



Minutes of the Meeting of the  
**Board of Directors**  
 Eckerd Community Alternatives  
 Eckerd 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
 Clearwater, Florida  
 Tuesday, February 24, 2015

	BOARD MEMBERS	OTHER ATTENDEES
Attendees:	Nancy Nichols	Melanie Owens
	Daniel Boon	Ron Zychowski
	Ray Ferrara	Will Jones
		Pam Griffith
		Randy Luecke
Excused:	Glenn Waters	Danni Brewer - DCF
		Brian Bostick
		Lorita Shirley
		Ellyn Evans
		Rich Semancik
		David Dennis
		Peggy Nierman - DCF
Recorder:		Laura Hunt, Secretary

The Board meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Mrs. Nancy Nichols.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Raymond Ferrara presented the minutes of the October 28, 2014 Eckerd Community Alternatives and asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mrs. Nancy Nichols gave the motion and Mr. Daniel Boon seconded the motion. The October 28, 2014 minutes were approved.

Mr. Ferrara asked if there were any comments from the public.

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

**Operations Report**

Mr. Bostick called the Boards attention to a new Executive Director report in the Board books and briefly discussed the different topics in the report. Mr. Bostick then went on to discuss the scorecard indicating the ECA C6 performance for FY 13/14 was the best performance we have had since obtaining the contract in July 2008.

This performance is due to the commitment of the ECA Directors, Support Center staff, Quality Management, Finance staff, Mrs. Lorita Shirley and Mr. Ron Zychowski. Mr. Bostick indicated that all of the measures were green except for Measure 3, percentage of children reunified who were reunified in 12 months. Despite not meeting the measure ECA C6 performance was ranked in the top 10 out of 20 Lead Agencies in the state of Florida and is the best performance ever on this measure. Mr. Bostick then discussed the FY14/15 performance for the first quarter explain that to the right of the color codes Eckerd has included the numerator and the denominator that performance is based on for review. Mr. Bostick addressed the two measures that are currently red in the board packet. Those two measures are Measure 3 under Contract Measures and Measure 5 under Self Imposed Measures. Measure 3 is the Number of Children with finalized adoptions between 07/01/14 and 06/30/15. The target for the fiscal year is 318 adoptions. To meet the goal of 318 adoptions ECA C6 needs to finalize 27 adoptions per month or 81 adoptions per quarter. As of October 27, 2014 ECA C6 has finalized 71 adoptions which is behind target. ECA C6 is projecting to finalize 159 adoptions by the end of December which would put ECA C6 on target to meet the goal of 318 adoptions. Weekly performance discussions and the weekly Data Call are countermeasures used to drive performance.

The next measure that is red is Measure 5 under our Self Imposed Measures. This measure was established by Eckerd to help ensure positive outcomes for children and families that we serve. Measure 5 is the reduction in the number of children in licensed care by 5 percent. ECA C6 has experienced an increase in the number of children entering Licensed OHC during FY14/15 in comparison to FY13/14. ECA C6 ended FY 13/14 with 736 children in licensed foster care and there are currently 769 children in licensed foster care. This increase can be attributed to an average of 15 more children per month are entering the system of care so far this fiscal year. Performance is being addressed weekly during performance calls and Data Calls. The final chart is in reference to Independent Living that was included at the request of the board. All of these measures are in the green.

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 Finance report.

Mrs. Griffith gave the Board an overview of the November financials stating that Eckerd is currently projecting 2.5 million dollar surplus. Mrs. Griffith highlighted some key points outlined below:

ECA6 is expecting a neutral or positive variance in all budget categories resulting in a projected surplus of \$2.5M. This is a \$1.1M increase from the last Board Report, August 2014. The projected increase in surplus is predominantly linked to Lead Agency Related, Independent Living/Extended Foster Care and Out-of-Home Care as discussed below.

ECA6 is projected to have a surplus of \$2.5M. This surplus will carry forward to FY2016.

Lead Agency - related expenses are projected to have a positive variance to plan of \$142K. The contributing factor for the surplus relates to lapse dollars associated with staff vacancies and licensing fees which due to a change in allocation methodology were budgeted twice.

Independent Living (IL) expenses are estimated to have a positive variance to plan of \$256K. Extended Foster Care (EFC) is a relatively new approach allowing youth to elect to stay in foster care after age 18. Greater participation was budgeted than the current demand.

Out-of-Home (OHC) Services expenses are expected to realize a positive variance of \$1.8M. This variance can be attributed to a shift from residential placements to foster care placements resulting in a cost differential of \$92 per day less expense than planned.

Mr. Ferrara asked about the Casey Family Pilot. Mr. Bostick explained we received a grant from Casey for a parents and peers program aimed at reunification support services. Ms. Grutza added this was a two year grant.

Mr. Ferrara requested that the Board be sent a copy of the final report submitted to Casey outlining the results of the pilot. Mr. Ferrara also requested that a presentation on the pilot project be conducted at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Ferrara asked for a motion to approve the Finance report. Mrs. Nancy Nichols gave the motion and Mr. Daniel Boon seconded the motion. The Finance report was passed.

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

### **External Relations Report**

Mrs. Nichols asked Ms. Jody Grutza to give the External Relations report. Below are a few of the events highlighted during Ms. Grutza's report.

onbikes Winter Wonder Ride – On bikes presented its Annual Winter Wonder Ride on December 13, 2014. This year, onbikes chose Eckerd as it partner to distribute 500 donated bikes to children in foster care in the Tampa Bay area. Eckerd had an informational table at Curtis Hixon Park where the bike ride began and ended.

National Adoption Day – ECA continued the National Adoption Month celebrations as Pinellas Unified Family Court Judges from Sixth Judicial Circuit cleared their calendars on November 14, 2014 to preside over adoption hearings that gave children in foster care forever families.

Upcoming events include Champions for Children and the annual golf tournament scheduled for April 18<sup>th</sup>.

With no questions from the Board or the public Ms. Grutza concluded her report.

Mr. Zychowski mentioned the tragedy in Circuit 6 indicating that an internal review was being conducted. He stated that DCF conducted a review noting the casework was good. Ron commended Brian Bostick, Terri Durdaller and Jody Grutza for their response to the situation.

Mr. Ferrara stated that once we completed the internal review, that a complete report should be made to the Board at the next meeting.

With no more questions from the public or the Board, Mr. Ferrara adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Laura Hunt  
Secretary