



Minutes of the Meeting of the
Board of Directors
 Eckerd Community Alternatives Circuit 13
 The Family Place
 Tampa, Florida
 Tuesday, October 28, 2014

BOARD MEMBERS		OTHER ATTENDEES
Attendees:	Dennis Hardiman	Ron Zychowski
	Joe Clark	Lorita Shirley
	Patsy Feliciano	Pam Griffith
		Randy Luecke
		Jan Gregory - DCF
		Will Jones
		Kathleen Cowan
Excused:	Eileen Kamerick	Melanie Owens
		Jody Grutza
		Harvey Odem - DCF
		Tony Moore
		Jennifer Silva
		Deb McGinty - DCF
Recorder:		Laura Hunt, Secretary

The Board meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by the Chair, Mr. Dennis Hardiman.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Dennis Hardiman presented the minutes of the June 24, 2014 ECA 13 Board meeting for approval. Mr. Hardiman asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Joseph Clark made the motion and Mrs. Patsy Feliciano seconded the motion. With no comments the motion was unanimously passed. There were no old business items from the last meeting.

Mr. Hardiman asked the public if they had any comments. Mrs. Jan Gregory introduced Mr. Harvey Odem as the new contract manager for DCF with no other comments from the public Mr. Hardiman asked Ms. Kathleen Cowan to give the Operation report.

Operations Report

Ms. Cowan went over the ECA-H performance scorecard starting by acknowledging that Hillsborough’s year end performance. In 2013/14 ECA-H had eight contract measures that are reflected on the top chart. ECA-H met or exceeded six of the eight measures as compared to four out of eight measures in 2012/13. The two contract measures not met

are: No. 3: Percentage of children reunified who were reunified within 12 months and No. 4: Percentage of children removed within 12 months of the prior reunification. On the bottom of the page are Eckerd's self-imposed measures. The three measures not met are: No. 3: Reduction of children remaining in Out of home Care greater than 12 months; No. 4: Reduction of children in out of home care by 5% and No. 5: Reduction in the number of children in licensed care by 5%.

Ms. Cowan then discussed the current performance report as of 9/30/14. The two contract measures currently not met are: No. 3: Number of finalized adoptions achieved year to date and No. 4: Percentage of children in out of home care 8 days to 12 months with 2 or fewer placements. ECA-H's annual target for this fiscal year is 288 adoptions as of today Eckerd has finalized 75 adoptions and will finalize 40 adoptions in the month of November. November is the National Adoption month and plans are underway to host a celebration of November 21st at the Hillsborough County Court House. Eckerd anticipates over 20 adoptions occurring during the celebration. Leadership discusses adoptions weekly during our performance weekly data calls. The target for placement stability is 87%. Performance as of 09/30/14 was 85.7%, since that time performance has increased to 87%.

The 2nd chart at the bottom of the page reflects ECA-H's self-imposed non-contract measures. The two measures in the red are associated with children in out-of-home care. Measure 3: Reduce the number of children remaining in OHC > 12 months. (FS388). ECA's operation team is now facilitating nine month permanency staffing's with the Office of Attorney General, Guardian's and case management to increase permanency earlier in the process. Measure 4: Reduce the number of children in Out-of-Home care and licensed care by 5%. Improvement has been noted since the start of the quarter. ECA has a hands on-approach with the case management organizations to reduce children in out of home care. Weekly Permanency Calls are in place with case management leadership to drive permanency.

Per the direction of the board, a third section to the scorecard now includes measures associated with youth who receive Independent Living Services (youth aged out of foster care). ECA Hillsborough is meeting these three measures and continues to trend in the right direction. Eckerd continues to partner with High School Guidance Counselors and case management to ensure youth are on track for graduation (alternate diploma tracks are being discussed for youth as needed). ECA-H staff and our sub-contracted providers are committed to work in partnership to improve outcomes for the children and families Hillsborough County.

