

Escambia Children’s Trust Board of Directors Meeting

November 8, 2022, at 5:30 PM

Open to the public at the Board of County Commissioners Chambers
Ernie Lee Magaha Bldg., 221 Palafox Place, Pensacola, FL 32502

MINUTES

Meeting Title:	Escambia Children’s Trust Board of Directors Meeting		
Date:	November 8, 2022	Time:	5:30 PM
Location:	221 Palafox Place, Pensacola, FL 32502		
Chair:	Stephanie White	Scribe:	Alma Ellis
Participants:	<p>Board Members: Stephanie White, Tori Woods, Dr. Tim Smith, David Peaden, Dr. Rex Northup, Judge Jennifer Frydrychowicz, Patty Hightower, Commissioner Lumon May</p> <p>Staff/advisors: Tammy Greer, Executive Director; Kimberly Krupa, Ph.D., Director of Programs and Performance; Meredith Bush, Esq., Legal Counsel; Tammy Abrams, Director of Finance and Operations</p>		
Not Present:	Melissa Sidoti, Pastor Lonnie Wesley		

- **Approval of Agenda (Stephanie White, Chair)**
 - Commissioner May motioned to approve the agenda, Mr. Peaden seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- **Approval of Minutes**
 - Recommendation: Staff recommends the Board approve the minutes of the October 11, 2022 Board meeting as presented.
 - Commissioner May moved to approve the minutes. Dr. Smith seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- **Treasurer’s Report (Tim Smith, Treasurer)**
 - Dr. Tim Smith delivered a summary of ECT financial statements, see report on the ECT website.
- **Public Comments Regarding Agenda Items**
 - Ms. Stephanie White invited public comments regarding the agenda items. There were no public comments.
- **Policy Committee Report (Patty Hightower, Committee Chair)**
 - **Recommendation:** The Policy Committee recommends the Board approve the following policies as presented:
 - Discussion: Dr. Northup suggested the Committee consider including wording regarding “members of the public and their respective specialties”. The Committee will discuss at next meeting.
 - **Elections and Committees** - Dr. Northup seconded, all others in favor. Policy approved

- **Limitations on Communications (formerly Cone of Silence)**
- Judge Frydrychowicz asked if we could delete this provision all together as it is not required by statute. There was further discussion as to whether the grass roots organizations can get information needed with such limitations in place. Ms. Hightower recommended referring back to Policy Committee for further consideration, Judge Frydrychowicz seconded. With no further discussion and all in favor, this policy will go back to Policy Committee.
- **Refreshments and Meals** – Dr. Northup seconded, all others in favor, approved.
- **Executive Director Performance Appraisal Process** – Mr. Peaden seconded, all others in favor, approved.

Discussion: Dr. Northup requested clarification as to the sequence of items F,G and H. Ms. Hightower clarified the process and no changes were needed.

- **Program**

- Public Comment Ms. Leslie Powell-Boudreaux spoke briefly on the need for services provided by Legal Services of North Florida.
- **Recommendation:** Staff recommends the Board refer applications from Re-Entry Alliance Pensacola to the Program Committee for further discussion and consideration.
- Ms. White motioned to refer to Program Committee, Dr. Northup seconded
- Discussion: Judge Frydrychowicz asked if the staff had made the determination that REAP is the only family shelter in our county. Ms. Greer stated the applicants have to acknowledge / self-certify that they are the sole provider and this is the reason the staff is recommending a Programs Committee. The Programs Committee would be able to reach out to content experts that could confirm sole sources prior to any Committee recommendations. Judge Frydrychowicz asked if all applications have been brought before the Board or if there were any other applicants.
- Commissioner May also wanted to confirm that every unsolicited proposal is brought before the Board.
- Ms. Greer confirmed that all requests have been and will continue to be brought before the Board and/or the Program Committee.
- All in favor of referring to Program Committee for further review. No opposed, Judge Jennifer Frydrychowicz abstained. Recommendation passed.
- **Recommendation:** Staff recommends the Board refer the application from Legal Services of North Florida for \$2,095,807 over three (3) years to provide legal representation to children in the dependency system and children in need of educational advocacy to the Program Committee for consideration.
- Dr. Northup motioned to approve, Ms. White seconded, Judge Frydrychowicz abstained, Mr. Peaden opposed, all others in favor, will be referred to Program Committee for review.

- **Executive Director's Report (Tammy Greer)**

- Ms. Greer introduced Alma Ellis, Board Liaison/Administrative Specialist
- Ms. Greer discussed recent DJJ "Restoring Hope" Training Summit and her take aways from it along with the "Build to Thrive" webinar. Ms. Greer stated the largest take away is the need for

high quality trauma programs for the children in our area.

○ **Legal Report (Meredith Bush)**

- Ms. Meredith Bush reminded the group of the upcoming training on Ethics, Sunshine Laws, and Public Records (November 11, 2p-4p)

○ **Public Comment* Regarding Non-Agenda Items**

- There was no public comment regarding non-agenda items.
- Judge Frydrychowicz commented that the Board to consider having Board meetings less frequently than every four weeks. This would allow Board members more time to review and digest the large Board packets and items to be discussed and voted on.

Adjournment:

Stephanie White adjourned the meeting at 6:20 PM.

* The Escambia Children's Trust allows any member of the public to speak regarding an item on the Agenda prior to Board action or regarding any related matter not on the agenda following the Legal Report near the end of the meeting. **Anyone who wishes to address the Board is asked to complete a Public Comment Speaker Form. Each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes**, unless otherwise determined by the Chairperson, to allow sufficient time for all speakers. Speakers shall refrain from abusive or profane remarks, disruptive outbursts, protests, or other conduct which interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting. Upon completion of the public comment period, discussion is limited to Board members and questions raised by the Board.

Minutes Approved

Stephanie White, Board Chair (signature)

Date: 12/13/22