



Board of Directors Meeting

April 14, 2011

Minutes – March 10, 2011

Item II.A.

PRESENT: Martha Lenderman, Chair; Elise Minkoff, Vice Chair; Maria Edmonds, Secretary; Honorable Bob Dillinger; Judge Raymond Gross; Dr. Julie Janssen; Honorable Bernie McCabe; Commissioner Karen Seel; Joseph Smith; Colleen Flynn, Attorney

ABSENT: Dr. James Sewell

I. CALL TO ORDER

A moment of silence was observed for Sergeant David Crawford, the St. Pete Police Officer who lost his life in the line of duty on February 21, 2011.

Patricia Gehant was honored for her 25 years of dedication and commitment to JWB.

II. CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Approve Minutes for February 10, 2011
- B. Approve Financial Report for February 2011

ACTION: Mr. Smith moved to accept the consent items as presented; seconded by Judge Gross; no discussion; motion carried.

III. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Revised Bylaws

JWB staff, in conjunction with legal counsel, presented revised Bylaws for Board approval.

ACTION: Mr. Smith moved to accept the revised Bylaws; seconded by Mrs. Edmonds; no discussion; motion carried.

- B. Cooperman-Bogue Awards Sponsorships

Board Policies stipulate that contributions require Board approval for acceptance. The following contributions were submitted for Board approval.

- \$2,000 contribution from Aegon
- \$1,000 contribution from AllTrust Insurance
- \$1,000 contribution from Regions Financial Corporation
- \$240,000 in-kind contribution from Bright House Networks

ACTION: Mr. Dillinger moved acceptance of the Cooperman-Bogue Awards sponsorships; seconded by Dr. Janssen; no further discussion; motion carried.

C. Florida Children's Services Council (FCSC) Membership Invoice

At the September 16, 2010 JWB Board meeting, the Board voted to reduce the JWB contribution for FCSC membership dues from \$75,000 to \$55,000 with the understanding the Executive Director may authorize additional dollars at a later date pending Board approval.

Since that time, the FCSC Board reduced the FCSC budget by \$25,000. JWB's portion of the revised dues amount is \$71,150. Staff is recommending the payment of an additional \$16,150, totaling \$71,150.

Discussion: Mr. McCabe asked if each entity was charged the same amount. Mrs. Lancaster said the dues are based on individual taxation budgets.

Mr. Dillinger was against any increase stating he didn't think the reduced dues were much of a budget reduction.

Commissioner Seel wanted to know the total budget for FCSC, were there increases in salaries over the past year, and were the other seven FCSC's paying on population. She stated she personally believes the dues should be based on population.

Judge Gross said he didn't know enough about the FCSC's to make a decision and would like to be educated on what they do before voting on the matter.

ACTION: Mr. Dillinger moved to table the discussion regarding the FCSC annual dues until the new Board members are well informed on the entity; seconded by Mrs. Minkoff; motion carried.

Further Discussion: Mr. Dillinger requested a workshop with local Community-Based Care Providers within the next couple of weeks to discuss the sovereign immunity issue. Staff will make arrangements.

D. Authorize the Executive Director to Execute Documents for the Sale of JWB Property

A Certified Copy of Resolution of Board of Directors Approving Sale of Real Property (6698 68th Avenue North, Pinellas Park, FL) was presented to the JWB Board for adoption. Johnson, Pope, Bokor, Ruppel & Burns, LLP will be managing the transaction between the Juvenile Welfare Board and St. Petersburg College.

ACTION: Mr. McCabe moved to authorize the Chair or Vice Chair of the Board of Directors, or the JWB Executive Director, to execute all papers and instruments necessary to accomplish the sale and finance of the property pursuant to the agreement; seconded by Mrs. Edmonds; no further discussion; motion carried.

IV. DISCUSSION/PRESENTATIONS

A. Early Learning Coalition (ELC) Eligibility Proposal (Moved up to accommodate Board members' schedules)

Mrs. Lancaster reviewed the White Paper that was presented at the February Board Meeting. The proposed changes include:

Option 1: Fund children ages 0 through 6 (the end of 1st grade - usually 7 years). This would start for new enrollees, but those already enrolled who are ending the first grade, or above, would have care until August 2011.

Option 2: Fund children ages 0 through 8 (the end of 3rd grade is usually 9 years). Children completing 3rd grade would have care until August 2011.

Option 3: Fund children ages 0 through 6 (the end of 1st grade), with the added committee recommendation of a 3 year process, and full implementation by the end of 2013.

