

BOONE COUNTY CHILDREN'S SERVICES BOARD MEETING
Virtual Meeting or Boone County Community Services Department
107 N 7th St, Columbia, MO 65203

Thursday, November 13, 2025 at 8:00 a.m.

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Greg Grupe, Lynn Barnett, Connie Leipard, Sebastián Martínez, Bob Aulgur, Leigh Spence, Rodney Dixon, Michele Kennett, Wiley Miller

Board Members Absent:

Staff Present: Joanne Nelson – Director, Kristin Cummins – Deputy Director, Enola White – Program Manager, Michelle Thompson – Program Specialist, Victoria Woods – Health & Justice Coordinator, Ben Lee – Administrative Coordinator, Gina Jenkins – Data & Performance Specialist

Guests: Dr. Cynthia Gandolfo – Guide Research and Planning, Kristin Koehm, Alpha Hightower

1. Open Meeting

Leigh called the meeting to order at 8:00 am and began introductions. Dr. Gandolfo joined at 8:01 am

2. Strategic Planning Update

Dr. Gandolfo updated the board on the status of the Strategic Planning process. Two assessments have been completed by department staff and the board. The assessment results will be shared at the board retreat scheduled for December 5, 2025.

Dr. Gandolfo left the meeting at 8:07 am.

Kristin Koehm was moved to the waiting room at 8:09 am.

Alpha joined at 8:09 am and was also moved to waiting room.

3. Motion and Vote for Closed Session Pursuant to R.S.Mo. §610.021(12)(13)

Connie motioned for closed session at 8:08am, Rodney seconded.

Roll Call: Greg Grupe-yes, Lynn Barnett-yes, Connie Leipard-yes, Sebastián Martínez-yes, Bob Aulgur-yes, Leigh Spence-yes, Rodney Dixon-yes, Michele Kennett-yes, Wiley Miller-abstain

Action: Greg motioned to deny the Strategic Innovation Request from The Family Circle. Rodney seconded.

Roll Call: Greg Grupe-yes, Lynn Barnett-yes, Connie Leipard-yes, Sebastián Martínez-yes, Bob Aulgur-yes, Leigh Spence-yes, Rodney Dixon-yes, Michele Kennett-yes, Wiley Miller-yes

Action: Rodney motioned to come out of Closed Session. Leigh seconded.

Roll Call: Greg Grupe-yes, Lynn Barnett-yes, Connie Leipard-yes, Sebastián Martínez-yes, Bob Aulgur-yes, Leigh Spence-yes, Rodney Dixon-yes, Michele Kennett-yes, Wiley Miller-yes

Alpha and Kristin Koehm were brought back in from the waiting room at 8:24 am

4. Approve Minutes for October 9, 2025 Meeting

Bob motioned to approve the meeting minutes from the October 9, 2025 board meeting. Leigh seconded. The motion carried.

5. Financial Report for November 13, 2025, Meeting

Joanne gave a report on the net position of the children's services fund:

- The Net Position is \$5,861,789 which is a \$701,425 decrease from last month
- The sale tax revenue is \$5,741,735.98
- The use tax revenue is \$1,104,037.35
- The interest revenue is \$290,470.87
- Year-to-date expenditures and encumbrances are \$13.5 million
- Contract utilization and service reallocations were reviewed, which are currently at 71% average utilization rate

The Auditor reached out to the Missouri Department of Revenue to inquire about the Children's Services Fund tax revenue trend compared to other county sales tax trends. The Community Services Department will follow up with the Auditor until more information is obtained from the state.

Sebastián motioned to approve the financial report. Greg seconded. The motion carried.

6. FY2026 Budget Update

Joanne gave the board an update on the budget revisions that were requested by the Auditor. The Auditor requested that the BCCSB reduce the Children's Services Fund budget for fiscal year 2026 by an additional \$1 million dollars to meet the required 17% in reserves.

The required reduction was attainable without impacting the already approved contract renewal amounts for 2026. In addition, the Strategic Innovation Opportunity Fund would not be able to accept additional proposals during the next fiscal year. The original budget included a higher amount for contracted services than what was already allocated for contract renewals.

The BCCSB was informed of budget increases for personnel due to the County's pay study that will be implemented at the beginning of the new fiscal year. There was also large increase for Facilities Internal Service Charge due to the repair work for the Community Services Department office building. The County also anticipates needing to replace the A/C compressor and will have an impact on the budget in the future.

The Community Services Department also requested an adjustment in the pay splits for several department positions. The County requested that the department assist in managing a contract to distribute Opioid Settlement Funds. The Director and Deputy Director pay split adjustment was discussed. There was a discussion on the department's involvement with other county efforts and workload in addition to managing the Children's Services Fund.

The BCCSB discussed the timeliness of the Auditor requesting a \$1 million reduction to the budget. The BCCSB requested a meeting be organized between the BCCSB Financial Oversight and Strategy committee and the Auditor to discuss transparency, communication, and the fund balance.

Lynn motioned to approve the revised budget. Rodney seconded. The motion carried.

Greg motioned to approve the new pay split for the Director and Deputy Director. Lynn seconded. The motion carried.

