

Escambia Children's Trust Board of Directors Meeting

September 12, 2023, 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:	September 12, 2023	Time:	5:30 PM
Location:	221 Palafox Place, Pensacola, FL 32502		
Chair:	Tori Woods	Scribe:	Alma Ellis
Participants:	<p>Board Members: Tori Woods, Patty Hightower, Dr. Rex Northup, Walter Sachs; David Peaden, Stephanie White, Commissioner Lumon May; Honorable R. Todd Harris</p> <p>Staff/advisors: Tammy Greer, Executive Director; Tammy Abrams, Director of Finance and Operations; Alma Ellis, Board Liaison/Administrative Specialist, Dr. Kimberly Krupa, Director of Programs and Performance, Richard Stone, Program and Research Coordinator, Michael Moore, Community Engagement Coordinator, Meredith Bush, Esq., Legal Counsel</p>		
Not Present:	Keith Leonard		

- **Call To Order 5:31 PM**
- **Approval of Agenda**
 - Commissioner May moved to approve the agenda; Mr. Peaden seconded, all in favor, Agenda approved.
- **Approval of Minutes**
 - Motion made by Commissioner May to approve the Minutes of the August 8, 2023 Regular Board Meeting; Mr. Peaden seconded. All in favor. Minutes approved.
 - Motion made by Commissioner May to approve the Minutes of the August 17, 2023 Emergency Board Meeting; Mr. Peaden seconded. All in favor. Minutes approved.
- **Treasurer's Report**
 - Mr. Peaden provided the Treasurer's Report for month ending June 30, 2023; with no objections, the financial statement will be filed for audit.
- **Strategic Plan Update**
 - Ms. Mona Amadeo provided the Board with an update on Strategic Plan milestones.
- **Executive Director's Report**
 - Ms. Abrams provided the Interim Executive Director's Report. (Full report on ECT website video)
- **Public Comment Regarding Action Items** (see video on website)
- **Business**
 - Operations**
 - A. Executive Director Search Update: Ms. Woods advised the Board that only two firms responded to the request for quotes. Ms. Abrams stated there have been several local individuals that have offered to assist with the search should the Board wish to proceed without a search firm.

Commissioner May offered to serve on a search committee to save taxpayer dollars. Ms. White was in agreement and stated Ms. Carolyn Appleyard has offered her services. Ms. Hightower was in agreement to delegate a committee and stated that she had heard that Mr. Ted Kirchharr has also voiced interest in participating on the committee.

Ms. Hightower asked for clarification as to whether the committee (if appointed) would be required to bring a timeline to the Board. Commissioner May stated he would expect the committee to provide a timeline and schedule.

After much discussion (see video on website), Commissioner May motioned for the job opening to be posted immediately; with resumes due within 30 days. Once resumes are received, a Review Committee (*which will be formed by recommendations from Board members at the October meeting*) will review and recommend the top ten candidates to the Board. The Board will then review and select candidates for interviews. Dr. Northup seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

B. Interim Executive Director Contract:

Recommendation: The Personnel Committee recommends the Board approve the Interim Executive Director's contract effective until such time as a new Executive Director is in place.

Mr. Peaden motioned to approve, Commissioner May seconded, all in favor, recommendation approved.

C. Audit Services:

Recommendation: Staff recommends approval for Interim Executive Director to issue an ITB for Audit Services.

Ms. Hightower motioned to approve, Mr. Peaden seconded, all in favor, recommendation approved.

D. New Lease Agreement:

Recommendation: Staff recommends approval of Resolution 2023-23 for Interim Executive Director to enter into a new lease agreement with District Board of Trustees of Pensacola State College for office space, as presented.

Mr. Peaden motioned to approve, Commissioner May seconded, all in favor, recommendation approved.

Programs

A. Award of Children's Mental Health Contracts

Recommendation: The Grant Review Committee recommends the Board approve Resolution 2023-20 authorizing the Interim Executive Director enter into an agreement with the named providers, for a total of \$2,046,806.80 to provide Mental Health Services to the children and youth of Escambia County.

Discussion: Commissioner May voiced concern with awarding these grants given the current situation of the Trust. (See video on website for further discussion.)

Commissioner May moved to postpone the vote until such time as a new Executive Director is in place, seconded, Mr. Peaden seconded, two in favor, six opposed, postponement failed.

After further discussion and all in favor, this recommendation passed.

B. School Readiness Match Proposal

Recommendation: Staff recommends the Board approve Resolution 2023-24 authorizing the Interim Executive Director enter into an agreement with the School Readiness Coalition, dba Escambia County Early Learning Coalition for a FY2023-2024 matching grant, as presented.

Ms. Hightower moved to approve; Ms. White seconded.

Discussion: Dr. Northup asked for clarification on the income levels supported by the matching grant. Mr. Watson confirmed it is 85% of state median income.

Mr. Peaden requested confirmation that this funding falls within the parameters of funding by the Trust. Ms. Bush confirmed.

Commissioner May requested Mr. Watson confirm that children in all areas of the county could benefit from this program, provided the family qualifies financially, and that grass roots organizations are included in the provider base. Mr. Watson confirmed.

With no further discussion and all in favor, this motion passed.

- Legal Report (Meredith Bush, Esq.) – No report

- Public Comments* Regarding Non-Action Items – *(see video on website)*
- Board Comments (None)
- Adjournment 7:10 PM

Tori Woods, Chair *(Signature)*

Date: