Minutes of the Meeting of the

# Board of Directors

Eckerd Kids Community Alternatives Circuit 6

Eckerd 2nd Floor Conference Room

Clearwater, Florida

Tuesday, February 23, 2016



BOARD MEMBERS OTHER ATTENDEES

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Attendees: | Nancy Nichols | Alex Reed |
|  |  | Ron Zychowski |
|  |  | Pam Griffith |
|  |  | Randy Luecke |
|  |  | Brian Bostick |
| Via Phone: | Ray Ferrara | Lorita Shirley |
|  |  | Ellyn Evans |
| Excused: | Glenn Waters | Adrienne Drew |
|  | Daniel Boon | David Dennis |
|  |  | Danni Brewer - DCF |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Recorder: |  | Laura Hunt, Secretary |

The Board meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Mr. Ray Ferrara.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Ray Ferrara presented the minutes of the October 27, 2015 Eckerd Community Alternatives and asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mrs. Nancy Nichols gave the motion and Mr. Ferrara seconded the motion subject to email approval by Mr. Daniel Boon and Mr. Glenn Waters. Mr. Waters approved the minutes by email on March 10, 2016.

With no comments from members of the public Mr. Ferrara asked Mr. Brian Bostick to give the operations update.

**Operations Report**

Mr. Bostick stated that he would first like to take the opportunity to recognize ECA 6 staff and partners for being in the green on all Department of Children and Families contract measures. For the first time since 2008 all measures are green. This performance has consistently ranked ECA 6 in the top 3 out of 20 Community Based Care Lead Agencies on the Department of Children and Families scorecard for the first 6 months of this fiscal year. Mr. Bostick went on to state that in Circuit 6 the new Child Welfare Practice Model was fully implemented about a year ago. The roll out of the new Child Welfare Practice Model has had an impact on the number of entries and exits from the system of care in 5 areas of the state. ECA 6 is one of those areas that had been impacted. Due to the impact of the new Child Welfare Practice Model, one of the initiatives ECA 6 is participating in is Early Childhood Court. Early Childhood Court focuses on expediting permanency in children 0 to 3 years old by providing more frequent court hearings, more frequent visits, intensive in home services and therapy. ECA 6 is starting to see positive results from this initiative. Regarding the Self-Imposed measures created by Eckerd to improve the outcomes for the children and families that we serve, all of these measures are related to reduction of children in Out of Home Care. ECA 6 is experiencing an increase in the number of children entering the system of care and a decrease in the number of children exiting the system of care. The new Child Welfare Practice Model has had an impact on all of the measures that are red. The Child Welfare Practice Model was intended to better assess the safety of children, as well as, the need for continued child welfare involvement. Since the new model rolled out ECA 6 has experienced an increase in the number of children entering the formal child welfare system. To address the number of entries and exits ECA 6 has secured a Department of Children and Families grant to increase Diversion capacity, however ECA 6 can use more capacity as ECA 6 anticipates that we will exceed our adoption target for the year and will continue to focus on increasing the number of safe exits of children from out of home care.

With no more questions from the Board or the public, Mr. Bostick concluded his Operations report. .

**ECA Finance Report**

Mr. Ferrara asked Mrs. Pam Griffith to give the Board the ECA 6 Finance report.

Mrs. Griffith gave the Board an overview of the finance meeting stating that ECA 6 is expecting a neutral or positive variance in most budget categories resulting in a projected surplus of $1.1M. The $324K projected deficit in Maintenance Adoption Subsidies (MAS) is expected to be fully funded. ECA 6’s projected positive variance of $435K in Out-of-Home Care can be attributed to multiple new strategies implemented by the Lead Agency to effectively manage the utilization of placement services. Mrs. Griffith went on to highlight three areas:

Independent Living (IL)expenses are estimated to have positive variance to plan of $337K. The budget was prepared projecting 100% participation for kids exiting foster care (turning 18) to participate in either Extended Foster Care (EFC) or Postsecondary Education Services and Support (PESS). ECA 6 is experiencing a moderate number of youth opting out of these services and trying to make it on their own; however, the funding needs to be available should any of the youth decide to return and receive these services. Out-of-Home (OHC) Servicesexpenses are expected to realize a positive variance of $435K. Costs in this area have stabilized and are monitored daily. Daily OHC costs are budgeted at $34,548, a daily reduction of $837 from the prior fiscal year. Maintenance Adoption Subsidy (MAS*)*expenses are expected to be fully funded by the State. The Department of Children and Families held back $8.5M of MAS funding, and based on recent projections the statewide shortfall is $1.4M.

ECA6 is projected to have a surplus of $1.1M to be carried forward into FY17. Program expenses will be continually monitored to ensure positive financial performance.

Mr. Ferrara motioned to accept the Finance report.

With no more questions from the Board or the public Mrs. Griffith concluded her report.

**External Relations Report**

Mr. Ferrara asked Ms. Adrienne Drew to give the External Relations report. Below are a few of the events highlighted during Ms. Drew’s report. Mr. Ferrara congratulated Mr. Bostick and his team on a great job!

National Adoption Day: is held each November in conjunction with National Adoption Month, a month set aside each year to raise awareness about the adoption of children and teens from foster care. ECA 6 had 36 children adopted. In total, Eckerd Community Alternatives had 61 adoptions throughout Pasco, Pinellas and Hillsborough counties. Mr. Daniel Boon attended the Pasco County celebration.

Onbikes Events: Onbikes partnered with Eckerd Community Alternatives this year to donate 550 new bicycles and helmets to children in foster care throughout the Tampa Bay area. The mission of Onbikes is to restore the self-confidence, health and overall well-being of at-risk children in the community by providing these children with bicycles. On December 12, 2015, more than 1,600 bike riders participated in the 5th annual Winter Wonder Ride to assist in raising the money needed toward the purchase of bicycles and helmets. On December 19th the money raised bought 550 bikes which ECA 6 to foster families at three different Tampa Bay area locations. The families also received turkeys to help with their holiday dinner.

Annual Holiday Illuminated Night Parade: Santa and Mrs. Claus closed out the city of Seminole’s annual Holiday Illuminated Night Parade on December 13, 2015. They rode on the Red Sled and project organized by the Rotary Club of Seminole Lake to collect donated gifts for the foster children under the care of ECA 6. Several of these children joined them on the sled during the parade.

Ms. Adrienne Drew thanked Mr. Ferrara for serving as the honorary chair on the JJJ Advisory council and helping with the event. Mr. Ferrara is also serving on the Advisory council for ECA Annual Eckerd Kids Charity Golf Tournament scheduled for April 9, 2016..

With no more questions from the public or the Board, Mr. Ferrara adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Laura Hunt

Secretary