

JCDS GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES June 23, 2020

1.0 Call to Order

Mr. Kyle Russell, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Board members present were: Kyle Russell, Bob Duncan, Bob Stephan, Rick Marien, and Debbie Scott Williams. Absent: Dale Chaffin, Gayle Richardson. Others in attendance were Chad VonAhnen, Executive Director and staff members Shelly May, Tim Arnold, Mandy Flower, Melissa Reeves, and Shelly Toft. Also, in attendance was Michael Ashcraft, County Commissioner and Joe Connor, Assistant County Manager.

2.0 Minutes

Mrs. Scott Williams moved and Mr. Stephan seconded to approve the May 19 Minutes as prepared. Motion passed 5-0.

3.0 Financial Reports

Mr. Arnold announced that May financial reports reflect a full month of activity with the pandemic. Revenues and expenses are both down as services are conducted differently and many business expenses have currently ceased or been greatly reduced. The CARES Act has now included financial assistance to funding for our providers. The net loss for three months is \$125,000. The expense side of things will come back before the revenue does. JCDS plans to apply for the CARES Act funding.

Mr. VonAhnen added that furloughed employees are being brought back to work, although three are going to work through August at the Elections Department. There is currently a hiring freeze on at the county; however, JCDS will be able to fill most direct care positions.

Mr. Stephan moved and Mr. Marien seconded to accept the May Financial Reports as prepared. Motion approved 5-0.

4.0 Presentations

Mr. VonAhnen provided updates during the past month on the pandemic and how it has affected services. JCDS has had three individuals in service and two staff testing positive for the virus. Weekly virtual staff meetings continue to keep all staff informed and to answer any questions they may have. Mr. VonAhnen shared specific numbers of medical appointments and stated the agency would be operating in a modified version most likely until a vaccine is developed, although plans are fluid.

Mrs. Scott Williams asked if the individuals served have to leave their homes in order to be tested. Ms. May explained they do not. The county's Health Department comes to the individual's residence to test and staff are tested at St. Luke's.

Ms. May provided details and numbers of individuals transitioning back to the Elmore Center to a variety of programs. At this time, these are individuals that have been at their family homes or receiving independent living services. By the first of next week, 20 individuals are expected to be back.

Mr. VonAhnen added that in competitive employment, pre-pandemic there were 132 individual in this service. With the onset of the pandemic that number quickly dropped to 17 but has now come back to 50 at this time.

Ms. Flower reported the affiliate network is slowly coming back as well. Providers are returning those individuals receiving services only with one provider at this time, but in July, those individuals with multiple providers are expected to be coming back to Day Services.

Ms. Flower recently held a Zoom call with the affiliate network and Ms. Mary Beverly with the Health Department provided help to the network regarding the virus. On Wednesday, Ms. Flower will hold a virtual coffee featuring staff from the Mental Health Department to provide assistance in that area as well.

On a positive note, Ms. Flower reported that Johnson County is adding two new affiliates providing residential service, along with one of them also providing day service.

Mrs. Reeves reported on communications efforts with the agency's various stakeholders, noting the website, Facebook, and a letter to families have all been utilized to keep people informed of what they need to know during the pandemic.

5.0 Board Committees/Liaisons

Mrs. Scott Williams commented on the Friends of JCDS report noting the continuing efforts in securing grant funding and a number of recent repair and landscaping projects at several of the Friends homes.

Mr. VonAhnen reported for the Families For KanCare Reform that they are considering participating in a new InterHab subscription program, Friends of InterHab.

Commissioner Ashcraft is looking forward to participating in a video at one of the residences located within his district, is hopeful the CARES Act funding will provide much needed financial support to the county and is proud of all the efforts employees are making on behalf of those served during the pandemic.

6.0 Director's Reports

Ms. May commented on the jump in competitive employment numbers and noted case management and competitive employment services are open for referrals. She also reported that a grant was secured from United HealthCare to pay for transportation through the Mental Health Department for twelve individuals in service.

Ms. Flower stated the Community Developmental Disabilities Organization (CDDO) is continuing day to day operations in addition to the pandemic related duties. The CDDO is able at this time to do more outreach to parents regarding eligibility, as well as lending assistance in that area to families across the state.

Mrs. Reeves reported the CDDO Podcast has been moved to next week and a Bob Bethell legislative committee meeting took place this week. They reported there are 9100 individuals in Kansas eligible for service and 4200 on the state's waiting list. Mrs. Reeves will share the links to these events with the board.

Mrs. Reeves added that the Self-Advocacy Group will be participating in a number of activities through Zoom, including learning about voting registration, voting rights, mail-in ballots, the ADA Anniversary, and various news reports.

Mr. VonAhnen reported the agency's opportunity to discuss the budget with the Board of County Commissioners will be taking place on July 16 and staff have been asked to be prepared to present options for budget reductions.

Mr. Russell reminded the board of Mr. Duncan's term expiration of August 31. Mrs. Scott Williams and Mr. Stephan, as the Nominating Committee, will need to present a nominee to serve the remainder of Mr. Duncan's term as Secretary at the August meeting.

Mr. Russell also reminded the board that there is no meeting planned for July.

7.0 Adjournment

Mr. Stephan moved and Mr. Duncan seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Minutes approved via motion on August 25, 2020 – virtual meeting due to Covid-19 Pandemic.

Mr. Robert Duncan, Secretary

Recorded by:
Shelly Toft

Revised prior to meeting 8/20/20