

# BOONE COUNTY CHILDREN'S SERVICES BOARD MEETING

In Person Meeting: Boone County Government Center

801 E. Walnut, Columbia, MO

*Thursday, September 14, 2023 at 8:00 a.m.*

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## MINUTES

**Board Members Present:** Leigh Spence, Lynn Barnett, Sebastián Martínez Valdivia, Rodney Dixon, Greg Grupe, Connie Leopard, Michele Kennett, Wiley Miller

**Board Members Absent:** Bob Aulgur

**Staff Present:** Joanne Nelson – Boone County Community Services Department Director, Kristin Cummins – Boone County Community Services Deputy Director, Verna Laboy – Boone County Community Services Department Program Manager, Michelle Thompson – Boone County Community Services Program Specialist, Lenna Peterson – Boone County Community Services Department Program Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity Specialist, Gina Jenkins – Boone County Community Services Data & Performance Analyst, Kerby Sloyer – Boone County Community Services Administrative Coordinator

**Guests:** Kip Kendrick, Justin Aldred, Janet Thompson, Melinda Bobbitt, Amy Gerskin

### 1. Open Meeting

Leigh opened the meeting at 8:02 a.m.

### 2. Introductions

Leigh asked that all attendees introduce themselves and their affiliations.

### 3. Approve Minutes for August 10, 2023 Meeting

Greg motioned to approve the previous Board meeting minutes. Lynn seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### 4. Financial Report for September 14, 2023

- **Balance Report-** The total assets of the Children's Services Fund at the end of August amounts to \$9,705,084.64. Current encumbrances on the Fund total to \$6,654,468.00.

- **Sales Tax Revenues-** Tax revenues and use taxes are accounted for in different manners. Use taxes have increased significantly, with the August deposit totaling to \$206,308.95.
- **Underutilization of Children’s Services Fund-** Joanne provided an update for programs with low utilization. Some organizations are on hold, and some are currently providing further documentation for monthly invoices.

Wiley Miller joined the meeting at 8:17a.m.

Michele motioned to approve the financial report. Lynn seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**5. Motion & Vote for Closed Session Pursuant to RSMo §610.021(3)(11)(12)**

Sebastian moved to go into closed session at 8:18 a.m. Michele seconded the motion.

Roll call: Leigh – yes, Lynn – yes, Sebastián – yes, Rodney – yes, Greg – yes, Connie – yes, Michele – yes, Wiley – yes

Lynn motioned that the Board approve the supplemental funding request from Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture for the Doctor’s Orders program. Greg seconded the motion.

Roll call: Leigh – yes, Lynn – yes, Sebastián – yes, Rodney – yes, Greg – yes, Connie – yes, Michele – yes, Wiley – yes

Michele motioned that the Board approve the Family Access Center of Excellence (FACE) 2024 budget and contract renewal. Connie seconded the motion.

Roll call: Leigh – yes, Lynn – yes, Sebastián – yes, Rodney – yes, Greg – yes, Connie – yes, Michele – yes, Wiley – yes

**6. Motion & Vote to come out of Closed Session Pursuant to RSMo 610.021(3)(11)(12)**

Lynn motioned to come out of closed session at 9:29 a.m. Sebastian seconded the motion.

Roll call: Leigh – yes, Lynn – yes, Sebastián – yes, Rodney – yes, Greg – yes, Connie – yes, Michele – yes, Wiley – yes

**7. New Business**

- **Committee Discussion-** The Board reviewed the current Committee interest responses. The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee will conceptualize a Grassroots Funding opportunity. Committee meetings can be an avenue to foster community involvement and potential Board member recruitment. Processes and guidelines should be developed for recruiting public committee members, including a confidentiality agreement and advisory statement. The

Administrative Policy & Bylaws committee will meet before the next Board meeting to review and approve bylaws and memorandum of understanding (MOU).

## **8. Director's Update**

- **Funded Organization Video Presentations-** Board members are encouraged to continue reviewing the video presentations submitted by each funded organization. If Board members have any questions or feedback concerning the videos, those questions must be sent to the Department by September 24<sup>th</sup>.
- **Upward Mobility-** Verna and Lenna shared progress reports for each workgroup. The Early Grade Literacy group is in the process of creating a website, and wants to expand their focus to include adult literacy needs in Boone County. The Affordable Housing and Second Chance Leasing groups are discussing potential policy changes to modernize the housing process for citizens. The Jobs & Workforce Development group is focusing on publicizing resource and opportunities that already exist in Boone County.
- **Housing Study-** The review committee met to discuss the proposals and are gathering their thoughts to send out written clarifications.
- **KVC Healthcare Award-** The Boone County Children's Services Fund is receiving a Diverse Perspectives Award from KVC Healthcare. The ceremony will take place in Olathe, Kansas on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **9. Public Comment**

Lenna shared that the Journey Towards Inclusive Excellence is shifting its focus away from conferences and towards Equity Labs, which will feature Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion practitioners. The next Equity Lab will be held on October 11<sup>th</sup>. Feedback from the State of Inclusivity Conference shows great reviews for the Keynote Speaker Britt Hawthorne. The Board notes the speaker funding was a good investment.

The Board discussed meeting in-person on a more regular basis. The Board will seek to meet in-person once per quarter. The next meeting will be hybrid format, with the November meeting being in-person.

## **10. Adjourn**

Leigh adjourned the meeting at 9:59 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING:  
October 12, 2023 at 8:00 a.m.**