

# Board Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2016, 1:30 p.m.

All Purpose Room

---

**Board Chair:** Sheriff Jeff Dawsy

**Location:** Kids Central– All Purpose Room

**Present:** Sheriff Jeff Dawsy, Stephen Spivey, Rebecca Schatt, Mike Jordan, Cyrus Robinson, John Cooper, Marshall Schaap, Kevin Sheilley, Rodney Rocker, Marisa Thames, Gail Burry, John Aitken, Shalonda McHenry-Sims, Barbara Myshrall (minutes)

**Board Members not Present:** Richard Hancock, Bobby James

**Guests:** Thomas Ranew

**Call to order:** 9:15 pm

---

## I. Welcome and Introductions

Chairman's Remarks

Sheriff Dawsy

Becky welcomed the board.

a) Approval of Board Minutes from March

The minutes were reviewed and Steve Spivey made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion seconded by Rodney Rocker, all in favor and unanimously approved.

b) Proposed Amendments to the By-laws

John reviewed the changes for our by-laws. The first is to change our address. The second extends the terms of the directors from 3 to 4 terms. The last item is for discussion regarding the Chairman serving 2 year terms instead of 1 year terms. Gail Burry and Steve Spivey agreed that 2 years make more sense than 1 year, especially now when meetings are every other month. Steve Spivey made a motion that 2 proposed items be put up for a vote and the board chair term changing to 2 years will go forward in a vote at the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Kevin Sheilley, all in favor and unanimously approved.

c) Board Officers and Term Renewals

Motion to approve the list of officers and board term renewals as submitted with the exception that Steve Spivey will be serving for only one more year, made by Kevin Sheilley, seconded by Cyrus Robinson, all in favor and unanimously approved.

## II. President's Report

John Cooper

a) Building Lease

John provided an update on the new location. He explained that we negotiated additional space for storage for the Resource Center and the storage units we currently use in Marion Oaks. We are moving along and expect an early occupancy to move in 2 months. Sheriff Dawsy inquired about the staff feedback now that the move is going forward and John indicated there are mixed reviews.

b) DCF Contract Renewal

John reported that we executed the 5-year renewal through June 30, 2021. We are working through the new Attachment 1 for all the CBCs to sign.

c) Increase in Renewals

John reported we amended our budget to accommodate the increase in out of home care. He said that the shelters continue to rise. As this out of home care line goes up, we have a delay of about 18 months before we start to see a decrease. We could go over \$10M if we don't shut the front door on these shelters. For the last 6 years we've averaged 1000 kids and we have over 1500 kids in care right now.

Steve Yates inquired as to whether meeting with the PIs and judges would help the situation. John responded that he and Tom met with one of the judges who will not deny a shelter even if she believes a child should not be sheltered.

John reviewed a DMAIC for out of home care that addresses the situation. The data makes it clear that our circuit has an increase that is not being experienced in other areas of the state. David DeStefano explained what the data represents and on what we will focus. A DCF representative explained how DCF is addressing the issue and there was a discussion about how we handled this type of thing in the past and what we will do going forward.

d) Meeting with the Secretary

The Secretary was having a meeting to address crossover kids with disabilities. He said that we do exit interviews with our foster parents and John said that we were disappointed to discover that DCF was going to interview our foster parents. The foster parents do not want to work with DCF they want to work with the CBC's and John wasn't happy to hear they wanted to contact our foster parent

e) CHS Contract Renewal

John said the new contract with CHS is effective April 1. The CEO of CHS wanted to renegotiate their contract effective July 1. The first problem is the administrative rate. It used to be 10% and the rate was changed 6 years ago to 8%. The second non-negotiable issue is how they fund the case manager contracts. There was a 15% variance built into the contract and John felt that was an incentive to not fill the vacancies. John wanted to bring the gap down. Contracts came up with a better way. We fund their fixed cost and if there is a vacancy we don't fund it. We align ourselves with other nonprofits because of mission. John said that the CHS CEO demanded that they have a 30-day window for vacancies. They lost their contacts in Gainesville. We don't have a good backup plan if CHS walks away. We would either have to bid it out to ITN or bring it in house. We just went through a change and it's not fair to staff since some of them just made a change from one agency to another. The next issue is fundraising. CHS is a fundraising machine. They get \$10-15 million a year. John said that there is a commercial advertising for local foster children. We found out that they partnered with an outfit out of California and this nationally-known company partners with local nonprofits. For our 5 counties, CHS was selected to receive the proceeds for these counties that they do not serve. The application is very specific about how many children they serve. The advertising is resonating with the local community who believe that they are contributing towards foster care and Kids Central doesn't see a dime.

Kevin Sheilley said that we continue to have the same conversation every year at the retreat where we talk about fundraising but we don't address the problem.

Steve Spivey indicated that the problem is with CHS and contract renewal. He shares John's concerns about the fundraising but the contract demands are a separate issue. He stated that it seems that we are headed to a situation where we may have to prepare another ITN.

Kevin added that anyone holding contracts with us must assist with getting out name out there. Signage has to have Kids Central on it, etc.

Mike Jordan stated that he doesn't believe that CHS should be able to continue raising money in our circuit for foster care.

f) FCC Conference

John reported that he would like to have board members attend the FCC Conference if at all possible. It is encouraged by the FCC to have some board members attend.

III. Operations Report

Shalonda McHenry-Sims

We will skip the data portion of the board report since we will be covering all the data at the board retreat.

IV. Financial Report

Bobby James

a) Finance Committee Report

John Aitken provided a report on the activities of the Finance Committee. He reviewed the financial statements.

John provided a quick update on the Captive. We have another CBC that will join and quickly submitted their packet so we went from 4 to 5 CBCs. John reported they are working on the budget. Steve Spivey made a motion to keep the budget in place to cover the interim gap until we have a finalized budget, seconded by Gail, all in favor and unanimously approved.

V. Committees

Audit Committee

G. Burry

No meeting.

Board Development Committee

B. Schatt

Steve Yates is a new board member

Community Development Committee

K. Sheilley

Kevin Sheilley reported the Casino night event was a great event. HALO was held at OTOW and they were glad to have us. It looked like a great event and foster parents were very pleased. John reported that the speaker shared his journey with a little comedy. His message was simple: he was a troubled kid and it was 2 sets of foster parents that turned his life around. So the message was having that connection and familial ties. The IL Graduation is coming up in June. There are approximately 24 youth that have graduated from high school and college. They planted pinwheels and they got a lot of great feedback.

Executive Committee

J. Dawsy

Minutes are included in the packet. Sheriff Dawsy indicated that he had nothing further to add.

VI. Media Clips

Provided in advance.

VII. Unfinished Business / New Business

None.

Motion to adjourn at 11:33 pm made by Rodney Rocker, seconded by Mike Jordan, all in favor.