



CHILDREN'S
SERVICES
FUND
OF JACKSON COUNTY

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Penntower

3100 Broadway, Suite 130, Kansas City, MO 64111

Thursday, September 15, 2022 – 2:30 p.m.

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Absent:

Judy Morgan

Staff Present:

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

Guests, Affiliations:

Cheryle Costabile, KVC
Sarah Forgey, Greater KC Comm. Found.
Traci Francis, Hope House
Jim Giles, University Health

Guest Presenter:

Todd Patterson, Public Progress

- 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 Board Members was taken and guests were welcomed and invited to introduce themselves.

III. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes Ann Mesle
Dir. Mesle called for a motion or changes to the board meeting minutes circulated in the board packet. Upon hearing no comments, the following motion was made.
[A motion was made to approve the August 19, 2022, meeting minutes as presented.](#)
First: [Ajia Morris](#) Second: [Brian Kaberline](#) Motion: [Approved](#)
Aye : 5 Abstention : 1- ([Jovanna Rohs](#)) Opposition : 0
(Note: [Dir. Horn was not present for this vote.](#))

IV. Review and Approval of Proposed Agenda Ann Mesle
No changes were requested to the agenda circulated prior to the meeting.

V. Re-Authorization of Sales Tax Todd Patterson/Rob Whitten
Mr. Patterson thanked all in attendance for their support with campaign efforts. He provided updates in the following areas:
1. Communication – Public education efforts have been very successful, particularly in eastern Jackson County. There are forty-three speaking engagements currently scheduled around the county to be conducted by members of the Coalition and Steering Committee. Direct mail, digital and text messaging efforts are scheduled to begin in October.

Due to the new Kansas City infrastructure ballot initiative an adjustment to some of the language on the campaign communications will be changed slightly to say specifically that it is a renewal of the Children's Services Fund through "County Question 1".

2. Campaign Budget & Fundraising – The Campaign Committee has raised \$305k with \$96k still to raise.
3. Endorsements – Greater Kansas City and Independence Chambers of Commerce have endorsed the campaign.
4. Partners – Mr. Whitten indicated that messaging is currently being worked on for partners, including schools, to share with their families.
5. Polls/Signage – The campaign is currently looking for volunteers on the day of the election to work at polling locations. Yard signs will also be available from a pickup location that is to be determined.

In response to a question from Dir. Morris regarding the smaller local chambers and organizations, Mr. Patterson indicated that there was a plan to approach the Hispanic Chamber, as well as an event for Black Clergy on the calendar. Additional opportunities will be pursued as they become available. Dir. Morris suggested that the Coalition of Concerned Clergy be contacted for endorsement. Dir. Horn also suggested that the Labor Alliance Breakfast as an opportunity.

Dir. Morris asked if she could raise money personally in support of the campaign as part of her upcoming birthday. Mr. Whitten cautioned that the only difficulty he would see would be if a funded partner contributed to this effort. Dir. Mesle indicated that she did not know of a prohibition, but rather a challenge to avoid any

donation from a funded partner. Dir. Morris expressed a desire to avoid any impropriety.

6. After Election Day – Mr. Whitten shared the following strategies and timelines should reauthorization be approved:
 - a. Immediately
 - Hire an Accounts Payable position
 - Begin a compensation study for key positions (approx. twelve positions)
 - b. Dec.2022-Jan.2023
 - Lock staffing plan
 - Begin search for new office space
 - c. Mar/Apr 2023
 - Begin hiring process
 - Continue to pursue relocation
 - Extend 2023 calendar contracts by one year (2024) with potential five percent increase allowed for contracts not already at the funding cap.
 - Open LOI for any organization not currently funded under calendar year, or any organization with only one funded program, to request a one-year award (April)
 - d. July – access to Capacity and Collaboration funds begins
 - e. Fall 2023 – Split academic and calendar year into two separate application cycles – open RFP for academic funding for 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 school years
 - f. Spring 2024 – Open RFP for calendar year funding for 2025 and beyond

