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Juvenile Welfare Board Meeting : 2009 : 05 : 14 : Packet

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Board of Directors Meeting

May 14, 2009

Minutes – April 9, 2009

Item II.

PRESENT: Joseph Smith, Chair; John Milford, Vice Chair; Martha Lenderman, Secretary; Honorable Bob Dillinger, Dr. Julie Janssen; Maria Edmonds; Honorable Bernie McCabe; Elise Minkoff; Van Sayler; Judge Irene Sullivan; Commissioner Ken Welch; Colleen Flynn, Attorney

I. CALL TO ORDER

Pledge of Allegiance

II. CONSENT ITEMS

Approve Minutes for March 12, 2009 Board Meeting.

ACTION: Mr. Milford moved to approve the minutes as written; seconded by Mr. Sayler; motion carried.

III. ACTION ITEMS

A. Staff recommended a combined June Board Meeting/Budget Workshop that will begin at 4:00 p.m. instead of 8:30 a.m.

ACTION: Mr. Sayler moved to approve the recommendation; seconded by Commissioner Welch; motion carried.

B. Due to the successful merger of Help-A-Child (HAC) and Suncoast Community Center for Mental Health (SCCMH) on March 31, 2009, staff is recommending the transfer of the remaining dollars for HAC to SCCMH.

ACTION: Ms. Lenderman moved to approve the recommendation; seconded by Mrs. Minkoff; motion carried.

C. The Florida Department of Education (DOE) released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC). The purpose of the program is to establish 21st Century CCLC Learning Centers that provide at-risk students with high quality services to support student learning and development, including tutoring and mentoring, academic enrichment, service learning, character education, physical education and recreational activities and dropout prevention. Programs must engage adult family members of actively participating students. Coordinated Child Care (CCC), R’Club, the City of St. Petersburg, YMCA of the Suncoast, and YMCA of Greater St. Petersburg are collaborating in this application. Three middle schools and two community-based sites have been

The Community’s Investment in Our Children
identified as potential program sites. This five-year grant opportunity has the potential to keep children safe and improve their academic achievement. The state requires a commitment of local dollars to sustain the program beginning Year 5. Staff is requesting JWB allocate funds to provide nutritious food for children for Years 1 through 5 of the program. This cost is estimated at $89,865 per year for year-round programming ($.56/day/child for one snack during the school year, and $3.34 per year for lunch and two snacks for summer programming). Sites will apply for USDA funding and notify JWB should those funds become available, thus eliminating the need for JWB funding for food.

Discussion

Mr. McCabe thought the match was high and that this may not be the time to participate in an additional program with the economy the way it is. Mr. Milford asked about the success of previous grants. Dr. Spence assured the Board the program has been around for several years and has proven to be very successful. Ms. Lenderman wanted to make sure it was within JWB’s guidelines to provide dollars for food. Dr. Janssen stated she was in favor of any program that would help support afterschool programs. Commissioner Welch asked which line item the funds would be taken from and if the match was included in the discussion the Finance Committee had previously. Ms. Sahulka said it had not been discussed, and that the dollars would come from the fund balance initially. Additional dollars would have to be found to support the program in future years.

MOTION: Judge Sullivan moved to support the $3.1 million request for State Department of Education funding of 21st Century Community Learning Centers; seconded by Commissioner Welch; motion carried.

IV. PRESENTATIONS

A. JWB Personnel Policies – Earl Reeves

The JWB Children’s Services Council reviews the Personnel Policies, as required by its operating policies every two fiscal years. The last full revision was completed in 2005. However, in 2006, an update was made to reflect the change to a 40 hour workweek. Mr. Reeves asked the Board members to review the policies and present their concerns. The policies will be placed on the May Board Agenda for final approval.

Discussion

Mr. Sayler, Mr. McCabe, Commissioner Welch and Mr. Milford expressed concern regarding telecommuting. They were assured the policy follows other governmental entities. Commissioner Welch said he would support employees working from home on an as-needed basis.

Mr. Dillinger, Mr. McCabe, Mr. Sayler and Commissioner Welch questioned reimbursement/cost of cell phones. Staff indicated telephone records are monitored and staff reimburses JWB for personal calls on a monthly basis. Commissioner Welch suggested JWB check into St. Pete College’s phone plan for cost savings. Mr. McCabe recommended cell phones be issued to staff on a need priority basis.

