CHILDREN'S SERVICES FUND OF JACKSON COUNTY

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 16, 2026 – 3:00 p.m.
CSF Community Room
2345 Grand Blvd, 14th Floor, Kansas City, MO 64108

Board Members Present:
Brian Kaberline (Vice- Chair)
Judy Morgan (Secretary)
Monica Meeks (Treasurer)
Dan Nelson
Jessica Ramirez
Oneta Templeton
Ralph Teran

Board Members Absent:
Amy Harris (Chair)

Staff Present:
Rob Whitten (CEO)
Russell Anderson
Kia Cannon
Melody Elston
Celeste Ortiz
Katherine Rivard
Jovanna Rohs
Moji Shogbamimu

Guest Affiliations:

Wakeisha Briggs, Bridge Leadership Academy
Bp. Tony Caldwell, Justice & Dignity Center
Lesleigh Centinguc, Sherwood Center
Cassidy Collins, Synergy Services
Kaki Conti, Synergy Services
Robert Cordell, Raytown School District
Cheryl Constabile, KVC
Jim Giles, University Health
Staci Gonzalez, Sherwood Center
Emily Hage, First Call
Vanessa Herring, First Call
Alicia Janssen, Mother's Refuge
Kristina Jones, CAPA Cares
Gina Lichte, Girls on the Run
Kathryn Mahoney, Wayside Waifs
Erin McNamara, Wayside Waifs
Tony Medina, Our Spot KC
Margaux Mueller, First Call
Star Palmer, Out Spot KC
Mark Pringle, Justice & Dignity Center
Anne Rauth, Peace Partnership
Danyca Singleton, Hickman Mills Schools
Tiffany Staley, Synergy
Ashley Stanley, Wayside Waifs
Carlos Taylor, Hickman Mills Schools
Naomi Thompson, Peace Partnership
Garrett Webster, Youth Guidance
Lexi Wright, CAPA Cares
Julie Younger, Northeast Community Center

I. Call to Order — Brian Kaberline, Vice-Chair

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

II. Board Member Roll Call/Guest Introductions — Brian Kaberline, Vice-Chair

Roll call was taken. Due to the number of guests in attendance, they were asked to sign-in opposed to making individual introductions.

III. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes/Agenda — Brian Kaberline, Vice-Chair

A. Director Kaberline called for a motion to approve or make comments regarding changes to the February 26, 2026, board meeting minutes circulated in the board packet. There were no changes forthcoming.

A motion was made to approve February 26, 2026, board meeting minutes.
First: Dir. Morgan | **Second: Dir. Teran** | **Motion: Approved**
Aye: 5 | **Nay: 0**
Dir Nelson and Ramirez were absent for this vote

B. Director Kaberline asked for any changes to the proposed agenda, with no changes suggested.

IV. Investing in Children — Brian Kaberline, Vice-Chair

A. Partner Spotlight

a. Mothers Refuge — **Alicia Janssen**

Mothers Refuge shared an overview of their services for pregnant and parenting teens, noting high levels of trauma and mental health needs among clients. They provide transitional housing, mental health care, parenting education, and support for education and employment using the Strengthening Families framework. Services also include therapy for mothers and children and outcomes tracking. They reported continued high demand for services despite declining teen pregnancy rates.

b. Our Spot KC — **Tony Medina & Star Palmer**

Our Spot KC presented an overview of their role as a hub of resources for the LGBTQ+ community in Kansas City, including transitional housing, case management, and supportive services. They highlighted their Lion House program, which provides housing and wraparound supports such as life skills training, education, and employment readiness, with a focus on LGBTQ+ youth and families experiencing housing instability. They also shared information about expanded housing options, community programming at their navigation center, and outreach efforts including support groups, events, and basic needs assistance. Staff noted ongoing funding and capacity challenges while emphasizing continued growth in services and partnerships to meet community needs.

