

**ALLEN COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES  
BOARD MEETING  
November 15, 2016**

**Members Present:** Dr. Hughes, Mr. Hayne, Ms. Provaznik, Mr. Reiff, Mr. Stolly, Mr. Long, Ms. Fox.

**Not Present:** Mr. Howard, Mrs. Eggart and Mrs. Buckley-Skaja, Dr. Holmes

Dr. Hughes called the Board meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

The Board minutes of October 18, 2016 were approved as written.

**AGENCY BUSINESS**

- ***COMMITTEE REPORTS***
  - Budget and Finance Committee –

**RESOLUTION 1116-01:** Ratifies the payment of bills for the month of October 2016.

Mr. Hayne made a motion to approve, Ms. Fox seconded, Motion carried, resolution adopted.

Mrs. Sidener stated placement is starting to come down slightly. In September two children stepped down from Network homes to our own homes. Five children have moved from foster care to adoptive placements.

**RESOLUTION 1116-02:** Authorizes the approval of the 2017 ACCSB Budget.

The proposed 2017 Budget was distributed to all board members. Ms. Provaznik stated the Finance committee did recommend to the board for approval of the proposed 2017 Budget at the October 18, 2016 meeting. The budget handouts are reflective of the year to date for 2016 budget and the 2016 approved budget. Revenue for 2016 is projected to be \$6,557,689.39, and the 2017 proposed budget is \$7,283,533.32. This is an increase, although the revenues are tied to expenditures, which is the driving force for the budget, apart from Levy monies. Levy monies were reduced due to the Tangible Personal Property Tax (TPPT), which is scheduled to conclude by 2020.

The salary lines reflect the projected salaries for 2017, PERS and Medicare are tied to these specific costs. Workers compensation is the amount allocated by the auditors, unemployment has an amount allocated. Medical premiums have an increase of 5.89 percent, which is a significant increase for 2017. Life insurance stays consistent and the retirement line is reflective of one retirement on December 31, 2016.

We show a slight increase in Adoption due to children moving from foster care to adoptive placements. Service has increased slightly, placement continues to be higher compared to previous years. In all other areas of the budget we have reduced expenditures, in ESSA we are no longer paying ACDJFS for services.

The projection is to use \$64,027.24 of the carry-over in the event placement costs do not continue to decrease. Mr. Hayne asked in what areas we can save costs in 2017? Placement would be the only area to look at saving costs. Staff have been working diligently to ensure we are only paying for services that are needed. Mr. Bruni stated staff are meeting once per week to discuss placements to ensure children are in the most appropriate, least restrictive setting. Mrs. Sidener stated there is now a dialogue in place with providers to ensure we are not paying over the allotted reimbursement amount. Per-diem for foster care placement is divided into maintenance and administration, maintenance costs are reimbursed at a certain percentage whereas administration is reimbursed at a lot lower rate.

Ms. Provaznik stated there was a long conversation in regards to the budget, the finance committee did review the budget and made a recommendation to approve the budget.

Mrs. Hughes appreciated the updates that are occurring in regard to the movement of children to the least restrictive placement.

Mr. Long made a motion to approve, Mr. Hayne seconded, Motion carried, resolution adopted.

- Community Engagement Committee – did not meet.
- Donated Funds Committee – did not meet.
- Nominating Committee – did not meet.
- Personnel Committee – did not meet.
- Program Services Committee – did not meet.
- By-Laws & Policy Committee – did not meet.

#### • **PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORTS**

New Employee Natalie Reynolds, who is a caseworker in Intake & Assessment, Supervisor Staci Nichols. Ms. Reynolds was in the Peace Corp for six months, and served her time in Africa, she speaks Swahili.

Family Support unit, served 284 children in the previous month, which is a significant reduction in numbers from previous months from 350 children served. We are working diligently to move visits back to homes and relatives. We have transferred 15 cases from Assessment to ongoing services, which is a higher number than we have seen previously. We have had a lot more newborns who are exposed to heroin and cocaine.

Placements have reduced by one from 124 children in custody to 123. This is broken down by 94 children in own homes, 9 children in network homes, and 18 children in residential homes, 1 in relative home and one in detention. Mrs. Hughes asked how many children we have currently placed in other counties. Mr. Bruni continues to have discussion with Executive Director Scanland in regard to placement outside Allen County. Close proximity to schools is a priority. According to rule and best practice, if a child comes into care, if that child has siblings who have already been adopted we do consider placement with the siblings.

Mr. Long asked of the 18 children in residential homes, are any of them able to return home? Mr. Bruni stated there are a few children who do have homes ready when the children finish their programs. Sometimes these children have delinquent issues and once they are stabilized they will be able to return home. Ms. Scanland stated there are three children who will emancipate from foster care as their behaviors are so significant.

#### • **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Cole Collection, which is now in its third year, provides gifts for children in our temporary custody and children who are placed with relatives. This outreach and support from this group is phenomenal.

Recently the Ohio Supreme Court reversed its decision involving the high profile case. The Supreme Court has acknowledged Mercer County Probate can entertain the adoption case. This decision completely undermines the child welfare system and the child abuse neglect system through juvenile court. The Public Children Services Agency of Ohio (PCSAO) is working with us and a team of attorney's from different county agencies throughout Ohio. Prosecutor Waldick will attend the December board meeting to give an overview of the decision.

Work continues to look at caseloads and the distribution of work throughout the agency. We have two more retirements which do create a lot of change but provides an opportunity to stream line work flow and antiquated processes.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services has selected Allen County Children Services to participate in the next Child & Family Services Review. We look forward to partnering with state staff during this review.

December Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 13, 2016 at 5:15 pm, this is the second Tuesday of the month. The change from the third Tuesday is to accommodate busy December schedules.

The Board will sponsor a family for Adopt A Family. Correspondence will be provided to all board members with details.

- **MEDIA REPORT** - Supreme Court reversal was in The Lima News with a link to the SCO decision. Will forward this to board members. Please read, specifically, Chief Justice O'Conner's opinion.

Ms. Provaznik and Dr. Hughes thanked the agency staff for focusing on the child in this case, and acting in a professional this matter.

- **OLD BUSINESS** - None
- **NEW BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION 1116-03:** Authorizes the approval of the 2016 – 2019 Bargaining Unit Contract.

Overview of some changes reviewed.

Ms. Provaznik made a motion to approve, Mr. Long seconded, Motion carried, resolution adopted.

- **EXECUTIVE SESSION** - None
- **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** – None
- **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Hayne made a motion to adjourn, Ms. Fox seconded, Motion carried, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



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Joanne K. Sidener  
Administrative Coordinator



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Dr. Jennifer Hughes, Ph.D., MSW, LISW-S  
Board Chair



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Cynthia M. Scanland, MSSA  
Executive Director