Mr. Sayler is opposed to cashing out annual leave. He believes staff will cash out annual leave instead of taking leave which is not a good practice; staff need to get away from the office. Mrs. Lancaster assured Mr. Sayler that annual leave cash-out is only approved if the employee has taken at least a week of annual leave prior to the cash out. Mr. Reeves stated the Disciplinary Actions section
of the Personnel Policies was changed to reflect the direction of the Board. JWB’s Executive Director will have the final decision on the action instead of the JWB Board.

Board member concerns will be addressed prior to the request for approval of the Personnel Policies at the May Board Meeting.

B. Budget Parameters – Lisa Sahulka

The multiplicity of anticipated impacts resulting from Florida sales tax revenue reductions, the local taxable value decline, as well as general recessionary conditions are difficult to enumerate or project. However, in terms of the children living in Pinellas County, we can expect the following issues to become more egregious with the worsening fiscal environment:

- Less spending per child on education
- Higher unemployment rates for parents
- More families impacted by foreclosures
- School and recreation site closures
- Fewer dollars for children in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems
- A rise in the number of children without health insurance as unemployment increases
- More children will be homeless

Given the severity of these anticipated outcomes, it is prudent that JWB take steps now to address, in the most focused way possible, the impact of reduced revenues over a multi-year period. JWB has more strategically focused its services over the last five years, reducing the number of funded programs from 163 to 54. The funding is now primarily grouped under three Board initiatives: child maltreatment, school success and school readiness.

Over the next two years, JWB’s challenge is to reduce the budget by an unprecedented amount, without abandoning the most vulnerable children in Pinellas County. Therefore, staff recommends the Board consider:

- Adopting the budget in a four year context beginning this fiscal year (2008-2009) to address expected revenue reductions through 2011. Scale back services this fiscal year up to $4 million, moving toward establishing a base portfolio level of $46 million. This would be done by reducing the allocation for subsidized child care by up to $2 million and reserve those dollars for allocation next year; reduce the Family Counseling contract by up to $2 million, which is possible due to additional funds becoming available as 55% of families referred to the system were Medicaid eligible and are receiving clinical services. Next fiscal year, the savings from this, plus fund balance dollars, would significantly reduce the need for further reductions. In FY 10-11, an increase in interest income, the sale of the building, or a bump in the millage rate to 2005 levels would be required to avoid the anticipated taxable value reduction impact.
- Using the Federal Economic Stimulus package to mitigate the impact of state and local reductions. The economic stimulus package is expected to provide a $12.2 billion one-time only boost to Florida. Coordinated Childcare expects to receive an estimated $4.5 million in child care funding which will offset the expected state reductions, but only as temporary relief from the bloated child care wait list.
- Amplify efforts to bring new sources of revenue to Pinellas children. JWB’s Resource Center is working closely with JWB staff and community partners on key initiatives, such as the 21st Century Learning Centers, development of Children’s Zones and other Out-of-School Time programming. They continue to work with staff and the community to identify and build upon
common goals at the local and state level; and submitting proposals as an applicant or in partnership with the community. Staff in the Resource Center also provides technical assistance to funded agencies that submit large grants.

The Executive Director of JWB has already moved to further reduce the administrative budget. Over the last year, eight positions were frozen; four more have been frozen in FY 08-09 and five staff will be put on part-time status beginning October 1, 2009.

Discussion

Commissioner Welch, Finance Committee Chair, stated the process was as painful this year as it was last year; the question remains: how does JWB get down to what is sustainable? The Finance Committee looked at the four year plan and recommended JWB staff submit it to the Board for approval. Mr. McCabe explained the next audit will show a high fund balance, but will clarify that banked dollars will be utilized in future years. JWB staff will recommend Board Policies be waived to reflect the change in the fund balance.

C. Pinellas Core Management Services Update – Marcie Biddleman

Mrs. Lancaster expressed sincere regret for the situation regarding PCMS. We had high expectations that were not met. During the past couple of weeks, Mrs. Lancaster, Mrs. Minkoff and Ms. Biddleman have worked closely to get the programs back on track, including meeting with the Faith Based Organizations (FBO) to assure them of JWB’s commitment to working with partners to build a better community.