Dir. Mesle expressed a concern regarding if the “people power” was currently in place for the staff support needed to get the organization through until April. She would like to see the strategic work that has been discussed begin sooner. Mr. Whitten expressed his caution in hiring additional staff prior to the election and queried the Board about their perception of existing gaps in current operations. Dir. Horn expressed a concern about the potential to secure new space, which he believes could be started now. Mr. Whitten indicated that there is ample space in Penntower should relocating in the current location be deemed the best option, and that determining the number of staff moving forward must precede pursuing new space. Dir. Rohs suggested that back-office support that could be contracted for now might be looked at. Mr. Whitten indicated additional support for the Finance Officer was a next step regardless of the outcome of the election and would begin in short order. Dir. Mesle would like to see more board engagement regarding growth plan discussions. Mr. Whitten indicated that a community needs assessment in 2023 would inform much of how the organization moves forward. Dir. Kaberline expressed appreciation of Mr. Whitten's comment.

VI. Investing in Children

Amy Harris/Moji Shogbamimu

Dir. Harris stated that she had reviewed the financials with Ms. Shogbamimu prior to the meeting and everything looked very good.

performed for the currently unfunded partner to make a recommendation regarding that transfer during the October meeting.

VII. Strengthening Partners

A. Partner Engagement

Seth Baker

Pre-site visit questionnaires are being prepared in anticipation of upcoming site visits within the next six weeks.

B. Clinical Capacity Building

Katherine Rivard

Meetings have been conducted with UMKC, Park University and Avila. Ms. Rivard indicated that they are hearing tremendous support and awareness of the need for this kind of initiative. Included in the upcoming partner site visit questionnaires will be one regarding workforce issues and educational needs.

Dir. Mesle inquired about any focus on undergraduate degree assistance. In response it was stated that due to the need expressed by partners the focus has been on licensed clinicians. There has not been discussions to address undergrad programs at this time.

VIII. Honoring Community

Ajia Morris

Community Impact Framework (External Affairs)

Staff is preparing for five partner engagement sessions over the next two weeks, beginning on Wednesday, September 21, 2022, and concluding by Wednesday, September 28, 2022. Three sessions will focus on treatment services, while the two remaining will focus on prevention. Sessions will last between 60 and 90 minutes and have been capped at 20 participants each. The feedback from these sessions will provide the final details to complete a draft of our Community Impact Framework for further evaluation by the External Affairs Committee prior to approval from the Board.

IX. Optimizing Organization

Internal Affairs Committee Update

Jessica Ramirez

A report on the following was shared from the September 9, 2022, meeting:

- Post Audit Update – A second review by the Board Treasurer of the financials and bank statements is now in place.
- Audit Fraud Checklist - A copy of the checklist will be circulated to the committee for review and comment prior to their next meeting.
- Bylaw Discussion – A review of the bylaws and discussion regarding recommended changes was completed, with the proposed changes now going to the attorney for review. As a reminder it was noted that the bylaws must be presented ten days prior to a Board vote.
- Reserve Policy – Following review and discussion during the meeting, Mr. Whitten will draft a policy for the committee to review.

X. New Business

Ann Mesle

Dir. Mesle called for any new business. No new business was brought forward.

XI. Board Chair Comments Ann Mesle
Dir. Mesle expressed her appreciation for the quality and discussions during this meeting. She thanked staff and funded partners for their commitment to the organization.

XII. Director and Guest Comments Ann Mesle
Dir. Morris indicated that she and Dir. Horn would like to have a "live tweet dual" during the next board meeting. She asked for feedback or concerns regarding the use of social media to do this to draw attention to CSF. Dir. Rohs provided feedback regarding consideration of what is included, as minutes are draft until approved. She felt that more general rather than specific comments could be shared.

Mr. Whitten asked members to put a placeholder on their calendar for a tentative meeting in December.

Dir. Horn asked if anything was planned socially for the holidays.

XIII. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Sue Richter



Brian Kaberline, Secretary

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