

# Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

September 25, 2025

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**Meeting Date: September 25, 2025**

**Vice Chairman:** Brad Rogers

**Location: KCI Boardroom**

**Members Present:** James Nations, Elizabeth Thompson, Brad Rodgers, Chuck Troutman, Diana Brown, Rachel Kaser, Lt. Anthony Piarulli.

**Advisors:** John Cooper (CEO), John Aitken (CFO), Veraunda Jackson (CLO), Shalonda McHenry-Sims

**Not Present:** Kevin McDonald, Stephen Spivey, Rebecca Schatt, Carly Sayles,

**Guests:** Robert McAllister (DCF Contract Mgr.) by phone

**Minutes:** Paula Mealy

**Quorum:** Yes

**Call to order at 12:35 pm**

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## I. Chairman's Remarks

- a) Introductory Remarks – Vice Chairman Rogers welcomed all and called the meeting to order.
- b) Board Education Segment discussion – John Cooper asked for input from members as to what department they want to hear from next. The consensus was that they want to know more about Case Management – their challenges and successes. They would like to hear from line staff as well as the management team. John/Shalonda will approach Michell Mongeluzzo for her department to speak at the December meeting.
- c) Approval of July Minutes - Anthony moved to approve. Jim seconded the motion. All were in favor and unanimously approved.
- d) Board Orientation Manual redesign – Paula has completed a draft of the updates including alignment with the Board Policies and Bylaws. The document draft has been submitted to John Cooper and John Aitken for approval.
- e) Bylaws and Policy conflict – Paula presented a conflict found between the Bylaws and Board Policy that was missed during the recent update of these manuals. Regarding the required break before an officer can hold the same position again, the bylaws state a two-year break is required while the policy states a one-year break is needed. It was agreed that a one-year break is sufficient, Anthony moved to approve the change to bylaws to state a one-year break. Liz seconded the motion. All were in favor and unanimously approved.
- f) CEO Review Redesign – The new recommended form was discussed and it was decided that a few changes are needed. Suggestions will be sent to Paula by 10/30/25. Veraunda also noted that there are no legal concerns regarding the draft presented.
- g) Board Resignation – Gordon Johnson – Gordon submitted his resignation on July 24, 2025, due to increasing work and family responsibilities. Diana moved to accept the resignation with regret, adding Gordon would be welcomed back to the board at any time. Jim seconded the motion. All were in favor and unanimously approved.

**II. President's Report** - John began with an announcement and requested discussion regarding Heart of Florida Youth Ranch. After around twenty years of operation, the ranch abruptly shut down about a month ago over concerns of financial mismanagement and a few years of unpaid payroll taxes. This is a big concern for KCI as there are very few group homes who accept our most challenging youth, and this organization housed 5 of our youth. The ranch had 32 beds that served various lead agencies in Florida. John C has been in discussion with the bishop of the church that owns the property. Once the property has been appraised and it goes up for sale, John would like KCI to consider purchasing it given there is an offer to sell that is affordable. The board agreed that it is important to keep the door open to further discussion.

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If a workable deal can be made, this home could assist in placing not only our youth with challenging behaviors but could also serve our large sibling groups.

- a) August 2025 Performance – John briefly reviewed July's performance and noted that we continue to improve with most measures in the green. We continue to monitor the biggest challenge areas (M2/M3 Measure (Permanency). John was happy to report M5 (Children not re-entering foster care) is at 100% of the target measure and is above the state average.
- b) Marion Recruitment Update – 53 of 63 positions are filled, which is 84% with 10 vacancies remaining. Given the drop in caseload and budget concerns, we are reducing the number of allocated positions, as there isn't as great a need. That reduction will put us closer to 90% filled positions.
- c) Legislative Report – John was in Tallahassee last week meeting with the DCF Secretary and some Senate staff. The good news is our message is being heard and understood. The bad news is the model is still being built on expenditures, which will not correct the inequities. KPMG knows that and so does the Secretary. The draft model is due in 2 weeks. John will continue to visit Tallahassee as much as possible to make our case. DCF must submit the final methodology to the Governor's office and Legislature before December 1<sup>st</sup>.