Discussion: Mrs. Lancaster said there hasn't been an ELC discussion regarding who would provide additional dollars for the children who would no longer receive services. If our Board chooses to fill the gap, dollars would not be available to improve the quality of care as members have previously discussed.

Ms. Lenderman said she will oppose any change in the current criteria because it seems premature, and that we should wait and see what happens in Washington and Tallahassee, with respect to funding.

Dr. Janssen and Commissioner Seel agreed it is important to keep middle school children in services. Dr. Janssen asked why day care providers are allowed to take taxpayer dollars and not have to meet good quality care standards, while the school system must. Adding she would like to consider adding services to newborns with addictions, Dr. Janssen believes quality care in the early years is imperative and this really needs to be thought through carefully before proceeding.

Mr. Dillinger asked where homeless children fit into the picture. Paul Runyon, Director of Operations, Coordinated Child Care, said they are covered through LEIF Entitlement slots funded by JWB.

Art O'Hara, Executive Director for R'Club, approached the podium and said there are centers that do provide quality child care and they are not solely funded by JWB dollars. Many high quality, high risk area pre-schools are 99% subsidized, contrary to the implication they don't exist.

ACTION: Mr. McCabe moved to direct the Board representative to vote "no" to any change due to insufficient evidence; seconded by Mrs. Minkoff; no further discussion; motion carried.

B. Ready for Life (RFL) Journal Project

Kathy Mize, Executive Director, Ready for Life, thanked the Board for their support in the RFL Journal Project II. Lessons staff learned from the first journaling project were that students needed to be taught how to journal, bring all the players the table, and the importance of building a relationship with the youth.

The objective of the project was to engage 30 foster youth who turned 18 years old between the months of April-December, 2010 to maintain a journal for 8-10 weeks. The focus was on the youths' feelings during their final weeks in foster care and their transition into the independent living program, if eligible. Youth expressed anxiety about a number of topics. Listed are the top six:

- Being able to budget/manage money (80.8%)
- Education (69.2%)

- Finding/Maintaining Jobs (65.4%)
- Living Alone (61.5%)
- Transportation (61.5%)
- Concerns about staff at group homes or foster homes (50%)

Jasmine and Josh, participants in the project, thanked JWB for its support. Jasmine thought the project would be boring but was pregnant and needed the money. She said turning 18 was scary for her because she didn't have parents to support her and now she had the responsibility of a baby. Once Jasmine got the hang of journaling she thought it was very therapeutic and was glad she participated in the project. Jasmine is now working with WorkNet and taking classes at St. Pete College.

Josh thought the project was a hoax at first. He said he didn't believe that "they" would really listen to him, so why bother. He found out he was wrong. Josh also appreciated the stipend which allowed him to actually go into a store and purchase his own toiletries.

Judge Gross asked both youth if they had a Guardian Ad Litem. Jasmine did, but Josh did not.

Mrs. Lancaster believes this is a very important project because we are investing in future parents. Ms. Mize and JWB staff will meet to determine the possibility of other supports for those aging out of foster care.

C. Investing in Children: FY 09-10 Performance Report

This presentation was postponed to the April Board meeting

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. Joint Community Councils and JWB Board Meeting Report
- B. Legislative Report
- C. ECA Community Based Care Report

Lorita Shirley, Vice President of Operations/Executive Director, ECA, distributed the Pinellas County Case Management ITN Overview. Evaluators agreed by majority vote that Lutheran Services of Florida was the top performer. For more detailed information please visit www.Eckerd.org.

- D. Child Welfare Advocacy Report
- E. Initiative Updates, Site Visit Schedule and Summaries
- F. Calendar of Events
- G. Personnel Report
- H. Media Items

VI. OPEN AGENDA

Kim Ross with the James B. Sanderlin Neighborhood Center, extended an invitation to join them in celebrating 20 years in the community as they "plant seeds of success" for the next generation. The event will be held on March 15, 2011 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at 2335 22nd Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712.

VII. ADJOURN

ACTION: Dr. Janssen moved adjournment at 10:30 a.m.; seconded by Judge Gross; no discussion, motion carried.

Future Board Meetings: May 12, 2011 at **9:00 a.m.** at the EpiCenter (Workshop)
June 9, 2011 at **9:00 a.m.** at the EpiCenter
July 14, 2011 at **9:00 a.m.** at the EpiCenter

*JWB Finance Committee Meeting: April 25, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.
JWB, 14155 58th Street North, Room 185
Clearwater, FL 33760*

Minutes Submitted by:

Maria Edmonds
Board Secretary

4/4/11 @ 12:01 p.m. (pld)