



CHILDREN'S
SERVICES
FUND
OF JACKSON COUNTY

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 20, 2025 – 3:00 p.m.

CSF Community Room
2345 Grand Blvd, 14th Floor, Kansas City, MO 64108

Board Members Present:

Amy Harris (Chair)
Brian Kaberline (Vice-Chair)
Monica Meeks (Treasurer)
Judy Morgan (Secretary)
Dan Nelson
Jessica Ramirez

Staff Present:

Rob Whitten (CEO)
Russell Anderson
Kia Cannon
Jane Mosley
Celeste Ortiz
Katherine Rivard
Jovanna Rohs
Moji Shogbamimu
Bernadette Spooner Thompson

Board Members Absent:

Ralph Teran

I. Call to Order Amy Harris, Chair

The scheduled board meeting for the Children's Services Fund of Jackson County (CSF) was called to order at 3:03 p.m.

II. CSF Board Members Roll Call/Guest Introductions Amy Harris, Chair

Roll call was taken, there were no guests in attendance at this meeting.

III. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes Amy Harris, Chair

A. Director Harris called for a motion to approve or make comments regarding changes to the October 16, 2025, board meeting minutes circulated in the board packet. There were no changes forthcoming.

A motion was made to approve October 16, 2025, board meeting minutes.

First: Dir. Morgan Second: Dir. Kaberline Motion: Approved

Aye: 5 Nay: 0

****Dir. Nelson was absent for this vote.***

B. Proposed Agenda Amy Harris, Chair

There were no comments regarding needed changes to the proposed agenda.

IV. Investing in Children

Amy Harris, Chair

A. Financial Update- Moji Shogbamimu, Chief Financial Officer

1. A review of the financials circulated in the board packet was completed with the following highlights from October 2025:

2025 YTD Financials (as of 10.31.25)

Revenue	YTD
Tax Revenue	\$28,473,986
Investments	\$670,828
Total Revenue	\$29,144,814

Expenses	YTD
Program Support	\$23,341,605
Operating & Overhead	\$2,182,586
Total Expenses	\$25,524,191

2025 YTD Financial Position (as of 10.31.2025)

Expenses	YTD
Assets	\$28,855,921
Obligations	\$19,611,272
Total Net Assets	\$9,244,649

Total YTD revenue as of the end of Q3 was \$28.4 million, representing 86.3% of the approved budget. Investment income has doubled compared to prior projections, driven largely by market rebound and stable portfolio returns. With two months of the year remaining, the total program support is currently \$23.3 million at 61% of budget.

2. A 2026 draft budget was presented to the board.

Revenue	2026 Proposed
Sales Tax Investment	\$33,000,000
Investment Income	\$500,000
Transfer from Reserve	\$14,088,378
Total Revenue	\$47,588,378

Expenses	2026 Proposed
Program Support	\$44,534,671
Overhead (Program)	\$2,340,206
Overhead (Admin)	\$713,501
Total Expenses	\$47,588,378

During discussion, members raised questions regarding the relationship between approving the budget and future funding decisions, noting the ongoing challenge of aligning multi-year funding commitments with annual budget approval. It was clarified that while certain projects may not be approved later, the budget still needs to be adopted to reflect overall planned expenditures and commitments.

A motion was made to approve the proposed 2026 budget.

First: Dir. Meeks Second: Dir. Ramirez Motion: Approved

Aye :5 Nay: 0

***Dir. Nelson was absent for this vote.**

B. CSF Funding- Jovanna Rohs, Chief Program Officer

1. Collaboration Funding Project- Avenue of Life

Dr. Rohs presented Avenue of Life's *Impact KCMO* collaboration proposal, a 3-year project designed to support 450–600 families experiencing homelessness within KCMO charter schools, in partnership with the Missouri Charter Public School Association and the YMCA of Greater Kansas City. The program uses school-based navigators and coordinated "Impact Events" to connect families with more than 60 social-service and employment agencies, with the goal of reducing the number of families who are unhoused while improving school attendance.

