



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
July 27, 2023
Minutes

Attendees: Mr. Dan Rodgers, Board Chair, Bishop Merton Clark, Mr. Sean Kostelnik, Mr. David Hill, Mr. Rick Ely, Ms. Jennifer Muntz.

Members attendance via Zoom: Ms. Felicia Prince, Ms. Stephanie Larkin

Absent Members: Storm Doddy, Board Vice Chair, Mr. Eric Austin, Board Treasurer

Others in Attendance: Mr. Phil Scarpelli, President and CEO, Ms. Laurie-Anna DeGennaro, Board Liaison, Dr. Valerie Holmes, VP and Chief Operations officer, Mr. Don Johnson, CFO, Ms. Kelly Swartz, CLO, Ms. Vanessa Skyrmes, CCO, Ms. Katie Guemple, ED Family Allies, Ms. Kathryn Parker, ED NCFIE, Ms. Rebeca Melik, ED Brevard C.A.R.E.S., Ms. Jessica Walker, DCF Contract Manager via Zoom.

Mr. Rodgers indicated the Agenda needs to be modified to include a motion to approve the 2023 Legal Entity Review of the BFP relationship to its subsidiaries.

Motion: Mr. Hill moved to approve the July 27, 2023 Agenda with the modification to include a motion to approve the 2023 Legal Entity Review of the BFP relationship to its subsidiaries. This was seconded by Mr. Kostelnik, and the motion passed.

Mr. Rodgers reminded members that if anyone had a real or perceived conflict of interest or a business relationship between two board members to please reach out to Ms. DeGennaro for a Conflict-of-Interest form. None were disclosed.

Public Comments: No public comments were expressed

Motion: Mr. Ely moved to approve the May 25, 2023 BFP Governance Board Meeting minutes. This was seconded by Mr. Hill and the motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

The BFP, Brevard C.A.R.E.S, Family Allies, NCFIE board reports and the DCF contract measures were posted to the BFP Board Portal in advance of the board meeting. No comments were expressed during the review period.

Motion: Mr. Kostelnik moved to approved the BFP, Brevard C.A.R.E.S., Family Allies, NCFIE board reports and the DCF Contract measures as presented under the Consent Agenda. This was seconded by Ms. Larkin and the motion passed.

Action Items: None to Review

CEO BOARD REPORT

The CEO Board Report was posted to the BFP Board portal in advance of the meeting. No comments were expressed during the review period. Mr. Scarpelli provided an overview of the report as presented and noted the following:

- Mr. Don Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, has secured a new electronic communication platform called AlertMedia that will allow more effective communication with staff and foster parents during hurricanes and other forms of crisis/emergencies.

Discussions ensued regarding using the platform to communicate broader messages outside of crisis/emergency communications. Mr. Scarpelli confirmed that the platform will be used for crises communications to avoid inundating recipients with texts outside of emergencies.

2023 Legal Entity Overview

The 2023 Legal Entity Overview was posted to the BFP Board Portal in advance of the board meeting. No comments were expressed during the review period. Mr. Scarpelli provided an overview of the BFP relationship to its subsidiaries: Brevard C.A.R.E.S., Family Allies, NCFIE and the BFP Foundation, as presented.

Motion: Mr. Ely moved to approve the BFP relationship to its subsidiaries, Brevard C.A.R.E.S., Family Allies, NCFIE and the BFP Foundation, as presented. This was seconded by Ms. Muntz and the motion passed.

FYE Legislative Updates

Mr. Scarpelli reviewed the following legislative updates as provided by Mr. Mike Haridopolos, lobbyist for BFP:

- Parents Bill of Rights: <https://www.flsenate.gov/Committees/BillSummaries/2023/html/3055>: Ms. Swartz added, the bill creates a rebuttable presumption that a placement is stable and that it is in the best interest of a child to remain in that placement if the child has been placed with the prospective adoptive parents for at least 9 continuous months. To rebut the presumption, an intervenor must show that it is in the best interests of the child to disrupt the current stable placement. The courts must make this determination by evaluating the best interest factors specified in the statute.
- Contract Requirements <https://www.flsenate.gov/Committees/BillSummaries/2023/html/3054>
- House Bill 1, Education, sponsored in the Senate by Senator Corey Simon (R-Tallahassee)
- SB 240, Education, by Senator Travis Hutson (R-St. Augustine).

