Minutes of the Meeting of the

# Board of Directors

Eckerd Community Alternatives – Pinellas/Pasco

8550 Ulmerton Road, Largo FL

Clearwater, Florida

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

 BOARD MEMBERS OTHER ATTENDEES

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Attendees: | Ray Ferrara | Lorita Shirley |
|  | Daniel Boon | Pam Griffith |
|  | Nancy Nichols | Josh Talkington |
| Via Phone: |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Excused: | Glenn Waters | Brian Bostick |
|  |  |  |
| Recorder: |  | Laura Hunt, Secretary |

The Board meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m. by Mr. Ray Ferrara

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Ferrara presented the minutes of the October 23, 2017 ECA 6 Board meeting for approval. Mr. Ferrara asked for a motion to approve the minutes with three minor edits that need to be made. Mr. Daniel Boon gave the motion and Mrs. Nancy Nichols seconded the motion.

Mr. Ferrara asked if there were any comments from the public. Mrs. Celeste Fernandez from DCF stood up and wanted to thank ECA 6 for all that we are doing.

With no other comments from members of the public, Mr. Ferrara asked Mrs. Lorita Shirley to give the operations update.

**Operations Report**

Mrs. Shirley updated the Board on the Executive Summary. Mrs. Shirley stated “As you know, we have been operating as a Lead Agency in Circuit 6 since July of 2008. We have established an amazing team of hard working professionals in C6 under the leadership of our Executive Director Mr. Brian Bostick and I’m honored to cover his report during his absence from the office this afternoon.”

ECA 6 continues to be one of the top performing lead agencies across the state of Florida and is currently exceeding performance on 5 of the 9 contract measures. Maintaining performance at this level is not an easy accomplishment and Lorita acknowledged the leadership team for a job well done.

Mrs. Shirley also shared a major initiative that ECA 6 is undergoing to improve lead agency oversight of the system of care. Several weeks ago the organization made a strategic decision to align the function of each department within the lead agency to the spoke model used by the larger Eckerd Connects organization. This philosophical shift in practice is intended to help our lead agency improve the oversight of the over 140 subcontractors and vendors that make up the system of care.

Mrs. Shirley also stated that ECA 6 funds 160 case management positions, up from 129.5 approximately 1 year ago. ECA 6 is currently operating at 94% system capacity which equates to 144 front line staff who are trained, in the field, and working cases. ECA 6 has had an additional 10 case managers hired by our 3 subcontracted case management providers who are scheduled to exit training over the course of the next 10 weeks. With this workforce in the pipeline, ECA 6 should be at 96% system capacity by the end of April. Our average case load size is currently pacing at 21. ECA 6 is currently facing a projected shortfall of approximately $2.3 million. ECA 6 received $867,000 in risk pool funding and is anticipating the back of the bill funding to sure up the short fall.

With no more questions from the Board, Mrs. Shirley concluded her Operations report.

**Finance Report**

Mr. Ferrara asked Mrs. Pam Griffith to give the Board the ECA 6 Finance report.

Mrs. Griffith reported that during the first six months of FY18, ECA6 experienced a net decrease in licensed out-of-home care growth of 1%. While foster care growth declined 4%, residential experienced an 11% growth resulting in a projected year-end shortfall of $3.2M. ECA6 received $867K in Risk Pool Funding to help offset this shortfall to $2.3M. It is anticipated that the Back-of-the Bill funding will cover the deficit for every Lead Agency. Contracted Services expenses are projected to have a negative variance of $166K. Eckerd increased contracted services at the beginning of the fiscal year in order to address continual system growth. Out-of-Home Services expenses are expected to realize a negative variance of $3.2M due to growth in residential placements. Several initiatives for safe reunifications and step-downs have been factored into the projection.

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

Mr. Ferrara moved to accept the December financials and Mrs. Griffith’s report. The financials were accepted by the Board.

**External Relations Report**

Mr. Ferrara asked Mr. Josh Talkington to give the External Relations report. Below are a few of the events highlighted during Mr. Talkington’s report:

National Adoption Day: The Sixth Judicial Circuit held two celebrations of National Adoption Day this year — one in Pasco County on Nov. 3, a second in Pinellas County on Nov. 17. A total of 37 children were adopted into 32 families.

Picnic Celebrates Adoptive Families: On November 4th, ECA 6 hosted a post-adoption picnic in Palm Harbor for dozens of children and families. Bay News 9 was on hand covering the event and interviewed ECA 6 Director Brian Bostick. “Once a family adopts a child that child then has a forever family and that family is able to have an impact on that child for the rest of their lives,” said Brian Bostick.

Karaoke, Gift Cards and a Hot Meal for the Holidays: The ECA 6 Out of Home Care team visited a local group home for a holiday party. The team gifted each girl with a $25 Target gift card, built gingerbread houses, sang karaoke and served a delicious meal.

With no questions from the Board, Mr. Talkington concluded his report.

**Chair’s report**

Mr. Ferrara stated “Thank you so much on behalf of the Board to all of you at ECA 6.” Mr. Ferrara also thanked Secretary Carroll on behalf of the Board. Mrs. Nichols also thanked ECA 6 for everything they do.

With no more questions from the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Laura Hunt

Secretary