



**Board Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2023
10am to 12 Noon CDT**

Meeting Participants: Gerald Waters, Reggie Johns, Rendy Lovelady, Ronald Pickett, Dr. Liz Holifield, Bambi Smith, Keith Dean, Charlie Strickland, Mike Watkins, Courtney Stanford, Rae Kerr, Arthur Cullen, Denise Myers, Angie Nichols, Kristi Lock, Kelly Faircloth, Jeremy Scanlon, Maureen Castano, Amy Cliburn, Marcia Mathis, Ralph Haben, Michael Lee, , Sonja King, Tennille Taylor, Jeanna McBride, Kimberly Nyahay, Terrence Watts, Lisa Carden, Amber Wookey, Molly Clore, Billy Ford, Georgette Vandersommen, Christy Bertera

I. Welcome and Chair's Remarks Gerald Waters

Meeting was called to order and guests were welcomed. It was noted that we have a quorum of the Board. There was a recognition of Staff guests and those from the Department.

II. Awards Presentation Courtney Stanford/Rae Kerr

Program Operations Team of the Year:
Quality Improvement, Training, and Development Team

III. Consent Agenda Gerald Waters

- A. Review and Approval of Minutes**
1. Board of Directors
 2. Emergency Board of Directors Meeting
 3. Executive Committee
 4. Finance Committee
- B. Proposed Board Meeting Dates for 2024**
- C. Review Performance Child Welfare/Behavioral Health**
- D. Media Coverage**
- E. Policy Review**

Reggie Johns made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Bambi Smith seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

IV. Amendment to the Bylaws Michael Lee

The amended Bylaws were presented to the Board and each modification was explained. Amendments include adding specific language stating the Board approves the budget, and operational policies and procedures of NWF Health Network (NWFHN). Additional amendments increased the number of Board Members to 19 with the requirement that 75% of those Board Members reside in Florida, and at least 50%

residing in the service area. Video Teleconferencing was added as acceptable means of meeting for the Board. Lastly, the agency may not be indebted without approval from the Board. However, existing debts may continue unless the Board opposes such debt.

Clarification was given regarding the term limits of Board Members. Membership terms are for two years and Officers and Members may be reappointed after each term with no limitation on the number of terms that may be served.

A motion to accept the Amended Bylaws as presented was made by Ronald Pickett and seconded by Reggie Johns. All were in favor and motion passed. Secretary Teresa Roberts will sign the Bylaws and forward to the Board.

V. **Review and Approval of Finance Committee Report**

Rae Kerr

A. **22-23 FY**

Originally Budget Summary (pg. 42) This shows the original schedule of funds that was adopted for the fiscal year ending 6/30/2024.

Working Budget as of 9/30/2023 (pg. 43) this shows the Working Budget as of the last Board Meeting in October. The **Current Working Budget as of 10/31/2023**, is shown on pg. 44. The current and preceding Working Budgets will be presented at each Board Meeting going forward. The Current Working Budget show the 3 major contracts with the Department, and includes the Fatherhood Grant.

CBC Budget to Actual CBC C1 (pg. 45) includes expenditures of approximately \$81.6 million dollars. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) has not finalized the contracts for fiscal year ending on 6/30/2023. However, based upon our calculations, we anticipate carryforward funds of approximately \$4,229,000. The 24/25 Budget is anticipated to be approximately \$5,339,853 after reserve.

There were no questions regarding the CBC C1 Budget Summary.

CBC Budget to Actual CBC C2/14 (pg. 48): We are budgeting \$58,076,019 for expenses. The schedule of funds allows for \$56,369,236 million. There is an anticipated \$1,100,577 that will need to be paid back to the Department for Level 1. We estimate spending approximately \$1 million of the \$2 million dollars that was funded for Level 1. NWFHN received additional funds because we are leading the state in securing the licensing of Level 1 homes. The state goal is 40% in licensed placements and NWFHN has exceeded that goal with 60% in licensed placements.

We anticipate a deficit in C2/14 of \$2,218,360 after reserve and carryforward funding. All of the deficit is being driven by Out of Home Care. This is not only an issue in Group Home Care, but also in the Foster Care daily rate. The daily rate for Foster homes should be an average of \$25 a day and is increasing to \$40 per day and more. This is not from the increase in children but in the acuity of the needs of the children. This is a statewide issue. There is no cap on the boarding rates.

There were no questions regarding the CBC C2/14 Budget Summary.

ME Working Budget (pg.49): There is a projected \$3.7 million carryforward in the next FY.

There were no questions regarding the ME Budget.

CBCIH Budget (pg. 50): CBCIH is breaking even.

There were no questions regarding the CBCIH budget.

NWFHN Balance Sheets (pg. 51): There is approximately \$37,818,249 million in cash through 10/31/2023. The Balance Sheets indicate sufficient cash to meet our cash flow needs. There are sufficient grants and receivables coming in from the Department. DCF is timely in paying our invoices.

Independence Village Balance Sheet (pg. 52): There are no changes from the last meeting. We are still in negotiations with Florida Housing.

Reggie Johns made a motion to approve the Finance Report as presented. Ronald Pickett seconded the motion. All were in favor and motion passed unanimously.

- B. **Facility Updates:** The lease with Families First Network has been extended through June 30, 2024. NWFHN is seeking office space in Pensacola and other areas as well.

There were no questions from the Board.