A motion was made to approve the request for Avenue of Life's Impact KCMO collaboration proposal not to exceed \$271,407 in Year 1, \$321,294 in Year 2, and \$323,298 in Year 3 for a project total not to exceed \$916,000.

First: Dir. Morgan Second: Dir. Kaberline Motion: Approved
Aye: 6 Nay: 0

2. Community Funding Project- The Children's Place

Dr. Rohs presented a two-year funding request from The Children's Place to continue facilitating the *Collective Action for Children* initiative (formerly the Child Abuse Roundtable). This collaboration brings together more than two dozen agencies, including law enforcement, courts, legislators, and child-serving organizations to coordinate efforts, increase awareness, and reduce child abuse in the community. Participating agencies collectively served approximately 252,000 clients in 2024. The request provides backbone support to sustain quarterly meetings and ongoing cross-agency coordination.

A motion was made to approve the request for The Children's Place Collective Action for Children community funding proposal not to exceed \$73, 544 in Year 1, and \$76,425 in Year 2 for a project total not to exceed \$149,969.

First: Dir. Morgan Second: Dir. Meeks Motion: Approved
Aye: 6 Nay: 0

3. Community Funding Project- Community CareLink

Mr. Whitten that Synergy Services approached the Fund earlier this year after identifying major gaps in their revenue cycle management, credentialing, and billing processes that led to delayed or recouped Medicaid and insurance payments. With targeted support, they increased third-party revenue by about \$300,000, highlighting the value of a shared billing and credentialing hub for other CSF partners. Community CareLink provided this support to Synergy and has proposed a two-year pilot to provide this centralized support, with projected gains of \$400,000 in additional revenue for three organizations in year one and up to \$1 million in year two as the model scales. Because this project builds provider capacity rather than delivering direct services, it will be treated as a community project and managed through service level agreements with clear performance metrics, with year-two funding contingent on successful year-one outcomes.

A motion was made to approve the request for Community CareLink's Revenue Cycle Management Pilot community funding proposal not to exceed \$448,250 in Year 1, and \$508,000 in Year 2 for a project total not to exceed \$956,250.

**First: Dir. Kaberline
Aye: 6**

**Second: Dir. Ramirez
Nay: 0**

Motion: Approved

4. Capacity Building Through Technology

Dr. Rohs presented a proposal regarding a new Technology Capacity-Building initiative, noting past response to this type of funding and the critical need among partners for support with hardware, software, subscriptions, and other technology upgrades. This request establishes a \$3 million funding pool, allowing organizations to request up to \$35,000 each. The initiative will be launched during the gap between core funding cycles. Board members discussed anticipated requests including hardware replacement, electronic records systems, telehealth tools, and emerging AI-related software and confirmed that applicants must be organizations whose services align with CSF's core funding eligibility.

A motion was made to approve the request for a \$3,000,000 funding pool in support of technology, with partner requests not to exceed \$35,000.

**First: Dir. Kaberline
Aye: 6**

**Second: Dir. Morgan
Nay: 0**

Motion: Approved

5. Core Funding – LOI Phase Update

The LOI period for Academic core funding is currently open until November 25th, with 50 applications already in draft. Reminders were sent to partners who had not yet started, and many confirmed they are preparing submissions after meeting with staff. CSF anticipates receiving approximately 65–70 LOIs, an increase from last year.

V. Strengthening Partners

Jovanna Rohs, CPO

A. CSF Convenings Follow-Up

1. Mental Health Equity Convening - Russell Anderson

CSF hosted a mental health equity convening with 48 attendees representing 39 partner organizations. The session opened with candid discussion about partners' current challenges in this work and concluded by gathering input on how CSF can support or advance health equity work within partner organizations. Partners identified 9 key areas of need, ranging from specific requests to clarifications on existing support. Feedback was highly positive, and CSF plans to continue this work and reconvene partners for next steps.

2. Revised Units of Service Definitions – Jovanna Rohs

CSF is standardizing its units of service to improve clarity, consistency, and efficiency. Currently, partners self-define unit names and rates, resulting in over 100 different unit types. After reviewing comparable models from other agencies and analyzing all existing unit submissions, staff consolidated these into 36 standardized units with clear descriptions. Partner feedback was collected from 24 agencies, leading to minor refinements and the addition of one new unit related to family social-emotional support. The standardized units

will be finalized by December 15 so partners can use them in budget development.

