

12-10-2009

## Juvenile Welfare Board Meeting : 2009 : 12 : 10 : Packet

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

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**Board of Directors Meeting**

**December 10, 2009**

**Minutes – November 12, 2009**

**Item III.**

**PRESENT:** John Milford, Chair; Martha Lenderman, Vice Chair; Elise Minkoff, Secretary; Honorable Bob Dillinger; Maria Edmonds; Dr. Julie Janssen; Honorable Bernie McCabe; Van Sayler; Judge Irene Sullivan; Commissioner Ken Welch; Colleen Flynn, Attorney

**ABSENT:** Joseph Smith

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Pledge of Allegiance

**II. CONSENT ITEMS**

- A. Approve Minutes for Board Meeting of October 8, 2009
- B. Appoint Martha Lenderman to the Health and Human Services Coordinating Council (HHSCC) Policy Board

Mr. Milford thanked Mr. Sayler for his years of service and Ms. Lenderman for her willingness to serve in this capacity.

- C. Transfer \$4,210 of lapsed Pinellas County Department of Health grant funds directed to the HHSCC for FY 2008-09 into the HHSCC FY 2009-10 budget
- D. Approve the appointment of five Community Council Members as follows:

Sgt. Danny Doherty	Mid County	Government Representative
Bruce Cherkas	Mid County	Community Representative
Geneva Waters	Mid County	Community Representative
Dr. Avery Slyker	North County	Community Representative
Deputy Jason Stibbard	North County	Government Representative
- E. Approve the removal of obsolete equipment from the JWB inventory

**ACTION: Commissioner Welch moved to approve the consent agenda; seconded by Mr. Sayler; motion carried**

### III. ACTION ITEMS

#### A. Request Approval: Funding Advances

**Recommended Action:**

1. Approve a funding advance to Central Florida Behavior Health Network (CFBHN) for \$300,000, effective November 12, 2009.
2. Approve a funding advance to Coordinated Child Care (CCC) for \$280,000, effective November 12, 2009.

Both agencies require an advance on their contracts for adequate cash flow, due to the start of a new fiscal year.

Discussion: Commissioner Welch asked Ms. Sahulka if she anticipates an increase in agencies requesting cash advances, to which she answered yes. Mrs. Lancaster explained a few agencies are required by other funders to have large restricted reserves, and a new policy may need to be drafted for consideration by the Finance Committee.

**ACTION: Mr. Dillinger moved to approve the funding advances to CFBHN and CCC; seconded by Mr. Sayler; motion carried.**

#### B. Appointment of Successor Board for Children's Neighborhood Services (PCMS)

**Recommended Action:** Approve the Board of JWB as the Successor Board for the PCMS 501(c) 3 effective January 1, 2010.

The PCMS board is dissolving effective December 31, 2009. There must be a 501(c)3 governing board to succeed the previous one. Since JWB absorbed the services, the Board itself is the most viable successor. All legal and accounting issues have been reviewed and addressed by both our attorney and auditor.

Discussion: Steve Lesky, Regional Vice President of the Allegany Franciscan Foundation, Inc. spoke his concerns regarding the JWB Board also serving as the Board of Directors for a not-for-profit corporation that provides administrative services.

Mr. Sayler asked Mr. Lesky whether he was concerned with who sits on the Board or the Board structure. Mr. Lesky said both. Commissioner Welch asked Mr. Lesky for his suggestion, since he wasn't supportive of moving in this direction. Mr. Lesky said he wasn't prepared to answer that question; he would need time to explore options. Mrs. Flynn, JWB's attorney, clarified that administrative services are not going to be offered out of the 501(c) 3; the only things that remain will be the few contracts that were entered into under PCMS which, according to the auditors, appears to be the only way to maintain the corporate status that is required by some funders.

Ms. Lenderman said JWB doesn't want to be overly intrusive and the goal is to do less monitoring, but not all programs have the infrastructure needed. Mr. McCabe stated it was never JWB's intent to fund agencies and not be accountable for how tax payer dollars are spent.

Mr. Lesky said JWB needs to clearly state why it took this action and he feels it undermines the PCMS Board of Directors. Mrs. Minkoff said the PCMS Board really thought about the options; several different sessions were held with Neighborhood Family Centers (NFCs) asking for their needs and desires. The Board felt this process, going forward, would be in the best interest of the programs.

