

JCDS GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES October 27, 2020

1.0 Call to Order

Mr. Kyle Russell, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. Board members present were: Kyle Russell, Debbie Scott Williams, Rick Marien, Gayle Richardson, Dale Chaffin, and Aderonke Oyetunji. 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.

2.0 Minutes

Mrs. Scott Williams moved and Mr. Chaffin seconded to approve the September 22, 2020 minutes. Motion passed.

3.0 Financial Reports

Mr. Arnold and Mr. VonAhnen commented on the county CARES Act funding that has been provided to JCDS and explained the spreadsheet that detailed the current CoVid-related funding sources from which the agency has benefited. Mr. VonAhnen also noted the potential to receive retainer payments has not yet been determined.

Mr. Chaffin moved and Mr. Marien seconded to accept the October Financial Report as presented. Motion passed.

Mr. Arnold provided an explanation of the 2021 Fee Schedule and the process used for proposing an increase in these items. As fees do not cover the full cost of providing service, Board policy states that any increase to protected income uses the increase to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) as a percentage and as determined by the Social Security Administration (SSA). The percentage used to determine an increase in fees is typically the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W) increase for a year.

Mr. Chaffin moved and Mrs. Richardson seconded to approve the 2021 Fee Schedule. Motion carried.

4.0 Presentations

Mr. VonAhnen began the CoVid-19 updates noting the termination of staff during the pandemic and how JCDS is implementing new ideas to hire direct support professionals (DSPs). A “drive-thru job fair” was held recently resulting in the hiring of eleven new employees. In addition, a “virtual job fair” was most recently held, netting about seven candidates that will have interviews. This has been a good option and necessary as more challenges with the pandemic are expected this winter. Although the county does not provide across-the-board hazard pay, JCDS does provide additional pay for staff that work directly with CoVid-19 positive individuals.

It appears that hospitals are starting to see increases in patient levels and overall positive cases in Kansas and the country are increasing. To protect our DSPs, all are now using KN95 masks. Mr. VonAhnen commented on the great efforts the nursing staff have been putting forth in securing protective equipment, demonstrating its use, and working with management on the development and implementation of protocols for the Mark D. Elmore Center as well as in Residential Services.

Mr. VonAhnen shared a series of slides indicating positive cases, numbers of protective equipment, and emergency room/urgent care visits of individuals served.

Ms. May reported in regard to behavioral incidents, a few individuals are struggling due to all the changes in their daily activity. In response to questions as to how these situations are addressed, Ms. May responded that

the behavioral health team is more involved in working with these individuals, as is the Mental Health Department. Behavior health incidents are handled on an individual basis.

Due to numbers of CoVid-19 positive cases increasing, the agency plans at this time to slow down the numbers of individuals coming back into the Mark D. Elmore center for services. There are currently four houses on quarantine due to potential exposures and some staff fatigue is being seen.

Ms. Flower reported the network has 33 individuals in service that are positive and 23 employees at this time. There is one new provider to the network and one small day provider has closed.

5.0 Board Committees/Liaisons

Mrs. Scott Williams and Mr. Marien referenced the Friends of JCDS report in the packet noting that at this time, the majority of activity is centered on grants and finding housing.

Mrs. Scott Williams presented the proposed slate of officers for next year from the Nominating Committee. The committee has submitted the same officers that are serving this year, which is a practice of the agency and complies with the bylaws for up to two consecutive one-year terms in the same role.

Mr. Russell asked for nominations from the floor. There were none.

Mr. Chaffin moved and Mrs. Richardson seconded to approve Kyle Russell as Chairman, Debbie Scott Williams as Vice-Chair, Rick Marien as Treasurer and Gayle Richardson as Secretary as the 2021 officers of the Governing Board. Motion passed.

Ms. Toft shared the list of meeting dates proposed for the 2021 calendar year. All meetings proposed are the fourth Tuesday of the month with the exception of November. November will be held on the fifth Tuesday due to the Thanksgiving holiday and there are no planned meetings for July and December.

Mr. Marien moved and Mrs. Scott Williams seconded to accept the 2021 meeting calendar as presented. Motion carried.

6.0 Director's Reports

Ms. Flower shared that she has been working with a number of the school districts and in November will be presenting to families of the Blue Valley School District.

Mrs. Reeves stated she and Mr. VonAhnen have met with 14 legislative candidates to educate them about JCDS and intellectual and developmental disabilities. Once the election is held, a panel is being considered to be held in December.

Mr. VonAhnen stated the Home and Community Based Waiver amendment is in the comment period. Changes are being considered due to Covid-19. There is discussion at the federal level on how to develop outcome measures that are consistent with all states.

Mr. VonAhnen advised that JCDS has been named as the recipient of a trust and the board will need to consider the issue in November.

7.0 Executive Session

Mrs. Richardson moved and Mr. Marien seconded to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session at 7:04 p.m. until 7:34 p.m. to discuss a non-elected personnel issue. Motion carried.

Mrs. Richardson moved and Mrs. Scott Williams seconded to adjourn back to the public session at 7:30 p.m. Motion approved.

Mrs. Scott Williams moved and Mrs. Richardson seconded to authorize a 4% increase to the existing salary of the Executive Director in accordance with agency and county policies. Motion approved.

8.0 Adjournment

Mr. Chaffin moved and Mr. Marien seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m. Motion passed.

Minutes approved via motion on November 24, 2020 – virtual meeting due to Covid-19 Pandemic.

Mrs. Gayle Richardson, Secretary

Recorded by:
Shelly Toft