



Minutes of the Meeting of the  
**Board of Directors**  
 Eckerd Community Alternatives  
 Eckerd 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
 Clearwater, Florida  
 Tuesday, June 24, 2014

	BOARD MEMBERS	OTHER ATTENDEES
Attendees:	Nancy Nichols	Tony Moore
	Ken O'Herron	Melanie Owens
	Daniel Boon	Ron Zychowski
		Will Jones
		Pam Griffith
Excused:	Ray Ferrara	David Dennis
	Glenn Waters	Randy Luecke
		Chris McCabe
Recorder:		Laura Hunt, Secretary

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Mrs. Nichols presented the minutes of the February 25, 2014 Eckerd Community Alternatives Pasco/Pinellas (ECA6) Board meeting for approval. Mrs. Nichols asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Ken O'Herron gave the motion and Mr. Daniel Boon seconded the motion.

Mrs. Nichols asked if we had any comments from the public.

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

**Operations Report**

Mr. Bostick updated the Board on the operating report indicating the scorecard report. Mr. Bostick started by acknowledging that ECA Circuit 6 performance on the DCF Scorecard. Although DCF does not rank CBC's anymore on the scorecard the Eckerd Quality Department under the leadership of Mr. Ron Zychowski has replicated the DCF ranking system and we are currently ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the state for the month of May 2014. The increase in performance and ranking was largely in part due to ECA6 and our subcontracted providers experiencing significant performance gains in permanency (up 3%) and placement stability (up 2.2%). I am happy to inform you that for the first time

since ECA6 assumed the contract since July 2008 there are not any red measures. I would like to discuss the three measures that are currently yellow in your board packet. Measure 1 is the percentage of children not maltreated in out of home care (FS 106). Since our last board meeting performance has trended in the wrong direction. The Eckerd Quality Department completed an analysis of performance and it was determined that children were being maltreated during visits with parents and domestic violence incidents were being verified despite efforts by the parent to protect the child. The first countermeasures to improve performance is more detailed visitation plans that include who will be present at the visit, where the visit will occur, the time of the visit and when the child will return. The second countermeasure is meeting with Child Protection Investigations to discuss the cases that involved domestic violence with verified findings when the parent tried to protect the child. The third countermeasure is our ongoing weekly performance discussion that focuses on this metric with our sub contracted providers. Measure 3 is the percentage of children reunified who were reunified in 12 months (FS301). ECA Circuit 6 is one of the top performing Community Based Care Lead Agencies on this measure. Performance trended in the right direction since our last board meeting. One of our countermeasures that have proven effective is the work our lead agency is doing with our provider network to refine their systems for early identification of case barriers that prevent children from achieving permanency within 12 months. Early detection of case problems allows our lead agency an opportunity to work with the provider agencies to proactively address concerns impeding a child's ability to go home. Measure 5 is the total number of adoptions finalized. Since the last board meeting performance has trended in the right direction. In addition, ECA6 currently leads the state in the total number of adoptions finalized. As of June 23, 2014 we have finalized 339 adoptions compared to the second place Community Based Care Lead Agency that has finalized 268 adoptions. We are projecting to finalize 370 adoptions by the end of the FY, exceeding the target of 360 adoptions by 10 adoptions.

The next chart includes our Eckerd self-imposed measures. These measures were established by Eckerd to help ensure positive outcomes for children and families that we serve. All of these measures are in the green, reflecting the hard work completed this year. 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, reflecting the hard work completed this year. We did experience some variance in performance since the last board meeting but nothing that would impact our ability to end the year having met or exceed goal.

Mr. Bostick asked the Board if they had any questions about the performance measures.

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

### **Community & Prevention Report**

Mrs. Nichols asked Mrs. Shirley indicated that Ms. Jennifer Silva will be giving the update to the Board going forward. Below are a few of the events highlighted during Mrs. Shirley's report.

The Fourth Annual Eckerd Community Alternatives Be Their Champion Charity Golf Tournament: was held on March 22nd, 2014 and was played at East Lake Woodlands Country Club. Nearly 100 participants enjoyed a wonderful day of golf, along with a banquet and awards ceremony honoring the best golfers in a variety of categories. The event also featured a silent auction and raffle. More than \$20,000 was raised to benefit foster children in Pinellas and Pasco Counties.

Children's Week 2014: Eckerd traveled to Tallahassee from the Tampa Bay area along with 13 foster families to participate in Children's Week. The families and Eckerd staff visited with 17 legislators or their Aides all in one day, sharing their stories and putting a face to foster parents and children from our region. State Representative Dwight Dudley was one of the legislators the families visited. Representative Dudley commented, "It was truly my honor to be able to meet with and listen to their stories. These parents are heroes in my eyes and I am grateful for their dedication in helping the children of Tampa Bay area. Thank you for your advocacy."