**ACTION: Mr. Sayler moved JWB's Board as the successor board for PCMS; seconded by Mrs. Minkoff; motion carried.**

Further Discussion: Commissioner Welch asked Mrs. Lancaster to elaborate on the future direction of JWB as it relates to neighborhood based services. Mrs. Lancaster said that JWB will have to partner with other entities and incorporate other dollars to fully address the needs of the community; we can't do it alone. The immediate plan is to improve the relationship with our programs and enhance the services being offered. The long term plan is to become more inter-dependent, build partnerships at the community level, obtain data to determine the highest needs and utilize that information to drive the direction of programming.

Mr. Sayler requested JWB staff investigate Board Development training and present their findings to the Board.

C. Request Approval: Amendment to Investment Policies

**Recommended Action:** Approve the updated investment policy. In order to allow for longer term Investment of the Program Stabilization Reserve, (as approved by the Board at the October, 2009 Board Meeting), the Investment Policy regarding maturity timeframe should be increased beyond 180 days. Per Regions Morgan-Keegan Trust (RMKT) counsel, staff is recommending that the policy be changed from 180 days to 2 years.

Discussion: Ms. Sahulka applauded the Board for establishing the Program Stabilization Fund which allows JWB to maintain status quo among the funded programs. She assured the Board long term investments would not be incorporated without Board approval. Mr. Sayler said he supports the recommendations with the understanding that it only applies to program stabilization dollars. He said the general concept is the longer the money is invested, the better the return.

**ACTION: Mr. Sayler moved approval of the amended investment policy; seconded by Judge Sullivan; motion carried.**

D. Request Approval: SAMIS Contract Amendment – Patricia Gehant, JWB

**Recommended Actions:**

1. Staff is requesting approval to amend the three year agreement of the statewide SAMIS Management Group (SMG), which distributes costs among Children's Services Councils, for FY 09-10. This action represents a reduction in annual costs for all partners.
2. Authorize the JWB Executive Director to sign the agreement.

The SAMIS Management Committee voted to utilize the SAMIS reserve fund to support the Enhancement and Replacement fees in FY 09-10. The reserve fund is the result of cost savings experienced over the life of the collaborative. The 42% decrease in costs was possible by reducing collaborative costs mostly by reducing enhancements. The assessment fee to each Children's Services Council (Broward, Jacksonville, Martin, Palm Beach and Pinellas Counties) is based on a formula that measures the impact the CSC will have on the network. Each CSC is assessed a percentage of the total costs of operating SAMIS. JWB is assessed at 21% of the costs.

Commissioner Welch inquired where the servers are housed, is the \$35,000 an annual cost, and what enhancements are usually requested. Mrs. Gehant said the equipment is housed in Tampa at Peak 10, the \$35,000 is an annual cost, and the majority of enhancements requested are related to tracking units of service and data.

Mrs. Lancaster told the Board staff is currently reviewing multiple systems that would provide JWB with the data needed to make informed decisions for future funding, and assuring the dollars available are reaching those who are in the greatest need.

**ACTION: Mr. McCabe moved to approve the SAMIS Contract Amendment and authorized the Executive Director to sign the agreement; seconded by Mr. Sayler; motion carried.**

#### IV. PRESENTATIONS

##### A. Investing in Human Capital

The Board viewed the Heckman Video that speaks to “investing in human capital”. Dr. Heckman is a Nobel Prize Winner in Economics and Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago. JWB, as well as other CSC’s, will use the information presented as a foundation for further public discourse about investing in children and generating the greatest return on investment.

Research confirms that quality early childhood development provides children with the foundation to become successful adults. When children are taught skills, motivation and incentives at an early age, the outcome is reduction in crime, better success in school and a skilled workforce. Investments in early childhood development for disadvantaged children will reduce inequality and increase productivity nationwide.

Discussion: Dr. Janssen said the Heckman Video is right on target. The school system is expanding its pre-school resources and is rethinking the way in which services are being offered. Currently workshops are being held to discuss the feasibility of a 12 month school year, especially at the elementary school level.

Mrs. Lancaster said the targeted investment approach will not be cheap; fewer children will be served at a higher cost. Ms. Prewitt shared a status update on the State agency budget reduction recommendations, and the impact they will have on children and families. Staff will be presenting a proposal to the Board reallocating dollars for early learning.