B. Financial Update — **Moji Shogbamimu, Chief Financial Officer**

A review of the financials circulated in the board packet was completed with the following highlights from March 2026. YTD program support is tracking at about 25.5% of budget, with expenses below budget due to the early point in the fiscal

year. The fund reported strong liquidity with $28.7 million in assets, including $22.5 million in investments. Staff noted a minor reporting typo in the financial packet, which was clarified during discussion.

2026 YTD Financials (as of 3.31.26)

Revenue	YTD
Tax Revenue	$8,426,778
Investments	$ 118,217
Total Revenue	**$ 8,544,994**

Expenses	YTD
Program Support	$4,452,142
Operating & Overhead	$646,066
Total Expenses	**$5,098,208**

C. CSF Funding **Jovanna Rohs, Chief Program Officer**

1. Core Funding: Academic Year Funding Slate
   Dr. Rohs presented the Academic Year Core Funding slate that had previously been vetted by the External Affairs Committee of the board. It was noted that 72 LOI's (Letter of Intent) were received requesting approximately $49 million in support. Through staff review, partner engagement, and consideration of impact, acuity, and geographic reach, 57 projects from 51 organizations were recommended for funding at just under $28 million for Academic Years 2026/2027 and 2027/2028. The process emphasized sustaining existing services while also incorporating new programs. A small number of proposals were not funded due to alignment with organizational goals and statutory requirements, and applicants will be offered follow-up conversations to provide feedback and discuss application outcomes with CSF staff.

A motion was made to approve the recommended slate to be paid from the CSF Core Funding budget line in amounts not to exceed $13,720,812 for Academic Year 2026/2027 and $14,275,222 for Academic Year 2027/2028.

First: Dir. Morgan **Second: Dir. Teran** **Motion: Approved**
Aye: 7 **Nay: 0**

2. Capacity Building Funding Slate
   Dr. Rohs presented the Capacity Building slate for projects beginning July 1, 2026. This funding slate had also previously been vetted by the External Affairs Committee. The cycle received 45 applications totaling $5.6 million in requests, with approximately $1.8 million tentatively earmarked for awards. Due to high demand, staff prioritized projects from organizations that had not previously received capacity building funding or had not reached maximum prior funding levels. The final recommended slate includes 24 projects totaling approximately $1.75 million.

A motion was made to approve the recommended Capacity Building slate not to exceed $1,018,358 in Year 1 and $735,807 in Year 2 for the funding period beginning July 1, 2026.

First: Dir. Morgan **Second: Dir. Ramirez** **Motion: Approved**
Aye: 7 **Nay: 0**

3. CSF Funding: World Cup Trafficking Response
   Dr. Rohs presented a special funding request from the Justice and Dignity Center related to increased risk of child trafficking associated with the upcoming World Cup. Following additional research and discussion with the External Affairs Committee, staff noted no additional external funding sources were identified for this issue and highlighted the organization's role in providing crisis housing and services for youth impacted by commercial sexual exploitation. A revised recommendation of $219,500 for a six-month period was proposed, reduced from the original $224,000 request by removing a medical-related line item.

A motion was made to approve funding to The Justice and Dignity Center not to exceed $219,500 from the CSF Community budget to support services for approximately 170 youth impacted by commercial sexual exploitation during the World Cup event in Kansas City, MO.

First: Dir. Morgan	**Second: Dir. Ramirez**	**Motion: Approved**
Aye: 7	**Nay: 0**	

   It was also noted that the CSF plans to offer a no-cost training session in late May, in partnership with the Missouri Network Against Child Abuse (MO-NACA), focused on identifying and supporting youth who may be experiencing trafficking, following feedback that awareness and guidance in this area is needed among partners and staff.

4. Technology Capacity Building Award Update

   Mr. Whitten provided an update on the previously approved $3 million technology award line item (up to $35,000 per organization), with final award notifications expected soon. It was also noted that the technology award allocation will not be fully expended and that remaining funds were considered in the Capacity Building budget and reallocated accordingly.