VI. Strategic Discussions

Courtney Stanford

A. Annual Priorities

1. C14 Update

Kelly Faircloth

The Circuit 14 Staff has been integrating Child Protection and Behavioral Health services in order to increase resources and focus on prevention. Many children are entering care with a history of trauma so the goal is to provide resources as

early as possible. NWFHN is partnering with DCF and Providers to focus on integration of resources. Staff priorities are increasing Permanency (the timely exit out of our care). NWFHN's goal for the children in care is for reunification or adoption; and C14 has been above the state in this area. The State goal is that 40% of children in care will reach permanency within 12 months. C14 has consistently met this goal.

Top priorities in C14 are to reduce the number of children in Out of Home Care, reduce the number of children who are in Group Care, and to help children reach Permanency.

2. Senate Bill 536

Michael Lee

Senate Bill 536 focuses on DCF and agencies in Privatized Care, with an emphasis on Board Members and fiduciary care. There are provisions that restrict the ability to sub-organize and would not allow the agency to have subsidiaries. CBCs would not be allowed to have their own assets and essentially whatever is owned by the agency would be owned by the Department. The Bill does not currently have a House Sponsor. Other areas of concern in this bill is the imposing of civil fines. Penalties would change from contractual to civil fines. NWFHN will continue to watch SB 536

3. Corrective Action Plans (CAPs)

Courtney Stanford

DCF put every CBC on a Corrective Action Plan regarding Psychotropic Medications. Six other CBCs were also issued a Corrective Action Plan regarding Unlicensed Placements. NWF Health Network (NWFHN) did not receive a Corrective Action Plan in the area of Unlicensed Placements. There are currently 185 children on Psychotropic Meds who are under NWFHN's care. Areas noted for correction are "Documentation in the System" and "Ongoing Training". The goal of NWFHN is to have this resolved with 100% completion.

4. Opioid Settlement

Courtney Stanford

Approximately \$7 million dollars was given to 17 of our 18 counties as a result of the Opioid Settlement. This settlement resulted from General Moody's lawsuit with the Pharmaceutical companies. Escambia was the only unqualified county, out of the 18 counties in our service area. NWFHN is working with Escambia to get resources elsewhere since there were not part of the Opioid Settlement.

Bay, Okaloosa, and Leon counties recently received approval to move forward with CORE Programs.

5. BHME ITN

Courtney Stanford

The initial due date for the Behavioral Health Managing Entity ITN was January 9, 2024. That date has been pushed back to February 12, 2024. The NWFHN Team is on track to submit the bid for the BHME ITN. 118 questions were submitted to the Department regarding the ITN.

6. Foster Support

Molly Clore

138 new Foster Families were licensed in 2023. The needs of the children in care and their families are great. Challenges have increased since the Covid pandemic and lockdown.

The Director of Foster Family Support gave the Board an overview of the Foster Support Program, status of training for licensing, and the greatest needs for children, families and Staff.

Needs include Behavioral Health Support for children who are in placement, along with some children needing to be placed in Therapeutic Homes due to the acuity of their needs.

Difficulties that Staff encounter include finding Child Psychiatrists who will take Medicaid and the lack of Therapists.

Board Members Reggie Johns and Rendy Lovelady shared that they are in the planning stage for a series of events to raise a million dollars in unrestricted funds within the next 3 years. These unrestricted dollars would help the children and families in our care. Fundraising events would include entertainers performing in each Circuit and local Corporations purchasing tables at the event.

7. Faith Liaison

Courtney Stanford

Marcia Mathis continues to support the Governor's Faith and Community Based Liaison, Erik Dellenback, as well as the Faith Based Community in each of our Circuits.

No questions from the Board regarding Strategic Discussions.

VII. Review Risk Management

Mike Watkins

- a. **Executive/Legislative** – Proposed SB 536 is a risk if it were to be enacted. Mr. Watkins has met with Leadership in House and is scheduling a meeting with the Secretary. The Privatization of Child Protection in Florida is the biggest concern.

b. **Legal-** **Ralph Haben**
No issues at this time. The previous case of the slip and fall claim is still out there, but causes no concern to Counsel.

c. **Other:** **Michael Lee**
The Corrective Action Plan regarding Psychotropic Medication is being addressed.

The Board was asked if there are any risks issues that were not already identified and there were none.

VIII. Review Governance **Gerald Waters**

- a. Status of Directors
- i. Reappointment of Member(s): N/A
 - ii. Proposed Member(s): Arthur Cullen was presented for nomination to the Board by Reggie Johns. Mr. Cullen is a Campaign Manager and works with those at the local, state and federal level.

Reggie Johns also nominated Serena Armstrong as a new NWFHN Board Member due to the recent absorption of the NWF Partnership Board.

Reggie Johns presented Denise Myers as an Ex Officio of the NWFHN Board.

Motion to accept Arthur Cullen and Serena Armstrong as NWF Health Network Board Members was presented by Reggie Johns and seconded by Bambi Smith. All were in favor.

Motion to appoint Denise Myers as Ex Officio to the NWF Health Network Board of Directors was made by Reggie Johns and seconded by Bambi Smith. All were in favor. Motion passed.

IX. Next Meeting: February 22nd, 10am EST, Tallahassee, FL

X. Adjourn **Gerald Waters**
Reggie Johns made a motion to adjourn, Bambi Smith seconded the motion.