7. The Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri, Inc.

The Food Bank requested to modify the way they bill their Food Bank Market Children's and Families contract for the remainder of 2025. They are currently at 28% utilization due to billing issues and the requirement to use the CSF as funders of last resort. They are anticipating a large uptick in demand due to the government shutdown and the non-distribution of SNAP funds. The Food Bank presented 3 options for using the rest of their contracted amount for the end of 2025:

1. They bill the entire remainder of their contract for the month of October.
2. Distribute food through partner organizations in the Boone County service area. This option may impact data collection, as numbers from affiliate organizations might be imprecise.
3. Transfer the remaining funds in their contract to their Children's Supplemental Food Program contract.

The Community Services Department recommended the second option in order to support food distribution throughout the county instead of only at the Food Bank Market.

Greg motioned to approve funding to be used to support affiliated pantries. Bob seconded. The motion carried.

8. New Business

There was no new business presented at the meeting

9. Director's Update – Staff

Central Missouri Funder Event

The Community Services Department held a meeting in partnership with Philanthropy Missouri to bring together funders from the Mid-Missouri area to and network with each other. The Boone Impact Group and CoMo Helps were highlighted and the group to discuss next steps to enhance collaboration amongst Mid-Missouri funders. Feedback from the event was positive and several funders expressed interest in further collaboration.

COMO Helps

CoMo Helps has been revived due to the current government shutdown and SNAP withholding. Donation applications have been opened using the framework developed during the pandemic. Heart of Missouri United Way and Veterans United have both contributed \$50,000 to the fund, along with another \$30,000 donated by the City of Columbia Community Fund. The fund has also collected \$53,000 in individual donations. Local charitable organizations have been notified that they can apply for funds to support individuals impacted by the government shutdown.

Missouri Children's Services Funds Medicaid Matching

There are no new updates about this at this time. The Missouri Children's Services Fund organizations plan meet to with the Department of Social Services in the near future.

Youth Justice System Collaboration

Community Services Department staff met with the Juvenile Office (JO) and Columbia Public School (CPS) representatives with the goal of fixing some of the communication problems between the JO, CPS, and additional organizations working with youth and families involved in the justice system.

The Source Summit - November 13-15

Majority of the organizations funded through the Grassroots Funding Opportunity participated on a panel discussion at The Source Summit Conference to share about their programs and the impact of the grassroots funding for their organizations. A recording of the panel discussion will be shared with the BCCSB. The grassroots organizations have expressed a desire to speak with the BCCSB at some point in the future to share more about their growth and impact of the funding.

Job Point Announcement

Job Point is currently applying to become a charter school. No other updates currently.

2025 Interim Reports

Majority of the interim reports have been finalized. Interim reports should all be finalized before the next board meeting.

2026 Contract Renewals

Contract renewal emails were sent out after the last board meeting on October 9th and renewal documentation will be completed by the end of the year. Organizations that received a reduction in their renewals for 2026 have all been informed personally by Joanne.

Grassroots Funding Opportunity

A summary of each organization was provided in the board packet. The department met with each organization to discuss spending down unspent 2024 funds and their 2025 funds.

Upward Mobility

An annual survey was sent to all 4 workgroups and had very good participation. The current focus is on the workgroup schedules and structure for 2026 for the different groups. Workgroup meetings will be held on Wednesdays. The plan is that now all workgroups will meet on a Wednesday each month, one each per Wednesday, and where applicable, the 5th Wednesday of each month will be reserved for community collaboration. Early Grade Literacy is making great strides and has been spearheading the Raising Readers Program along with community outreach and marketing for that program. The Affordable Housing Coalition meeting continues to discuss the housing study. The Jobs and Workforce group are working on identifying upwardly mobile businesses in the Boone County area that would allow them to develop a framework for supporting those businesses.

Health and Justice Coordination

The first Health and Justice Coordinating Council meeting occurred and had great attendance. A two-day peer exchange is planned with Douglas County, Kansas. Their Behavioral Health Fund Director will come and speak to the Council about what they are doing in Douglas County and the results they are seeing. Douglas County has been extremely impressed with the efforts that have made in Boone County and wants to get a closer look at our contract administration process.

10. Family Access Center of Excellence (FACE) of Boone County

The FACE office transition has been completed, and the furniture has been moved to the CSD office for the time being. The CSD is working with purchasing to reallocate any furniture that cannot be used by the CSD. This process is almost complete. The FACE leadership asked in their last meeting with the CSD if the current quarterly reporting structure is working as intended or if the Board would be ok with moving to a yearly reporting structure. This question has been tabled until the next board meeting.

11. Public Comment

Alphia expressed gratitude to the Community Services Department for attending a community gun violence meeting. She inquired about the furniture that was from FACE and asked why it was considered county property. Joanne and Kristin explained that based upon contract language, furniture and other material goods purchased by the Children's Services Fund are considered property of the BCCSB.

Alphia then inquired about how programs can request changes to their contracts and funding allocation between services. Joanne and Kristin explained the process, which requires organizations to be proactive about requesting changes to their service lines based upon needs. Billing changes, like the one for the Food Bank earlier in the meeting, must be submitted in writing and then be presented to the Board for approval.

12. Adjourn

NEXT MEETING: December 5, 2025