V. Strengthening Partners **Russell Anderson, Dir. of Health Equity**

A. Mental Health Equity Community of Practice
   Mr. Anderson introduced that a Mental Health Equity Community of Practice is being developed in response to feedback from a prior convening on this topic. The community will include up to 48 partner participants, primarily direct service staff, and will meet three times (May, August, and November) to share experiences and strengthen equity-based mental health practices. Each session will include a brief learning component followed by facilitated group discussion. Participants are expected to commit to all sessions to support continuity and collaboration.

VI. Honoring Community **Rob Whitten, CEO**

A. Center for Effective Philanthropy Study
   Mr. Whitten provided an update on the partner feedback survey being conducted by the Center for Effective Philanthropy, as previously approved by the Board. The survey will be distributed at the end of May to all organizations with 2025 contracts, with CEP managing distribution and ensuring respondent anonymity. Results will be

compiled and shared with the Board and partners in the fall to inform continuous improvement.

B. Community Impact Report 2025
Mr. Whitten reported that the 2025 Impact Report is almost complete and on track to be presented to the Board in June.

VII. Optimize Organization **Rob Whitten, CEO**

A. Organizational Updates

1. CSF Policy Agenda Areas/Missouri Legislative Update
Mr. Whitten provided an update on Missouri legislative activity, including a proposed constitutional amendment to eliminate the state income tax that could impact future local revenue growth and funding capacity. Additional bills under review include Medicaid work requirement changes and SNAP eligibility restrictions, which may affect access to services for families and children. Mr. Whitten also noted the elimination of $25 million in state funding previously used to support federal Victims of Crime Act dollars (VOCA), creating an anticipated funding gap for local partner agencies serving approximately 2,500 children. Positive legislative outcomes included passage of bills strengthening protections for victims of trafficking and abuse and removing pregnancy as a barrier to divorce.
2. Election of Board Officers
The Board conducted its annual meeting to elect officers for the upcoming term. Based on recommendations from the Internal Affairs Committee and discussions with current officers, the slate of officers was presented to continue the existing leadership structure.

A motion was made for the re-election of Children's Services Fund of Jackson County officers for the 2026 term.

- **Amy Harris as Chair**
- **Brian Kaberline as Vice Chair**
- **Monica Meeks as Treasurer**
- **Judy Morgan as Secretary**

First: Dir. Ramirez **Second: Dir. Nelson** **Motion: Approved**
Aye: 7 **Nay: 0**

3. Other Updates
Mr. Whitten recognized employee anniversaries and transitions. The Board acknowledged Melody Elston, who recently joined the team as a Program Officer, and Bernadette Spooner Thompson, who is departing after her tenure with the organization. The board also welcomed new board member Oneta Templeton.

VIII. Old/New Business **Brian Kaberline, Vice-Chair**
None noted.

IX. Director and Guest Comments **Brian Kaberline, Vice-Chair**

Board members provided brief closing comments, including appreciation to staff for their work on contracts and acknowledgement of partner impacts related to funding reductions.

X. Closed Session

The following motion was made:

"I move that this meeting be closed, and all records and notes, to the extent permitted by law, pertaining to and/or resulting from this closed meeting be closed under Section 610.021, subsection 13 RSMO, for the purpose of discussing the CEO's annual performance evaluation."

First: Dir. Morgan	**Second: Dir. Teran**	**Motion: Approved**
Aye: 7	**Nay: 0**	

The meeting was closed and the CSF Board went into Executive Session at 4:15pm on April 16, 2026.

A motion was made to come back into open session.

First: Dir. Ramirez	**Second: Dir. Meeks**	**Motion: Approved**
Aye: 7	**Nay: 0**	

The meeting came out of closed Executive session and back into open session at 4:59pm on April 16, 2026.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.

Respectfully submitted: Kia Cannon

Judy Morgan

Judy Morgan, Secretary

Next Meeting: June 18, 2026, at 3:00p.m. CST – CSF Community Room