

## JCDS GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES February 23, 2021

### **1.0 Call to Order**

Mr. Kyle Russell, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. Board members present were: Dale Chaffin, Gayle Richardson, Kyle Russell, Rick Marien, Debbie Scott Williams, Kiki Oyetunji, and Mike Hughes. 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.

Ms. Toft read the compliance statement for the operation of virtual meetings.

### **2.0 Minutes**

Mrs. Richardson asked that the reading of the virtual meeting compliance statement read each month by Ms. Toft be added to all minutes.

**Mr. Marien moved and Mrs. Richardson seconded to approve the January 26, 2021 with the inclusion of the reading of the compliance statement added. Motion passed with one abstention (Mr. Chaffin).**

### **3.0 Financial Reports**

Mr. Arnold referenced the reports in the packet, noting the county's year-end for 2020 has not yet closed. The agency's reserves will be high and Mr. Arnold provided comments on the results of the pandemic on the budget and anticipated issues to be seen in 2021 and 2022.

Mr. Arnold noted the budget process for 2022 has begun and is anticipated to be presented in May. Assumptions will include the loss of employment at the Elmore Center, along with less worksites due to the pandemic. HCBS revenue will come back, but not all the way.

Mr. VonAhnen added that having the reserves will be fortunate and it is very difficult to anticipate numbers with so many things in play, such as the potential for the 5% increase from the state, the minimum wage issue, changes in community employment rates, and contract work being down.

**Mr. Chaffin moved and Mr. Hughes seconded to accept the financial documents as presented. Motion carried.**

### **4.0 Presentations**

Mrs. Reeves and Ms. Flower shared the chart and websites of both the upcoming CDDO Resource Fair and the new Close the Gap waiting list campaign. Feedback was received by members of the board to make the information shared family-focused with step-by-step directions. The Fair is still a work in progress and includes partnerships with the state, Vocational Rehabilitation, Managed Care Organizations, Johnson County Library, and the affiliate network. In tracking participation, it has been discovered that having virtual options results in a much higher level of attendance.

Mrs. Reeves and Ms. Flower commented on the wide distribution of notifications they plan for this event, as well as the fact that people will be able to access it beyond the week of the Fair. These events are part of a larger communications plan that includes public service announcements, additional events, and social media posts.

The Close the GAP campaign is being established to try and get families on the waiting list very early so they are ready when services become available. At this time the waiting list in the State of Kansas is ten years. This campaign will include an Ambassador program to enable community involvement, develop volunteers, and present to a wide variety of community groups and programs regarding intellectual and developmental (IDD) services and support options.

## **5.0 Board Committees/Liaisons**

Mr. VonAhnen reported the Friends of JCDS has closed on the Lowell House, which is the 17<sup>th</sup> house purchased by Friends. Plans are in development for the first house the Friends organization is building, the Widmer House. In response to questions from the board, it was noted that individuals in JCDS Residential Services who need a group living environment are the first offered to move to the Friends homes.

Mrs. Richardson referenced the letter-writing campaign recently conducted by the Families for KanCare Reform.

Commissioner Ashcraft commented on vaccines that are beginning to come in and noted the work of staff in the development of the CDDO Resource Fair, stating their actions were making the best of a bad situation with Covid-19 preventing in-person functions and they were utilizing new platforms and other options available to them toward a successful event.

## **6.0 Director's Reports**

Ms. May commented on the new format of the Community Service Provider (CSP) board report and defined the new categories. In addition, Ms. May reported there has been no positive Covid-19 cases among the individuals served and only one case involving a staff person in the past month.

Mrs. Scott Williams asked if the increase in the Community Behavioral Health Team (CBHT) numbers was due to the pandemic. Ms. May indicated the pandemic is responsible for some of the increase.

Ms. Flower reported that the trends of lower positive cases are currently being seen across the service network. Due to many factors from the pandemic, there is a significant staffing shortage at this time. The CDDO has partnered with Mental Health to provide some training for individuals served on coping with Covid-19. In addition, contract talks with the State of Kansas have begun.

Mrs. Reeves is pushing information out to individuals to contact their legislators regarding IDD issues and she is scheduling meetings with some legislators as well.

Mr. VonAhnen updated the board on legislative discussions and bills being introduced this year. JCDS is working on setting up vaccination opportunities for individuals served through Heartland Pharmacy, which is the agency's pharmacy provider.

Mr. VonAhnen further noted the recent JCDS audit should be available in April and Beth Johnson, Director of Day and Employment Services is retiring on March 19<sup>th</sup> and being replaced by Angeline Anderson, who has extensive knowledge of the IDD field. Also, it was announced that Tim Arnold, Financial Director will be retiring on June 11, 2021.

## **7.0 Adjournment**

**Mr. Chaffin moved and Mrs. Scott Williams seconded to adjourn at 7:18 p.m. Motion passed.**

Minutes approved via motion on March 23, 2021 during virtual meeting – result of Covid-19.

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Mrs. Gayle Richardson, Secretary

Recorded by:  
Shelly Toft