

JCDS GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES January 26, 2021

1.0 Call to Order

Mr. Kyle Russell, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. Board members present were: Gayle Richardson, Kyle Russell, Rick Marien, Debbie Scott Williams, Kiki Oyetunji, and Mike Hughes. Absent: Dale Chaffin. 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; Joe Connor, Assistant County Manager; Matt Fletcher, Executive Director of InterHab; and Nick Wood, Associate Director of InterHab.

Mr. Russell announced the 2021 Friends Liaisons and Committee Members as follows:

Friends Board – Rick Marien and Debbie Scott Williams
Nominating Committee – Kiki Oyetunji and Matt Hughes
Personnel Committee – Dale Chaffin, Gayle Richardson and Rick Marien

2.0 Minutes

Mrs. Richardson moved and Mrs. Scott Williams seconded to approve the November 24, 2020 minutes as presented. Motion passed 6-0.

3.0 Financial Reports

Mr. Arnold presented a financial report reflective of year-end processes and expectations; a spreadsheet showing COVID-19 budgetary impact to major revenues such as HCBS, along with expenses; and a chart of the 2021 budget. With expected items affecting the 2020 budget processing through January 2021, the county's fiscal year 2020 report is not expected to be completed until mid-February.

Mr. VonAhnen added that testing costs and other COVID-19 expenses are still being processed as well.

Mr. Marien moved and Mr. Hughes seconded to accept the financial report provided. Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. VonAhnen stated JCDS had received the financial benefits of a trust left to the organization. These funds need to be moved to Friends of JCDS in order to be utilized as intended for housing.

Mrs. Scott Williams moved and Mrs. Richardson seconded to transfer the Arthur and Olive Holmberg trust funds in the amount of \$74,169.54 to Friends of JCDS for the purposes of expanding affordable and accessible housing. Motion approved 6-0.

4.0 Presentations

Mr. VonAhnen introduced Mr. Matt Fletcher and Mr. Nick Wood from InterHab, who were present to share a legislative overview for the 2021 session. Mr. Fletcher commented on InterHab's legislative priorities and discussed the uniqueness of the 2021 session due to COVID-19 and recent threats to government of violence as a result of the presidential election.

These items are affecting progress at the legislature; however Mr. Fletcher is seeing progress in the introduction of bills. InterHab's focus is additional resources being added to the intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) system. Mr. Fletcher stated the system has been underfunded for at least 20 years and is currently 40-50% behind due to inflation. In addition, Johnson County and other areas have seen a 25% erosion in service capacity.

InterHab introduced a bill last year to include three years of a provider rate increase at 7%, 6%, and 5% with a mechanism to allow for an annual cost of living increase, and to examine the increasing waiting list. Currently, over 4,000 individuals are waiting for service and many have been waiting over a decade.

The bill introduced last year saw hearings in both the House and Senate and an increase of 5% made it into the budget bill but did not materialize due to COVID-19 issues. HB2046 was introduced this year by the Bob Bethell Committee and shows strong support from both chambers. Hearings this year are expected in both chambers and InterHab expects to see some changes to the content of the bill, including removing the waiting list portion for a study and potentially its own process.

Mrs. Richardson asked about watching the virtual meetings, which can be done via YouTube, although some processes are still being worked out. InterHab can assist in getting board members connected if interested. The requirement of provision of 100 copies of testimony is no longer required.

This year's advocacy day will be held virtually on Tuesday, March 16, 2021.

Mr. Wood is working on legislation to assist in behavioral health areas, including crisis response resources. Mr. Wood stated JCDS' Community Behavioral Health Team (CBHT) is considered the state leader in this area. Some of the problem is due to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) mental health policies, which emphasize direct services. The financial cost to this is estimated to be \$5 million and would bring in some federal funds.

5.0 Board Committees/Liaisons

Mr. Marien reports housing continues to be the emphasis for Friends with the 17th house nearing completion and anticipation of closing on an 18th house. Additional information on this activity can be found in the Friends report in the packet. In addition, the organization hopes to begin building its first home this summer. Mrs. Scott Williams noted Friends has added two new members to the board which makes a complete board roster.

Commissioner Ashcraft commented that COVID-19 would be a long-term haul to get through.

6.0 Director's Reports

Mr. VonAhnen will be asking Ms. Toft to schedule one-on-one virtual meetings with each board member.

Mr. VonAhnen noted that we are getting Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) vaccinated in phase one but are seeing large numbers of staff not interested in vaccination. Out of 151 individuals, 86 have been vaccinated and 65 have declined. JCDS will be working with the health department's epidemiologist to assist in sharing information about the safety of the vaccine in the hopes this will help. Individuals in service have expressed concern about staff that do not want to be vaccinated. JCDS is also working with Heartland Pharmacy to provide vaccinations for our individuals when it is available. Ms. May stated the agency is holding steady on COVID-19 cases with one positive staff member and one home in isolation.

Ms. May reported competitive employment has increased by 136 from April to December 2020. Everyone is interested in getting back to work as soon as possible.

Ms. Flower reports that network-wide there are 23 positive cases at this time.

Ms. Flower and her staff have held two "town hall" forums in December for parents. She believes this has been beneficial and plans to conduct more in the future. The Community Developmental Disabilities Organization (CDDO) is planning to hold a virtual resource fair to help individuals understand what the CDDO does, emphasize the network, and explain waiver services. Dates for the fair are April 5-8, 2021.

Mrs. Reeves stated the next Project SEARCH informational nights will be held virtually on January 26 and February 3, 2021. She commented on the legislative panel held by the Self-Advocacy Group in December with six representatives participating. Mrs. Reeves also shared details from her report on the effects of the stakeholder emails and social media.

Mr. VonAhnen stated JCDS is still in the midst of its audit that is focused on the future of services; commented on a recent ANCOR call on payment models and the anticipated elimination of the 14(c)-work classification and how that will affect providers.

A brief update on COVID-19 activity was provided.

7.0 Adjournment

Mrs. Richardson moved and Mr. Hughes seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Minutes approved via motion during the virtual meeting on February 23, 2021.

Mrs. Gayle Richardson, Secretary

Recorded by:
Shelly Toft