With no more questions from the Board or the public, Ms. Cowan concluded her Operations report.

Community & Prevention Report

Mr. Hardiman asked Ms. Jennifer Silva to give the Board the Community & Prevention update. Below are a few of the events that Ms. Silva highlighted in her report.

Ian Beckles Speaks to Eckerd Foster Teens– July 17, 2014

Former Tampa Bay Buccaneer Ian Beckles came to speak to a group of nearly 30 teens who are in foster care, mostly in group home environments, in Hillsborough County. Mr. Beckles, who currently co-hosts the Ron and Ian Show on WDAE, shared his story of success and overcoming obstacles with the teens and participated in a lively question and answer session. Mr. Beckles also generously provided dinner for all the youth attending.

Tampa Bay Rays Home Run Club – April through September 2014

The fifth season of the Home Run Club came to an end in September. This season, the Rays doubled the size of the suite, allowing nearly 100 foster children and their families to participate. Home Run Club “team members” were each treated to around 12 baseball games in the specially outfitted suite, a Team day on the field during which they got to meet players and get autographs, and an end-of-the-season group birthday celebration featuring the Rays Team (cheerleaders), DJ Kitty and a giant birthday cake

#ItCANbedone Campaign Kick-Off Event – October 28, 2014

This DCF social media campaign highlights successes of Florida’s foster youth and former foster youth in pursuing their educational, professional and life goals. Developed in partnership with former and current foster youth, the campaign aims to engage local businesses, organizations and communities to rally around foster youth to support and empower them in achieving their goals. Eckerd’s kick-off event will feature comments from independent living youth and stakeholders from both sides of the Bay. The event takes place at the Family Place in Tampa from 11am to 1pm.

Hillsborough National Adoption Day Event – November 21, 2014

The Junior League of Tampa is supporting Hillsborough’s National Adoption Day event at which Hillsborough Family Court Judges clear their calendars to preside over adoption hearings. A ceremony to celebrate the adoption finalizations will follow the finalizations and will include arts and crafts, refreshments, family portraits and entertainment. Local media is expected to cover the event.

With no questions from the Board or the public Ms. Silva concluded her 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 Board about the August financials stating that ECA-H is currently projecting a positive variance to budget of \$1 million for FY2015. Mrs. Griffith went on to highlight the following areas.

Independent Living: Currently, we are projecting Independent Living to have a position variance to plan of \$46 thousand. The new legislation regarding extended foster care went into effect January 1, 2014. Since Extended Foster Care is still relatively new, we will continue to participate in statewide discussions to monitor participation and the budget.

Out-of-Home Care: Out-of-Home Care is expected to have a positive variance to plan of \$736 thousand. Daily OHC planned costs are \$35,287; the August averaged daily cost was \$33,529. There has been a decrease of \$1,458 in the daily cost and 25 children since the beginning of the fiscal year. Since this is our most volatile expense, we are monitoring daily both operationally and financially.

Maintenance Adoption Subsidies: Based on current funding and the contractual adoption target of 288, a \$746 thousand shortfall in maintenance adoption subsidies is anticipated. However, we are expecting to be fully funded: DCF has held back \$5.8M in funding which will be distributed later this fiscal year; Eckerd anticipates that the amount held in reserve will not be sufficient to fully fund all the Lead Agencies so once again an additional appropriation of MAS funding by the legislature will be necessary.

Mr. Clark inquired of the FY2014 carry forward funds. Mrs. Griffith explained that these funds are reinvested back into the system of care, specifically toward reunification, post-adoption support and case management.

Mrs. Griffith stated that ECA-Hillsborough will continue to monitor out-of-home care placements and costs; be pro-active in the extended foster care workgroups and begin discussions on how to approach the anticipated shortfall in MAS.

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

The Board meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m. by Chair, Mr. Hardiman.

Respectfully submitted by:

Laura Hunt, Secretary