Ms. Biddleman, consultant to JWB and PCMS, stated she was given a clear message to get the agency back on track, address the issues that need to be fixed, and be transparent. She distributed a timeline to the Board of what transpired over the past two weeks. Ms. Biddleman extended special thanks to Mrs. Minkoff, Mrs. Lancaster, JWB’s Technical Assistance Team, Neighborhood Family Center (NFC) Executive Directors, FBO and the PCMS staff for their support through this trying time.

The Board was informed of Paul Lackey’s resignation effective April 3, 2009. The next step is to assess the current staff regarding their position profiles and skills relative to needed competency for current and future functions of an Administrative Service Organization (ASO).

Mrs. Minkoff thanked Ms. Biddleman, fellow Board members and JWB staff for their continued support through the “revelatory and disappointing” past two weeks. She extended thanks to NFCs and FBOs for their attempt to continue to provide services in the community.

Discussion

Commissioner Welch clarified his wife’s connection to PCMS, working with the FBOs, stating her salary is paid by Eckerd Foundation. If the situation changes to where a conflict of interest arises, either he will resign from the Board or Mrs. Welch will resign from her position with the FBO. Commissioner Welch said he has lost faith in PCMS and would like the duties brought back in house.

Mr. Sayler agreed with JWB providing the services needed, but only during the transition. The goal would be to contract the services out. Mr. McCabe agreed with Mr. Sayler and feels JWB should do away with PCMS and start over. Mr. Dillinger believes ASO’s work, and questioned how JWB would get back any lost dollars from PCMS. Ms. Sahulka assured him the dollars aren’t lost. There...
was no misappropriation of funds identified by the auditor. Mr. Milford indicated he would like to see this resolved as quickly as possible. Following a lengthy discussion, Mrs. Minkoff was asked her opinion and made the following recommendation:

**RECOMMENDATION:** Mrs. Minkoff moved that “PCMS transition to JWB as an administrative component”.

**MOTION:** Ms. Lenderman moved to accept the recommendation; seconded by Commissioner Welch; motion carried.

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Finance Committee Meeting Notes for April 7, 2009  
B. Legislative Update  
C. Child Welfare Advocacy Update  
D. Calendar of Events  
E. Financial Reports  
F. Initiative Updates, Site Visit Schedule and Summaries  

Ms. Lenderman said JWB has reached a milestone in the creation of the systems of care that includes Family Counseling with Central Florida Behavioral Health Network (CFBHN) and Out of School Time (OST) with Coordinated Child Care (CCC). She requested an update on points of service and was delighted with the children’s availability for wrap around funds for services that aren’t covered by Medicaid. Judge Sullivan reported that she is hearing good things about CFBHN, commends them for capturing Medicaid dollars; and would like to see the saved dollars applied to other services needed by children.

G. Personnel Report  
H. Training Center Report  
I. Media Items

VI. OPEN AGENDA

Judge Sullivan announced the implementation of the Diversion Program which allows first-time youth offenders who have committed a misdemeanor the opportunity to maintain a clean record, providing they adhere to the requirements. Michelle Jameson, Alternative Sanctions Coordinator, and Michelle Bourrie-Ardabily, were acknowledged for their collaborative efforts on the project. Volunteers are always welcome; if interested, please contact Ms. Jamison.

Sandra Lyth, Hispanic Outreach Center, requested JWB’s assistance in their fundraising efforts through the City of Clearwater. Mrs. Lancaster assured she would follow up on the request.

Eric Green, founder of Everyone’s Youth United (EYU), expressed his disappointment regarding the defunding of EYU. Although he acknowledged the program’s records were not maintained appropriately, staff provided a much needed service to the youth in their community. He told the Board that misappropriation of funds did not take place, and that he will continue to work with youth.

Sami Leigh Scott, a parent, advocate and volunteer for EYU said she strongly supports Mr. Green and felt it was unfair the program was defunded. She will continue to support EYU in whatever capacity she can.
David Archie, Executive Director of Community Alliance for Progress, said he was glad to be back and is looking forward to working with Ms. Biddleman and JWB staff. He encouraged other NFCs to put the past behind them, move forward and create something that will work.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sayler moved adjournment at 11:30 a.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by:

Martha Lenderman
JWB Board Secretary

5/7/09