3. Clinical Supervision Pilot

After hosting two convenings with partners to understand needs and challenges in moving clinicians from provisional to full licensure, a final convening will take place on December 4. CSF program officers are leading this work and will present a full proposal to the board in February 2026, with the goal of launching the pilot in July 2026.

B. Fall Site Visits

Site visits this fall showed that many schools and agencies are under significant strain. Homelessness among students is rising, emergency needs are increasing, and recent cuts to SNAP, HUD programs, and VOCA funding are starting to hit partners directly. Staff burnout is widespread. Some agencies are also weighing the impact of new federal rules tied to funding, especially around DEI. Partners shared that CSF's flexibility, such as switching to actual expenses and offering more budget revision support has been helpful. Overall, the visits highlighted growing pressures across the community, and the value of the support the fund provides.

VI. Honoring Community

Rob Whitten, CEO

A. CSF Communications Plan Update- Jane Mosley, Director of Impact

The fund is rethinking its overall communications approach to better tell the story of its impact and more effectively highlight partner work. The team is assessing key messages, how to share timely updates, and how to ensure partners clearly understand what CSF does and how to access funding. The team is exploring ways to elevate real-time issues coming from site visits and convenings, both internally and publicly and plans to develop a more concrete communications strategy for 2026.

VII. Optimize Organization

Rob Whitten, CEO

A. Organizational Updates

1. Approval of CSF Bylaws Revisions

Mr. Whitten referenced the red-lined bylaws that had previously been shared during the board meeting on October 16, 2025, and that had been distributed again as part of the board packet for this meeting. This red-lined version had been crafted/reviewed by the Internal Affairs Committee and was now ready for board approval. During discussion, members identified an outdated clause allowing decisions to be made without a quorum and later ratified, something the board does not practice. The board agreed to remove that language. With that amendment, a motion to approve the revised bylaws was brought forth.

A motion was made to approve the proposed revised bylaws for the Children's Services Fund of Jackson County as amended.

First: Dir. Morgan

Second: Dir. Kaberline

Motion: Approved

Aye: 6

Nay: 0

2. CSF Policy Agenda Areas

In consultation with several statewide partners to identify key priorities for the

upcoming Missouri legislative session, Mr. Whitten is suggesting three areas of CSF focus/support for the upcoming Missouri legislative session:

Health & Mental Health: Support full Medicaid funding, protect SNAP/WIC, and expand access to mental health services, including early childhood and school-based care.

Early Childhood & Education: Track changes affecting home visitation, childcare, and after-school programs, and monitor guidance from the Missouri Office of Childhood.

Fiscal Policy: Monitor proposals to eliminate the state income tax and potential impacts on state revenues and families. Staff will also work to ensure Missouri fully utilizes available federal funds, especially for foster and transitional-age youth.

The board was supportive of these positions and voiced no concerns.

3. CSF Event- Jackson County State Legislators

CSF will host a coffee and conversation event for Jackson County state representatives and senators on December 3rd to introduce the organization, share key findings from the Children's Services Assessment, and highlight policy priorities affecting children.

4. Nominating Update

Mr. Whitten reported that a District 4 board appointment is still under review pending a meeting with the County Executive. A potential nominee from District 2 has also been identified.

5. 2026 Board Schedule Reminder

The board will hold a working session on January 29, 2026, with the February meeting moved to the fourth Thursday due to a scheduling conflict. The 2026 board meeting cadence has been distributed to board members.

VIII. Old/New Business

None noted.

Amy Harris, Chair

IX. Director and Guest Comments

Dir. Meeks praised the CSF team for their hard work and professionalism, noting the impressive coordination across finance, program, and site visit responsibilities. The board offered a round of applause in recognition of staff efforts.

Amy Harris, Chair

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Kia Cannon


Judy Morgan, Secretary

Next Meeting: February 26, 2026 at 3:00p.m. CST – CSF Community Room