Mr. Scarpelli noted he can provide the links to board members if they would like to review the bills in more detail.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board Executive Committee: Mr. Rodgers reported the committee has met monthly since the May board meeting and as required by COA; Governance Policies are reviewed annually. The policies reviewed over the last two months will be addressed later on the agenda. Mr. Rodgers then announced Ms. Kelly Swartz, Chief Legal Officer is going into semi-retirement in September. Mr. Scarpelli shared he consulted with other CBC CEO's on retaining a full time staff attorney; half do and half do not. Mr. Scarpelli mentioned Insuperity provides access to legal counsel pertaining to HR matters, with access to outside local firms, he can outsource public records requests, contract reviews and consult on risks and litigation matters as they surface. He plans to contract with Ms. Swartz to continue to manage the legal adoption process.

Board Finance Committee: The updated 2023-2024 Budget Supplemental Narrative was posted to the BFP Board Portal in advance of the board meeting. No comments were expressed during the review period. In the absence of Mr. Austin, Committee Chair, Mr. Johnson provided an overview of the budget update as presented. He noted the 2023-2024 FOA Budgets were approved by the Governance Board of Directors on May 25, 2023 and DCF would like a letter of affirmation signed by the Board Chair. No motion is required. Mr. Rodgers will sign the affirmation letter immediately following the board meeting.

Board Risk Management Committee: Mr. Doddy, Committee Chair was not present to report.

Board Recruitment Committee: Mr. Rodgers, Committee Chair reported the committee met in June to review potential prospects and to modify the Interview/Questionnaire form for consistency across the family of agencies. The committee did not meet in July.

Board Marketing Committee: Ms. Larkin, Committee Chair reported the committee met on July 19 and discussions ensued regarding board members advocating as Ambassadors for the family of agencies. The committee reviewed the talking points provided to the committee for board members to use when making follow up calls to the recipients who received the November 3 Golf flyer to re-invite them to attend or sponsor the event. She then shared the upcoming events:

- July 29th – Back-to-School Bash
- November 3, 2023 - Golf Tournament
- November 13th – Celebration of Adoption
- December 11th – 20th – Holiday Gift Drive

Board Governance Policies

GOV001 Ethics, GOV002 Conflict of Interest, GOV003 Auxiliary Board, GOV004 Succession Plan, GOV005 Board Donations, GOV006 Board Recruitment, GOV008 External Communication, GOV009 Board member Role, GOV010 Board Self-Assessment & Strategic Planning, GOV014 Sunshine Compliance, GOV015 Moral Character & Background Screening, GOV018 Crisis and Media Communication, GOV019 Election of Officers GOV201 Signatory Authority, GOV206 Bank Accounts, GOV207 Budget, GOV211 Legal Entity policies were posted to the BFP Board Portal in advance of the board meeting. No comments were expressed during the review period.

Mr. Rodgers reported the Executive Committee met to review the named policies over a two month period. He noted the large number of policies to review are attributed to the board meeting bi-monthly and the Board Executive Committee meeting monthly. He asked if there were no discussions, he would like the board to entertain a motion to approve the policies as presented.

Motion: Bishop Clark moved to approve GOV001 Ethics, GOV002 Conflict of Interest, GOV003 Auxiliary Board, GOV004 Succession Plan, GOV005 Board Donations, GOV006 Board Recruitment, GOV008 External Communication, GOV009 Board member Role, GOV010 Board Self-Assessment & Strategic Planning, GOV014 Sunshine Compliance, GOV015 Moral Character & Background Screening, GOV018 Crisis and Media Communication, GOV019 Election of Officers GOV201 Signatory Authority, GOV206 Bank Accounts, GOV207 Budget, GOV211 Legal Entity policies with the modifications as presented. This was seconded by Mr. Hill and the motion passed.

Q'3 and Q4 2023 Strategic Plan Update

Q'3 and Q'4 2023 Strategic Plan Update was posted to the BFP Board Portal for review in advance of the meeting. No comments were expressed during the review period. Dr. Holmes provided an overview of the report as presented.

Discussions ensued regarding DCF Contract measures 3, 4, 5 Children Achieving Permanency within 12 to 24 months respectively and whether the measures are a realistic goal. Dr. Holmes reported children's court has been implemented where the court magistrate can review case files to free up the dependency court docket. She noted reaching permanency is a statewide struggle. Ms. Guemple explained various scenarios that may delay court proceedings for the termination of parental rights and adoptions. She noted, to avoid recidivism; the dependency court does not want to push reunification prematurely. Ms. Guemple shared Family Allies has established work groups to monitor these measures closely. Initiatives such as "Home for the Holidays" and counter measures have been implemented to achieve permanency as close to the goal as possible.

Motion: Mr. Hill moved to adjourn. This was seconded by Mr. Kostelnik.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie-Anna DeGennaro
Board and Community Liaison

Approved by the Brevard Family Partnership Governance Board of Directors on September 28, 2023.