

West Michigan Partnership for Children

Board Meeting Notes

DATE: June 24, 2019

TIME- 12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.

**Location:** West Michigan Partnership for Children- 213 Sheldon St. Suite 2A, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

**Attendance:** Sonia Noorman, Sue Stoddard—West Michigan Partnership for Children; Cheri Williams--Bethany Christian Services; Chris Slater--Catholic Charities West Michigan; Laura Mitchell--Samaritas; Jim Paparella--D.A. Blodgett – St. John’s; Steve Zwart-Wellspring Lutheran Services; Kayla Morgan—Resilient Roots Yoga

**1. Approval of Board Minutes – approved.**

Motion to approve- by Chris Slater  
Second by Jim Paparella

**2. Critical Thinking-**

Discussion- If you could change one thing quickly in Foster Care what would it be?

**Sue Stoddard-** Residential Care, in regard to the length of stay and expense.

**Laura Mitchell-** She would change the structure of the system. Ideally have a team to support the family, instead of one case worker fully responsible for all the needs of one family.

**Cheri –** She would change the base pay for case managers to a base pay of \$50,000 to attract and retain employee’s with experience. She realizes the newest case workers have little life experience but are required to make hard life decisions for these families.

**Jim Paparella-** Residential and staff retention- creating a true continuum of care from entry to exit with no gaps in service.

**Kayla Morgan-** Staff recruitment of people of color and understanding the historical components of what foster care was designed to be. Also, more trauma informed care for families and staff

**Chris Slater-** He wants sincere efforts towards coping and putting in services around this instead of simply “checking boxes”.

**Steve Zwart-** He would like to bring back workers or elderly people who have aged out of foster care, and gaining insight and advice based on lived experience.

**Sonia-** echoing Cheri.

Action Items- none

Concerns- none

**3. Strategic Plan- Vote**

See attachment- WMPC 2018 strategic plan progress report

Discussion-

Cheri Williams gave a high overview of the attachment and asked for a motion to approve the strategic plan.

Concern- Steve Zwart mentioned some concern about the many objectives, but Sonia clarified that each team developed their own objectives, and included items that they were already working on or completed that year.

Action Item- None

Motion to approve- Jim Paparella

Second by Chris Slater

#### **4. Case Rate Call Update**

See Attachment 06-18-19 Summary of call with Traci Hughes

- Sue provided an overview of the call with Traci Hughes, highlighting that Traci was recommending an increase to the ongoing case rate payments, and she mentioned 15%
  
- Traci recommended that WMPC and the PAFC discuss reducing the staffing rate to \$46.20, which matches the Statewide per diem.
  - o Board members each discussed how their agencies had invested the increased staffing rate into staff salaries and creating special positions. We agreed that we haven't done a great job providing opportunity to share innovations that each agency has implemented. Will plan to do this at a future WAC.
  - o Discussed that part of the pilot is also how the providers are innovating and utilizing their funds creatively to increase positive outcomes for children and families.

Concerns- none

Action steps-

Sonia will schedule a WAC to have the PAFC providers share their innovations and new practices or positions that positively impact outcomes.

#### **5. Financial Statement- May**

See attachment WMPC May 2019 Month financial statement (word document) and Board WMPC 8-month financial statement (Excel document)

Discussion-

Sue Stoddard gave an overview of the attachment.

#### **6. Finance & Investment Committee**

See attachment- Report to the Board

Discussion-

- Sue Stoddard gave an overview of the first Finance Committee meeting and indicated that there was discussion about the staffing rate being decreased (see above)
  
- Sonia suggested that the PAFC Board members have descriptions of the new innovative positions (ie- family finding, case support specialist, quality manager in foster career) prepared for the Steering Committee when discussing the Staffing Rate.

Concerns-

Action Step-

#### **7. Audit Committee**

See attachments Audit Committee Formation and Audit Committee Charter

- Sue highlighted that there needs to be a change to the Bylaws that are written out in the attachment so this Audit Committee can be formed.

Concerns-

Action Steps-

- Change the Bylaws. The suggested edits/changes are highlighted in the attachment
- Kristyn Peck to create and the committee.

#### **8. Data Report/WAC**

See attachment Foster Home Licensing Progress and Foster Home Analysis

- Sonia gave an overview of the data reports.

#### Discussion-

- Kayla Morgan spoke about an event she attended with KConnect and discussed concerns about housing in the high removal zipcodes, and that many of the families are in two-bedroom apartments/housing and then there's not room for additional children and that licensing rules would be barriers.
- Cheri Williams shared an example that mirrored what Kayla described. Sonia recommended asking for variances for these types of situations.
- Some discussion on what types of homes that licensed foster parents live in.

#### Action Step-

Sonia will get information regarding what is the types of homes the foster parents reside in from PQI and share with the board.