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## Board of Directors Meeting

January 14, 2010

Minutes – December 10, 2009

**Item II.**

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

**ABSENT:** Honorable Bob Dillinger; Joseph Smith

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Pledge of Allegiance

### II. PRESENTATIONS

Commissioner Welch was honored for his dedication and service for the past 6 years as a Board member and Finance Committee Chair. Mr. Milford and Mrs. Lancaster extended their gratitude for his dedication and thoughtful decisions on behalf of the children of Pinellas County. Commissioner Welch said he felt this was his most important job as Commissioner because the decisions made affect generations to come. He thanked the staff for their hard work, Mrs. Lancaster for her leadership, and the members of the not-for-profit organizations for their hands-on work with the community on a daily basis. Commissioner Welch said he will always be JWB's friend and advocate.

Mike Stone was recognized for his 20 years of service at JWB. He was acknowledged for his honesty and forthrightness in support of the children and families of Pinellas County.

### III. CONSENT ITEMS

Minutes for Board Meeting of November 12, 2009

**ACTION: Commissioner Welch moved to approve the Board minutes as written; seconded by Mrs. Edmonds; motion carried**

### IV. ACTION ITEMS

Legislative Recommendation

Debra Prewitt, Director of JWB's Children's Policy, Advocacy, Resource & Development Department, presented to the Board a copy of the 2010 Pinellas Legislative Delegation Federal Revenue Maximization Guidance for FY 2010-11. Upon Board approval, the document will be presented to the Pinellas Delegation at their public hearing on December 14, 2009 to assist them with their decision making process during the

current extreme budget challenges. The 10% state agency budget reduction exercise is reducing the per child rate for Voluntary Pre-K child care from \$2,575 to \$1,942. This may result in a significant number of providers dropping out of the Voluntary Pre-K program, which would reduce available VPK slots; (one of JWB's priority areas is early childhood/school readiness). There may be a way the proposed federal legislation can assist Florida in maximizing federal funding while enhancing state programs that include evidenced-based outcomes. JWB staff recommends the state "explore all means possible to maximize federal funding available for the children of Florida".

JWB has specifically identified the following proposed federal legislation that will enable the state to enhance early childhood investment opportunities. However, the state must position itself to be eligible to participate by maintaining General Revenue funding in child care, Pre-Kindergarten, and grades K-3, as well as child welfare. They are:

**Early Learning Challenge Fund** – Contained in Title IV of **H.R. 3221** - two grant opportunities; addresses the early learning systems in terms of quality; will improve school readiness rates in kindergarten; 5 year grant is renewable; the 3 year grant is not; both grants have a match that can be waived

**Home Visitation – H.R. 2667 – Early Support for Families**; expands early childhood visitation programs; starts at \$100m in 2010, increasing to \$750m in 2014; programs could help reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect, and improve child health and development which, in turn, improves cognitive abilities at an early age

**Fostering Connections to Success Act (2008)** – improves the lives for children and youth in foster care by promoting permanent families for them through relative guardianship and adoption, and improving education and health care. The Act will also support youth to the age of 21.

Discussion: Mr. Milford asked Ms. Prewitt to narrow down to one area that could really make a difference. Ms. Prewitt said early learning. Mrs. Lancaster told the board some general revenue dollars may need to be allocated to draw down and maximize Federal dollars. She said child care and early learning are the areas where advocacy is required and that children should be the priority. If there need to be budget cuts, they should be taken from somewhere else. Commissioner Welch supported the recommendation. Mr. McCabe applauded Mrs. Lancaster's efforts. Ms. Lenderman stated the State can't afford not to leverage state dollars.

**ACTION: Ms. Lenderman moved to approve the Pinellas Legislative Delegation Federal Revenue Maximization Guidance for 2010-11 and the distribution of the document to the Pinellas Legislative Delegation; seconded by Commissioner Welch; motion carried.**

Further Discussion: Judge Sullivan stated there is good revenue from the home foreclosures and that maybe those dollars could be used for revenue maximization because children are definitely affected. She asked Mrs. Lancaster what was the position of the Children's Cabinet? Mrs. Lancaster replied they are going for maximum Federal draw down of dollars.

## V. PRESENTATION

### New JWB Website Rollout

Ben Kirby, Director of Communications, presented the new and improved JWB Website. The highlights of the freshly designed Website include:

- user friendliness
- a link for parents in need of assistance (developed by Eddie Burch)
- biographies of JWB staff
- pertinent up-to-date data

- programs funded by JWB (will be adding agency performance data in the near future)
- provides additional information such as the Harlem Children's Zone segment recently shown on 60 Minutes

Comments: Commissioner Welch commended staff for a great job. He thought it was clean and fabulous. Mrs. Edmonds said it was a great job and especially liked the link that helps parents. She asked if and when information would be available in Spanish. Mr. Kirby said it was in process.

Judge Sullivan said it was a great job and especially liked the pictures of the staff with stuffed animals and thought that was a great idea for a child serving agency.

Mr. Kirby asked the Board, staff of funded agencies, JWB staff and the general public to forward ideas they would like to see implemented to either him or Eddie Burch.

## **VI. INFORMATION ITEMS**

- A. Community Based Care Report
- B. JWB Calendar of Events
- C. Financial Reports
- D. Site Visit Schedule and Summaries
- E. Personnel Report
- F. Training Center Report
- G. Media Items

## **VII. OPEN AGENDA**

Mrs. Lancaster informed the Board of Mr. Sayler's resignation from the Board. His work is overwhelming at this point in time and he felt he just could not perform his duties in a manner that met his standards. Mrs. Lancaster said his dedication and good counsel will be greatly missed by her and the staff. She informed the Board that Mr. Sayler's replacement is a Governor appointed, so if they know someone who might be interested, to request staff to forward the application information to them.

Mrs. Lancaster reminded the Board of the HHSCC meeting scheduled for January 11, 2010 from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. at the Realtors Association Office on Ulmerton Road. There will be a discussion on Pinellas County indicators, and how they align with those at the state level. The HHSCC Policy Board will be asked to support these Results/Outcomes. The data and status of the indicators will be brought to the JWB Board in months to come to assist the Board and community in understanding the gaps in service, how cuts and policies work, and how to prevent services from being eliminated.

## **VIII. ADJOURN**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:27 a.m.**

**Next Board Meeting: January 14, 2010 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