Minutes of the Meeting of the

# Board of Directors

Eckerd Kids Community Alternatives Circuit 6

Eckerd 2nd Floor Conference Room

Clearwater, Florida

Tuesday, October 27, 2015



BOARD MEMBERS OTHER ATTENDEES

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

The Board meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Mr. Raymond Ferrara

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Ferrara presented the minutes of the June 24, 2014 Eckerd Community Alternatives and asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Daniel Boon gave the motion and Mr. Glenn Waters seconded the motion. The June 24, 2015 minutes were approved.

Mr. Ferrara did note that the minutes were approved with corrections to denote the Lead Agency consistently as ECA 6.

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 began his report by highlighting that ECA 6 finalized 340 adoptions during FY15 exceeding the target of 318. Over the last 3 years ECA 6 has found forever families for over 1,000 children. So far this fiscal year, ECA 6 has been ranked 1st for performance on the DCF Scorecard for the months of July and August 2015.

Mr. Boon asked why annual adoptions dropped this year over the prior year. Mr. Bostick indicated that due to the success ECA 6 has had with adoptions, they now have a reduced target of only 261 for the current year. ECA 6 has finalized 72 adoptions, the most in the state of Florida as of October 9, 2015. ECA 6 is currently meeting the target for all DCF contract measures through September 2015. ECA 6 will continue to focus on finding permanency for children throughout the fiscal year.

The Board wanted to recognize ECA 6 for the outstanding performance last year and the great start that they have experienced this year.

Mr. Bostick informed the Board of a new Initiative called Early Childhood Court in Pinellas and Pasco County. Early Childhood Court is a systems-change initiative, spearheaded by ZERO To THREE. It is modeled on the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Model Court Projects. Model Court judges focus on conducting their hearings in accordance with nationally recognized best practices. The Early Childhood Court Teams are led by judges who place a strong emphasis on addressing unique challenges facing infants and toddlers. The Early Childhood Team is focused on improving how courts, child welfare agencies, and related child serving organizations work together, share information, and expedite services for young children. This work increases knowledge among all those who work with maltreated children about the needs of infants and toddlers. Mr. Ferrara indicated that although he really likes the program that “Court” is a very harsh word as the name for this program and if they can soften the word Court it would resonate so much better.

Next Mr. Bostick discussed ECA 6’s current performance as of September 30, 2015. ECA 6 achieved green for 7 of 8 DCF contract measures with one yellow measure. Under Self Imposed Measures, ECA 6 achieved green on 3 of 6 measures, yellow for one measure and red for two measures. The red measures are the same measures that ECA 6 ended last fiscal year in the red and counter measures that were previously discussed are in place to improve performance. It should be noted despite not meeting these measures ECA 6 is experiencing a surplus in Out of Home Care through the end of September 2015.

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 September financials stating that ECA 6 is expecting a neutral or positive variance in all budget categories resulting in a projected surplus of $920K. Based on current funding, the projected deficit in Maintenance Adoption Subsidies (MAS) is $435K.

ECA 6 is expecting additional MAS funding to be distributed later this fiscal year. Receipt of the additional funding is anticipated during the fourth quarter of FY2016. ECA 6 is experiencing a positive variance of $461K in Out-of-Home Care. This variance can be attributed to multiple new strategies implemented by the Lead Agency to effectively manage the utilization of placement services. Contracted Services expenses are projected to have a positive variance of $18K due to unused contract dollars from the prior fiscal year. Independent Living (IL) expenses are estimated to have positive variance to plan of $286K. 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). ECA6 is projected to have a surplus of $920K. ECA6 will continue to monitor program expenses to keep their current positive variance to budget.

Ray Ferrara clarified that Daniel Boon is now the Chair of the ECA 6 Finance and Audit Committee.

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

**External Relations Report**

Mr. Ferrara asked Mr. Martin Peters to give the External Relations report. Below are a few of the events highlighted during Mr. Peter’s report.

Tampa Bay Bucs Game: The Tampa Bay Buccaneers donated 20 tickets to ECA 6 for the October 4th game against the Carolina Panthers along with food and a shirt for each youth. The youth who attended had never been to a NFL game before.

Camps for Champs Summer Program: Fourteen local foster teens participated in Eckerd’s “Camp for Champs” summer camp program. These teens had the opportunity to experience summer camp just like any other child. Current and former foster youth ages 13-17 spent three days building their confidence while strengthening life skills.

The Heart Band: Recently a group of foster children in ECA 6 banded together to create The Heart Band where they rock out to Christian songs. The band started with three sisters and has expanded to others touched by the system of care, including Jordan the youngest band member who is just six years old and plays the drums.

Mr. Ferrara requested that Mr. Peters provide the dates and times of adoption events planned in November.

With no more questions from the public or the Board, Mr. Ferrara adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Laura Hunt

Secretary