in longer waitlists, more referrals, and increased caseloads. Clients' social emotional skills have lapsed and there has been an increase in referrals for higher and more intensive services.
- Staffing Shortages
Workforce shortages seem reflective of what is being seen nationally, resulting in difficulties recruiting, retention, and training of staff. Private sector jobs are also increasing competition for partners.

- Other
Agencies would like a platform to share lessons learned and pivot strategies from one another, Agencies all seem supportive of reauthorization and a willingness to help with the communication and fundraising efforts. There is a great appreciation for the second round of technology grants.
- Behavioral Health Funders Network
CSF participated in the "Care Connectors" effort of this group. This is related to strengthening the referral network between organizations. Thirty-six organizations have participated to date. Two work products have been developed. Next step is to develop a Community of Practice.
- 3Q2022 Reports
Agency reports were due and are currently under review.

VII. Honoring Community

Public Progress: Re-Authorization of Sales Tax

Todd Patterson

Mr. Patterson shared the following comments related to the polling effort that was completed 30 days prior:

- Tolerance, cohesion, and intensity are the three things considered in any poll. CSF needs improvement around intensity.
- There is support when asking to double the levy, but those in opposition are a little stronger than Public Progress would like to see.
- There is great support across the board (i.e., partisan group, race, gender).
- The fund remains popular, with 71% supportive, 17% opposed and 12% undecided.
- There was greater support for the tax increase than removing the sunset. This is due to the culture here in Jackson County.
- The profile of the fund needs to be raised to increase intensity. Voters do not care about outcomes (i.e., who administers the fund), they care about the kids.
- Both Republican women, and Truman suburban voters have slipped, but the independent voters have slipped the most by 23 points.

In summary Mr. Patterson indicated that at this point in time for an election held next November just to increase the tax levy would be approved. If the sunset removal is included, it would be a "coin-toss."

Mr. Patterson shared that the first six months of 2022 will be focused on raising the digital profile of CSF. This would be accomplished through six virtual town halls in Lee's Summit, Blue Springs, Independence, Grandview, South Kansas City and Northeast Kansas City. A smaller version of the poll would be conducted in late March to gauge these efforts. If polling is favorable, then signature collection would begin to get ballot placement. Although the Legislature could place reauthorization on the ballot at any time, the Steering Committee felt CSF would be better served in educating the voters to make sure the process goes smoothly.

VIII. Optimizing Organization

A. Governance Work Session Follow-Up

Rob Whitten

The October work session resulted in the recommendation that two board committees be established and responsible in the areas as follows:

1. Internal Affairs Committee (Leadership: Vice Chair of Board)
 - Audit
 - Finance
 - HR
 - Governance/Bylaws
 - Nominating/Succession Planning
2. External Affairs Committee (Leadership: To Be Determined)
 - Funding Plan/Recommendations
 - Partner Support/Programs
 - Community Relations
 - Community Investment Framework
 - Re-Authorization
3. Ad Hoc Committee
 - Equity Work

Board action was required to form an Internal and External Affairs Committees. This would require a change to the CSF By-Laws, which currently address the Audit Committee. It was determined that action on an Ad-Hoc Committee would come later.

[A motion was made to establish an Internal Affairs Committee and an External Affairs Committee.](#)

First: Jovanna Rohs
Aye: 6

Second: Ajia Morris
Opposition: 0

Motion: Approved
Abstention: 0

Dir. Morris asked if there was going to be a discussion during the meeting about the leadership for the External Affairs Committee. Mr. Whitten indicated that this would not be done during the meeting, but the position would be named and filled prior to the first meeting of the Committee in 2022.

Board Calendar – 2022

Rob Whitten

In discussion with Dir. Mesle and Dir. Ramirez it was suggested that the Board calendar continue to follow the 2021 calendar with nine meetings. The intent would be the resumption of in-person meetings in early 2022, with guests initially joining virtually. Committees would meet in the weeks prior during the month the board meetings are held. Committee meetings would be virtual, initially, with each Member serving on at least one committee.

Other Follow-Up Items

Mr. Whitten offered the following items from the work session.

- Create a dashboard with metrics and key performance indicators.
- Update bylaws to reflect new committee structure, as well as other needed revisions
- Define what it means to be a CSF Ambassador

- Develop and document CSF Ambassador talking points

B. Nominating

There remain two open board seats. The County Executive's office has sent over a prospect for the district four seat. There must be one director named from this district. The remaining representative can come from Districts 2, 3, 4, or 5.

IX. New Business

Ann Mesle

Dir. Mesle called for any new business from members. There was no new business brought forward.

X. Director and Guest Comments

Ann Mesle

Dir. Mesle called for any comments from members. There were no comments brought forward.

Dir. Mesle called for any comments from guests. Sally Hornstra, Cornerstones of Care, asked if zip codes are targeted or if CSF would like to see services offered for funding in certain areas? Mr. Whitten indicated that current capacity limits what can be funded in any area, especially when CSF must already turn down good programs.

XI. Adjournment

Ann Mesle

Dir. Mesle called for adjournment of the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Sue Richter

Brian Kaberline, Secretary

Next Board Meeting: January 20, 2022 - 2:30-4:30 p.m.

- Develop and document CSF Ambassador talking points

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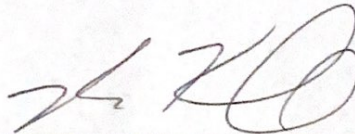
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