## III. Operations Report –

Shalonda noted that the number of children placed in Out of Home Care is down to 1272. The number of finalized adoptions is 57 with 25 pending, which will bring us up to 33.2% of our goal. Also, Level I licensed 21 families last month, which was a very impressive achievement. Shalonda announced Home for the Holidays event in Marion is scheduled for 12/12. Board members are encouraged to attend this wonderful event. Those who attended last year attested to the impact it had on them.

Shalonda also briefly reviewed the Healthy Start /MIECHV chart and there were no questions or concerns noted.

## IV. Finance Report

- a) June/July 2025 Financials - financials were briefly presented by Jim. John A noted the large cash increase between June and July was due to 2 months of advanced cash from DCF to start the new fiscal year. Also noted was July's Out-of-Home Care expense being \$17,479 lower than June's, but additional significant reductions each month will be needed the rest of the year to meet the spending plan goal.
- b) Finance Committee report – Briefly reviewed. Brad asked about news regarding our Liability insurance issues. John A briefly explained that Florida Insurance Trust (FIT) stepped up and we were presented with a 35% increase and though that is significant, it was much better than the 100% increase we were facing with ANI. All of the Florida Lead Agencies still face a long-term issue where legislative relief will be needed as the current trend in rising costs is not sustainable. Additionally, we no longer have our umbrella policy (it was no longer offered). This will put our unrestricted funds at risk. Diana moved to accept the Finance Report. Liz seconded the motion. All were in favor and unanimously approved.
- c) Proclamation – Due to Marion County's Case Management team's exemplary performance and commitment to reduce barriers to permanency, which safely reduced children in out of home care by 148, and enabled 117 children to find forever homes through adoption, a proclamation from the Board will be presented to the Marion Case Management team along with a thank you lunch at their next staff meeting on October 17<sup>th</sup>. It is requested that as many board members as possible be present. Lunch will be at 11am.

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- d) Operating Budget Update – Jim and John A briefly reviewed the budget and narrative, based on the spending plan sent to DCF plus the non-DCF revenues and expenses. The board was reminded that the plan is dependent on having significantly fewer children in care throughout the year.
- e) Balanced Score Card results (CMA) – Results for our Case Management agencies were briefly reviewed and there were no questions. It was noted that Lutheran Services showed great improvement, second only to Marion's outstanding performance already discussed. Overall, our Case Management teams had the best performance since the pandemic.
- f) KCI 2025/26 Score Card – The proposed score card measures for the new year were reviewed. Having no questions, Chuck moved to approve the scorecard as presented. Anthony seconded the motion. All were in favor and unanimously approved.

## V. Committee Reports

- a) Executive Committee – August Report was quickly reviewed as all significant items were discussed during other sections of this meeting.
- b) SIC Committee August report – Dianna reviewed progress of each of the workgroups within this committee and reiterated that the Mentoring group needs suggestions from board members on community groups they can approach. They are working through the list of sororities and fraternities supplied by Veraunda. The S.T.A.R. group has a conceptual design for the first area of décor, which is the KCI entrance hallway. John C, John A., and Todd D will have final approval on all designs. There has also been some work on setting the parameters for our Christmas Decorating contest for this year. The Foster Parent Advisory group now has a charter, mission statement, and an application for volunteers to join. Selena has quite a few applications.
- c) Community Development – This team needs another board member participant since Gordon left. All we have is Brad and Rachel. Kimberly shared highlights of the recent meeting:
  - 10/01/25 – Red Robin Fund Raiser – if you mention KCI or bring the flyer, 20% of your sale goes to KCI.
  - Request recommendations from members for any known civic groups, clubs, or church organizations that they belong to that we could speak to about what Kids Central does, to please reach out to Kimberly.
  - The Community Development Calendar was shared so board members can plan for their participation – Especially noted was:
    - Care Awards 10/10/25 – important for board member presence – registration deadline is September 30th
    - Home for the Holidays – 12/12/25 – Amazing Adoption event and celebration
    - Boot Scootin' Boogie – 02/27/26 at Ocala Downtown Market – really need board member attendance and we are asking for members to spread the word as this is our premier fundraiser. Last year's attendance was low.

## VI . Unfinished Business/New Business – There was nothing to report.

## VII. Public Forum – None

Brad motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Anthony seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Brad adjourned the meeting at 2:10 pm.

Next meeting – December 4, 2025, 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm. KCI Wildwood Board Room