



Minutes of the Meeting of the
Board of Directors
 Eckerd Community Alternatives Circuit 13
 The Family Place
 Tampa, Florida
 Tuesday, June 23, 2015

BOARD MEMBERS		OTHER ATTENDEES
Attendees:	Dennis Hardiman	David Dennis
	Joe Clark	Ron Zychowski
	Eileen Kamerick	Lorita Shirley
		Pam Griffith
		Randy Luecke
		Melanie Owens
		Jody Grutza
Excused:	Patsy Feliciano	Robert Larsen
		Ellyn Evans
		Tony Moore
		Rachel Smith
Recorder:		Laura Hunt, Secretary

The Board meeting was called to order at 8:40 a.m. by the Chair, Mr. Dennis Hardiman

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Dennis Hardiman presented the minutes of the February 2015 ECA Hillsborough Board meeting for approval. Mr. Hardiman asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Clark made the motion and Ms. Kamerick seconded the motion. With no comments the motion was unanimously passed. The Board did a quick review of the old business items to ensure there was nothing outstanding or not addressed.

Mr. Hardiman asked the public if they had any comments, with no comments from the public Mr. Hardiman asked Ms. Rachel Smith to give the Operation report.

Operations Report

Ms. Smith started by acknowledging that ECA Hillsborough’s most recent performance. Ms. Smith highlighted several areas in Circuit 13 performance.

ECA 13 is proud that Circuit 13 is currently ranked number 1 out of 20 judicial circuits for achieving timely permanency in reunifications and permanent guardianship. ECA 13 is very appreciative of our staff, stakeholders, providers, and community, who helped contribute towards the permanency of many children in Hillsborough County.

Ms Smith explained that one of the major changes impacting our system next year will be a shift from six to four case management agencies. Two agencies have voluntarily decided to relinquish their contracts so that this overall objective could be met. They are Children's Home Society and Camelot Community Care. Our objective is to complete this transition in its entirety no later than September 30th. In addition to the shift from 6 to 4 case management agencies, Eckerd also made a decision to directly oversee and administer all services associated with adoptions. This change will free up case managers to focus on timely permanency and the needs of children.

Ms. Smith asked the Board to turn their attention to the ECA 13 performance scorecard. To the right of the color codes we have included the numerator and the denominator that performance is based on for your review. I wanted to first identify Measure #1 which is the percentage of children in out of home care who are not maltreated by their out of home caregiver. While this measure is in the yellow, it represents 20 maltreatments out of 3,000 plus children served. ECA 13 is in the red in one contract measure area which is Measure #3 which is the Number of Children with finalized adoptions between 07/01/14 and 06/30/15. The target for the fiscal year is 288 adoptions. As of today ECA 13 is at 254. To meet the goal of 288, ECA 13 needs to finalize 34 more adoptions. ECA 13 currently had 20 more adoptions scheduled but more work is being done to help reach that target. As stated previously, starting next fiscal year, ECA 13 will directly oversee and administer all services associated with adoptions.

The next measures I would like to discuss are the ECA 13 Self Imposed Measures. These measures were established by ECA 13 to help ensure positive outcomes for children and families that we serve. Measure 4 is the reduction in number of children in out of home care. ECA 13 has experienced an increase in removals and a decrease in exits from out of home care during this FY. Reunifications and Closure to Permanent Guardianship are off target by 78 and adoptions are off target by 34. Counter measures to improve these performances include reviewing all children to ensure that they achieve permanency in a timely manner; assisting CPI's in locating relatives for placement, and weekly performance calls discussing specific children and their plans for permanency.

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, Ms. Smith concluded her Operations report.

ECA Finance Report

Mr. Hardiman asked Mrs. Pamela Griffith to give the ECA Circuit 13 Finance update.

Mrs. Griffith started out by informing the about the April financials and highlighted the following:

ECA13 is expecting a positive variance in all categories resulting in a projected surplus of \$2.8M. The projected increase in surplus is predominantly linked to Independent Living/Extended Foster Care, Out-of-Home Care and Lead Agency as delineated below.

Lead Agency related expenses are projected to have a positive variance to plan of \$629K due primarily to 3% vacancy rate, as well as cost savings in technology upgrades, security system and professional fees. Independent Living (IL) expenses are estimated to have a positive variance to plan of \$476K. Extended Foster Care (EFC) is a relatively new approach allowing youth to elect to stay in foster care after age 18. Due to the lack of trend data, the budget was more aggressive than actual participation. However, current monthly projections to actual participation are more consistent.

Out-of-Home (OHC) Services expenses are expected to realize a positive variance of \$1.1M. This variance can be attributed to multiple new strategies implemented by the Lead Agency to effectively manage the utilization of placement services; such as, removing barriers to find relatives, including exits from licensed care a topic of the performance calls, etc.

Mrs. Griffith then went on to explain to the Board that the FY16's budget is balanced and ECA-Hillsborough will monitor financial performance and implement cost efficiencies with the intent to carry funds forward. ECA-Hillsborough is budgeting a breakeven for budget for FY16.

Mrs. Griffith gave the Board the highlights of the budget and with no more questions from the Board Mr. Hardiman presented the FY16 budget for approval. The Board approved the FY16 budget for ECA -Hillsborough. Mr. Hardiman made the motion and Mr. Clark seconded the motion. The budget was unanimously passed

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

External Relations Report

Mr. Hardiman asked Ms. Jody Grutza to give the Board the External Relations update. Below are a few of the events that Mrs. Grutza highlighted in her report

PricewaterhouseCoopers Foster Parent Presentation: Eckerd participated in a lunch and learn session at PricewaterhouseCoopers to inform employees about the rewards and benefits of being a foster parent in the Tampa Bay area.

Ray's Home Run Club Field Day: On April 1, the Ray's hosted members of the Home Run Club to enjoy a field day. Children were treated to an afternoon of fun and activities including dancing, fast pitch contest and running bases. The Ray's continue to provide a suite for 32 foster children at no cost for every home game and Centerplate donates the traditional baseball food for each game.

Old McMickey's Farm: Eckerd and various other community partners held an adoption celebration and recruitment event on June 13th. In one afternoon, Eckerd will show how easy it is to adopt, all of the support available both pre and post adoption and the amazing rewards of adoption and starting or growing your family.

Ms. Grutza also mentioned to the Board that Casey Family Programs recently released a 10 year report, *A Decade of Hope*, that highlights the work of Eckerd Rapid Safety FeedbackSM in Hillsborough County.

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

The Board meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m. by Chair, Mr. Hardiman.

Respectfully submitted by:

Laura Hunt, Secretary