##### B. Quality Counts

Barbara Scarsbrook, Early Learning Coalition (ELC) presented additional information to the Board clarifying the difference between 5 Star and Quality Counts Rating System

###### Quality Counts

Learning Environment (ITERS-R)  
Learning Environment (ECERS-R)  
Learning Environment (FCCERS)  
Ratio & Group Size  
Staff Qualifications  
*Curriculum & Instructional Assessment*  
*Family Engagement*

###### Pinellas Five-Star

Learning Environment (ITERS-R)  
Learning Environment (ECERS-R)  
Learning Environment (FCCERS)  
Ratio & Group Size  
Staff Qualifications

*Program Administration  
Screening and Identification of Special  
Needs*

Quality Counts is a continuous quality improvement process that places a higher scoring value on additional criteria (italicized on the above list). Mrs. Lancaster told the Board JWB staff recommends full support of this initiative, although the ELC's will make the policy decision for state funded slots.

Discussion: Mr. Dillinger asked what JWB dollars buy and who is funding the homeless children of non-working parents? Janet Chapman, ELC Executive Director, stated ELC has criteria to be met to qualify for their services, and employment is one of those requirements. Guy Cooley, Executive Director of Coordinated Child Care, said there are some funds set aside for homeless families, albeit limited.

Commissioner Welch wanted to know the official policy for removing children from a homeless situation and how many homeless children there are. Bob Henriquez, Department of Children and Families, said if the children are in a safe environment they will remain with the family. Mr. Dillinger wanted to know the process for that determination, and requested a copy of the Policies. He does not want to penalize children for the problems of their parents.

Mrs. Minkoff asked how many centers have received 5 Star status and what technical assistance will be offered? She expressed concern that providers are already overwhelmed with licensing requirements and may not have the time to seek Quality Counts certification.

Mrs. Scarsbrook responded there is great interest in participating in Quality Counts, that centers determine their technical needs, and receive incentives as they work towards the higher levels. Mrs. Edmonds asked what the incentives are and who pays for them? Mrs. Scarsbrook said the incentives vary and are paid by ELC. Currently there are 200 centers participating; to date, none have reached the 5 Star level.

Dr. Janssen asked what method can be used to find the homeless families who are afraid to report their situation for fear of losing their children?

Mrs. Lancaster agrees children should not be penalized for their parents' difficulties but that state policy makers have determined the criteria for state funds. JWB staff will look at the policies regarding JWB and will bring recommendations back to the Board.

**V. INFORMATION ITEMS**

- A. Legislative Report
- B. Security Audit
- C. Community Based Care Report
- D. Child Welfare Advocacy Report
- E. Calendar of Events
- F. Financial Reports
- G. Initiative Updates, Site Visit Schedule and Summaries
- H. Personnel Report
- I. Training Center Report
- J. Media Items

## **VII OPEN AGENDA**

- A. Barbara Daire, President/CEO, Suncoast Center for Community Mental Health, Inc., and Rhonda Sheared, Vice president of Programs and Development for Family Service Centers (FSC), reported they are working toward a merger. SCCMH has been, and will continue to, subcontract services through FSC until the amalgamation is complete. One of the major goals is to consolidate services, not eliminate them.
- B. Ray Gadd, Interim Executive Director, Gulfcoast Jewish Family Services and Carla Washinko, Chief Financial Officer, reported the organization is in great shape. The funders are supportive and the agency is working on business and organizational issues. JWB will be kept informed of their progress.
- C. Art O'Hara, Executive Director of the R'Club, reminded the Board of the many services they provide (after school and throughout the summer) that assists in keeping kids off the street and out of trouble. He said they would be happy to talk with the School System to assure programs are academically appropriate. The R'Club has fewer children this year (3,000 compared to 4,000 last year) because parents can't afford the program. Providers will do whatever is necessary to keep their programs running. Dr. Janssen said the R'Club and Y provide a tremendous service but, unfortunately, the School System doesn't have sufficient funds to address the increased need.

## **VIII. ADJOURN**

**Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.**

**Next Board Meeting: December 10, 2009 at 8:30 a.m.  
EpiCenter, Room I-451  
13805 58<sup>th</sup> Street North  
Largo, FL**

Minutes Submitted by:

Elise Minkoff, Board Secretary

12/3/09