

JCDS GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES November 24, 2020

1.0 Call to Order

Mrs. Scott Williams, Vice Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. Board members present were: Dale Chaffin, Gayle Richardson, Rick Marien, Debbie Scott Williams, Kiki Oyetunji, and Mike Hughes. Excused absence: Kyle Russell. 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; and Beth Johnson, Director of Day Services.

Mr. VonAhnen introduced Mr. Michael Hughes, replacing Bob Stephan, to the board. Mr. Hughes is a former Friends of JCDS board member and Chair. Mr. Hughes provided a brief introduction of himself.

2.0 Minutes

Mr. Chaffin moved and Mr. Marien seconded to approve the October 27, 2020 minutes as prepared. Motion carried.

3.0 Financial Reports

Mr. Arnold stated the financial reports are reflecting a more typical view and showing the application of the CARES Act funding. A discussion was held on the use of these funds, along with testing options and processes.

Mr. Arnold also noted on the CoVid report that revenues are expected to continue at the listed rates and expenses will continue at reduced amounts and are dependent on staff and service activity.

Mrs. Richardson moved and Mr. Hughes seconded to accept the financial report as prepared. Motion passed.

4.0 Presentations

Ms. May introduced Mrs. Beth Johnson, Director of Day & Employment Services. Mrs. Johnson provided an overview of what has been taking place within these programs prior to and during the pandemic. New ways of conducting services have been in discussion for some time and the pandemic has accelerated some of these projects. A group of employees have implemented a Virtual Day Service Program, which takes place from the individual's home and has been very successful. This current version includes utilizing outside community sources and includes things like art therapy that is supported by on-site staff; money management training, exercise classes, self-advocacy, and diversity and inclusion training and activity.

In addition, Mrs. Johnson has been working with the Johnson County Community College (JCCC) in the development of a certificate program for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) to obtain computer training that will help them with employment options.

These new ideas have opened up so many more opportunities for individuals and the continued use may be ideal options for individuals in retirement, as well as those interested in only part-time work. Traditional options will continue as well. The idea is to determine what each individual's "ideal day" would look like.

Mr. VonAhnen noted the state is currently taking comments for the renewal of the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver and the comments from JCDS will include ideas that have worked during the pandemic.

Mrs. Scott Williams asked about Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VR) ability to help imagine new jobs. Mrs. Johnson stated that the Competitive Employment program currently works with VR as a source of locating jobs for individuals and will continue to do so.

Ms. May stated that Mrs. Johnson has announced her retirement for the near future after 31 years with JCDS and noted that she has been a valuable employee as well as a leader in Day and Employment within the State of Kansas. Mrs. Richardson and Mrs. Scott Williams commented on Mrs. Johnson's tenure and thanked her for her great service.

Mr. VonAhnen noted that the Director of the Division of Long-Term Services and Supports at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS), Mr. Ralph Lollar, addressed this year's InterHab Conference on current considerations of the HCBS Waiver. Mr. Lollar indicated "red flags" were being raised about the ideas of providing Day Services within an individual's home after the pandemic. Some see it as a smaller institution at home. With choice options provided, others see it as a valuable option going forward.

Ms. May reported zero positive CoVid cases within the organization at present. Of the 24 homes, 13 are on quarantine due to exposure. In regard to holiday guidelines, individuals on quarantine can go home if they want to, but they must remain quarantined for two weeks post-Thanksgiving. These same guidelines will be applicable for the Christmas holiday. This guidance has been shared with staff and the families of those served. JCDS currently has six staff that have tested positive and all of them are from different locations, which speaks to the spread of the virus.

Ms. Flower stated she is seeing similar activity across the entire Johnson County network. Each organization has its own rules, but they are similar. Distribution of additional personal protective equipment (PPE) has been made to those providers that have needed it. The current running total of positive individuals within the entire network are 67 individuals with IDD and 57 staff have been positive.

Ms. Flower reports the Community Developmental Disabilities Organization (CDDO) has started a CoVid taskforce network-wide and includes representatives from Mental Health and the Department of Health & Environment. The taskforce will be looking at what works, what doesn't, and further ways to educate and support. Affiliates are continuing to provide Day Services and are getting very creative with virtual offerings.

Mrs. Oyetunji asked if there are trends and protocols in specific situations. Mr. VonAhnen stated that there are written scenarios that are provided based on local and federal guidance. These are not uniform, but JCDS shares its protocols and will bring these forward to the taskforce.

5.0 Board Committees/Liaisons

Mr. VonAhnen announced that the Friends of JCDS received a large donation through a trust fund of an individual whose child received JCDS services for many years. The Finance Committee will determine how to use those funds, but it is expected housing will be the main option. Although details are not available, another donation from a trust is expected as well. Mrs. Richardson suggested a marketing piece be done on leaving a legacy.

Mr. Marien reported Friends has closed on their 16th house! This one has an accessible bathroom already and is planned to be used as a CoVid isolation home at least through May and before anyone else would occupy the home.

December 7, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. is the next event at Hamburger Mary's and a Christmas Tree loaded with gifts is the current raffle.

Mrs. Richardson stated Families for KanCare Reform is dormant right now due to the pandemic and hopes to work with InterHab in the future on a couple of their initiatives.

6.0 Director's Reports

Ms. May noted JCDS is in the midst of its annual licensing process with the state and no problems are anticipated, although the agency is still in litigation with the State Fire Marshals Office.

Mr. VonAhnen explained the litigation activity for the benefit of the two new board members.

Ms. Flower announced that it was an exceptional accomplishment that the CDDO had not lost affiliate providers due to the pandemic and has added one new Day and Residential provider that is coming from Sedgwick County. The CDDO has presented to the Blue Valley School District and plans to begin including these presentations at the elementary school level also.

Mrs. Reeves is developing a legislative panel and currently has three Democratic legislators from the House of Representatives signed on to participate in this self-advocacy group activity.

Mr. VonAhnen referenced his report in the packet and stated ANCOR is currently developing their next federal legislative platform.

7.0 Adjournment

Mr. Chaffin moved and Mrs. Richardson seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 p.m. Motion approved.

Minutes approved via motion on January 26, 2021 – virtual meeting due to Covid-19 Pandemic.

Mrs. Gayle Richardson, Secretary

Recorded by:
Shelly Toft