Camp for Champs 2014: This year's Camp for Champs in Circuit 6 will be for young women, ages 14-16, with 10-12 total youth participating. The camp will have an "Empowerment" theme. On day one, the three-day camp will feature a Museum trip/Lunch day followed by a visit to Painting with a Twist. Day two has a business theme and will include visits with local successful business women, as well as lunch and then a swim in the afternoon. Day three will have a Health/Mind/Beauty theme and will include yoga and hair styles and manicures at a Pinellas Park salon.

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

### **ECA Finance Report**

Mrs. Nichols asked Mrs. Pam Griffith to give the Board the ECA6 Finance report.

Mrs. Griffith gave the Board an overview of the April financials. Based on known expenditures and current trends, we are projecting a positive variance to budget of \$1.5 million for FY2014. After the distribution of the \$7.1M in MAS held back by DCF, the projected deficit in Maintenance Adoption Subsidies (MAS) is \$550K. The MAS proposal submitted to the legislature for an additional \$5M for this fiscal year was adopted in the back of the bill. Last week ECA6 received a contract amendment incorporating the additional funding, therefore, ECA 6 should not have a deficit in this area.

ECA6 is experiencing a positive variance of \$1M in OHC. This variance can be attributed to multiple strategies implemented by the Lead Agency to effectively manage the utilization of placement services.

The other area Mrs. Griffith addressed was the Independent Living which ECA6 is projecting a positive variance. The financial impact has not been as dramatic for the first 6 months but is anticipated to increase over the next year. To summarize, ECA6 is currently anticipating a carry forward amount into FY2015 of \$1.5M.

FY2014 Budget Review: ECA6 is budgeting a breakeven for FY2015. There have been a few minor adjustments to the budget since the Finance and Audit Committee meeting based on DCF releasing expecting core and maintenance adoption subsidy funding.

Assumption: \$5.9M net increase in revenue – accounting for FY14 non-recurring funding and carry forward, and FY15 projected CBC funding plus grants & other funding. 0% cost of living increase, Vacancy Rate of 0%, Employer pension contribution remains at 5%, Worker's Compensation will decrease from 2% of lead Agency salaries to 1% and Health Insurance will remain the same.

Lead Agency: Budgeted at \$8.4M. Increased funding on this line item to invest in technology refreshes/updates and in an electronic filing system

Contracted Services: Budgeted at \$21.5M. \$1.5M of the special appropriation received in FY14 was invested into increased case management capacity, backend reunification support services intended to expedite safe and timely reunification, and diversion services intended to curtail placement of children in foster care. As a result of this strategy, ECA6 needed to generate a reinvestment pool in order to continue these critical services into FY15. The projected carry forward captured on the financial report is reflective of that reinvestment pool. This \$1.5M investment pool will be utilized to continue the services into the next fiscal year given their effectiveness in strengthening the system of care. The \$2.75 special appropriation for FY15 will be used to provide raises to case managers and supervisors who have not received salary increases in over 8 years with the intent to stabilize the workforce and reduce the turn-over rate of case managers. Allow for the continuation of the Substance Abuse Mental Health Program that Eckerd started with a 1-year grant for the FL DCF in FY14. This program has proven highly effective and is another opportunity to shore up the Pinellas/Pasco system of care.

Independent Living: Budgeted at \$2.6M which is less than FY2014 budget of \$277K. Number of youth electing to stay in Extended Foster Care is expected to increase over the next year but not to the extent started initially anticipated

Out-of-Home Care: Budgeted at \$12.9M. This provides a daily expenditure rate of approximately \$2700 more than April's daily rate. Although successful at decreasing OHC cost during FY14, there has recently been an increase in children entering care therefore budgeted higher to ensure there is not a budget shortfall in this area.

Maintenance Adoption Subsidies: Budgeted at \$15.8M \$2.2M more than FY14, received additional funding due to increased adoptions.

Community Based Integrated Health (CBCIH): Replaces current Magellan that funds behavior health services for children in the FL CW System. CBCIH will also fund physical health services for children. The entity managing the Magellan funding will manage the CBCIH funding so we do not anticipated any concerns.

FY2015's budget is balanced and ECA6 will monitor financial performance and implement cost efficiencies with the intent to carry funds forward.

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

Mrs. Nichols then presented the FY15 budget for approval. The board approved the FY15 budget for ECA 6.

With no more questions from the public or the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Laura Hunt  
Secretary