



Family Partnerships of Central Florida

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GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING December 12, 2024 Minutes

Board members in person:, Mr. Dan Rodgers, Mr. Eric Austin, Board Treasurer, Chair, , Ms. Stephanie Larkin, Community Member, , Mr. Sean Kostelnik Community Member, Mr. David Hill, Community Member, Ms. Jennifer Muntz, Community Member, Mr. Rick Ely, Community Member

Board Members online: Bishop Clark, Community Member

Board Members Absent: Mr. Storm Doddy, Board Vice Chair

Others Attendance in Person: Mr. Phil Scarpelli, President and CEO, Ms. Laurie-Anna DeGennaro, Board Liaison

Presenters: Mr. Don Johnson, CFO, Ms. Kelly Swartz, Chief Legal Officer

Board Guests: Dr. Valerie Holmes, Vice President and COO, Ms. Stacy Peacock, CAO, Mr. John Hubbard, CLO

Board Guests online: Melinda Bozman, DCF on behalf of Ms. Phoebe Whelen and Kristin Gray, DCF

Mr. Rodgers welcomed all in attendance and asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Rodgers then asked for all to state their names for the record beginning with board members to include the President and CEO and Board Liaison, board members online; then guests both online and in person.

Motion: Mr. Austin moved to approve the December 12, 2024 Agenda. This was seconded by Mr. Ely and with no further discussion 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: Mr. Rodgers reported public comments are limited to one minute per attendee for a combined total of three minutes and comments must be specific to agenda items. No public comments were expressed.

Motion: Mr. Hill moved to approve the October 24, 2024 Governance Board Meeting minutes. This was seconded by Mr. Ely and without further discussion the motion passed.

Announcements

Mr. Scarpelli was pleased to introduce Mr. John Hubbard, the new Chief Legal Officer, who is replacing Ms. Kelly Swartz, who in her new role will be handling primarily adoptions and trainings on child welfare law for the organization.

Mr. Rodgers then asked board members if there were any community event updates they would like to share with the board. Mr. Scarpelli reported many events are in full swing during the month of December: Toy Drive, Breakfast with Santa and two of the largest adoptions took place in Brevard and Tri County.

Recurring Business

Consent Agenda

The CEO Board Report, DCF Contract Measures (Board Data Report), were posted to the Board Portal in advance of the meeting. No comments were expressed during the review period.

Motion: Mr. Austin moved to approve the CEO Board Report, DCF Contract Measures (Board Data Report), as presented under the consent agenda. Ms. Larkin seconded the motion and without further discussions the motion passed.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

No Board Committees met During the month of November.

New Business

Community Foundation of Brevard Account Statement

The Community Foundation of Brevard Account Statement and Supplemental Narrative were posted to the Board Portal in advance of the meeting. No comments were expressed during the review period. Mr. Johnson provided an overview of the account as presented in the Supplemental Narrative and noted the following:

- A minimum retention within this account totals \$100,000. This means that in the future, any amount of funding above \$100,000 will be available to support our mission.
- There has been no contribution in the last five years
- Mr. Johnson has asked for the Foundation to provide the original funding agreements to determine the withdrawal requirements.
- Dr. Holmes added the account was established with seed money outside of the DCF contract, has been open since the inception of the organization, and is on the books as a separate asset.

Motion: Ms. Muntz moved to acknowledge the statement overview of the Community Foundation Account and Supplemental Narrative as presented to the board. Ms. Larkin seconded the motion and without further discussions the motion passed.

SB 7089

Senate Bill 7089 was posted to the Board Portal in advance of the board meeting. No comments were expressed during the review period.

Mr. Scarpelli reported SB 7089 added a training component for the board of directors to participate in annual trainings related to their roles and responsibilities.

Ms. Swartz shared this is a statewide initiative. A committee has been formed to work with the department to get the training criteria. The committee is putting all the trainings together into a PowerPoint where board members can access and complete trainings by a certain deadline and receive a certificate of completion. Ms. Swartz asked if there were any questions and none were expressed.

At 9:30 Mr. Rodgers reported the Board Business meeting has concluded. He asked for board members, the President and CEO and the Board Liaison to remain and board guest are dismissed. He then asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Mr. Hill motioned to adjourn. This was seconded by Ms. Muntz and the motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie-Anna DeGennaro
Board Liaison

Approved by the Family Partnerships of Central Florida Governance Board of Directors on January 23, 2025.

Discussions on Board Restructure

Mr. Austin opened discussions with suggesting board members share their ideas on various ways to restructure the board across the four counties. He would like to develop three varying recruitment plans addressing the structure and capacity building before bringing on new board members. No one county should be dominate in leveraging resources.

Mr. Rodgers shared the DCF District Administrative Office is in Orlando and historically Brevard was not a priority for funding.

Mr. Scarpelli reported he has three prospects one of which is the state attorney. He shared the first step in the current process is that he meet with a prospect informally and if the candidate is a good fit, they are referred to the board liaison to begin the recruitment process.

Discussions ensued regarding the restructure of the board:

- Restructure the Officer Succession Plan: Officer positions should be nominated for a position based on their qualifications and competency for the role they are being considered for rather than progressing into a role based on tenure.
- The Board Recruitment committee should be responsible for nominating officers through a peer review of their Involvement during their term and their competency level for the position.
- Culturally adopt mentorships within the board
- Structure accountability of board members
- Strategic and thoughtful when recruiting candidates across the four counties
 - Modify the Bylaws to reflect 2/3 board memberships for each county
 - 3 to 4 per county; currently maximum membership is 17
- Thoroughly vet the right candidate to align with a demographic need
- Develop Board Relationships:
 - Succession Planning
 - Adjust term limits to one year with an annual peer review
 - Required Community engagement
- Develop Advisory Boards per county with one or two members serving on the Governance Board
 - Advisory board members impact the community
 - No need to have knowledge of the child welfare system of care
 - Members must be proactive within their respective counties
 - Influencers
 - cultivate relationships within the community.

Mr. Rodgers reported he is stepping down from the Board Chair role effective immediately following the January 2025 Board Business Meeting. He will remain on the board as a community member.

Mr. Ely reported he will officially transition from the Governance Board to the Foundation Advisory Board effective immediately following the January 2025 Board Business Meeting.

Mr. Austin offered to facilitate the retreat

Members requested adding review of the three restructure plan options developed by Mr. Austin. Add Leadership Succession Planning with mentorships into officer roles, Term Limits, and board member accountability to the Board Retreat Agenda.

Approved by the Family Partnerships of Central Florida Governance Board of Directors on January 23, 2025.