

Minutes

**Collin County Child Protection Services
Board of Directors
Monday, October 28, 2013
5:30 p.m.
Collin County Children’s Advocacy Center
2205 Los Rios Blvd.
Plano, TX 75074**

Vision: All children are living in a loving, nurturing, safe family and community enjoying good health and well-being.

Mission: The mission of Collin County Child Protective Services Board is to provide leadership to achieve excellence in the protection, care, support services, and utilization of resources to enrich and enhance the quality of lives of abused children and their families in Collin County.

Board Members in Attendance: Mike Bronsky, Terri Green, Linda Carrington, Laveta Sealy, Derek Baker, Candy Noble, Dawn Hooper, Jill Crowe, and Michael Perez.

Staff Members in Attendance: Katherine Howard (CPS). And Tanya Rodquez (CPS)

Special Guest: Judge Cynthia Wheless, 417th District Court

AGENDA

**5:36 PM Executive Session Discussion CPS Board/Staff
Special Needs Requests**

I. Call to Order at 6:23 PM Mike Bronsky

II. Special Needs Requests Terri Green

Special Needs Requests:

- 1. \$471.80 Approved – deducted from 2014 county/legal
- 2. \$750.00 Approved – deducted from 2014 county/medical
- 3. \$1,500.00 Approved – deducted from 2014 county/medical
- 4. \$555.00 Approved – deducted from 2013 county/legal
- 5. \$121.50 Approved – deducted from 2014 county/family preservation
- 6. *\$210.00 Approved – deducted from 2013 board/sp. needs
- 7. *\$395.00 Approved – deducted from 2013 board/sp. needs
- 8. *\$1,625.00 Approved – deducted from 2014 county/family preservation
(*up to \$1,625.00)
- 9. \$182.50 Approved – deducted from 2013 county/clothing
- 10. \$244.21 Approved – deducted from 2013 county/clothing
- 11. \$297.22 Approved – deducted from 2013 county/clothing
- 12. \$40.00 Approved – deducted from 2013 county/clothing
- 13. \$80.02 Approved – deducted from 2013 county/clothing
- 14. \$350.00 Approved – deducted from 2013 county/clothing

15. *\$1,720.00 *Approved – deducted from 2013 county/drug testing*
* \$385.00 *Approved – deducted from 2014 county/drug testing*
(Total amount of SNR #15 requested & approved is \$2,105.00)

SNR #1 Motion to approve by Candy Noble. Second by Terri Green. The vote carried the motion.

SNR #2 Motion to approve by LaVeta Sealy. Second by Dawn Hooper. The vote carried the motion.

SNR #3 Motion to approve by LaVeta Sealy. Second by Jill Crowe. The vote carried the motion.

SNR #4 Motion to approve by LaVeta Sealy. Second by Jill Crowe. The vote carried the motion.

SNR #5 Motion to approve by LaVeta Sealy. Second by Jill Crowe. The vote carried the motion.

SNR #6 Motion to approve by LaVeta Sealy. Second by Jill Crowe. The vote carried the motion. *SNR #6 was approved for a 3 month period of gymnastics' classes.

SNR #7 Motion to approve by LaVeta Sealy. Second by Dawn Hooper. The vote carried the motion. *SNR #7 was a special request for driving lessons involving a kinship placement.

SNR #8 Motion to approve by LaVeta Sealy. Second by Candy Noble. The vote carried the motion. *SNR #8 was a special request for 4 bunk beds, mattresses and bedding for kinship placement involving 4 children. Board approved an amount up to \$1,625.00.

SNR #9 Motion to approve by LaVeta Sealy. Second by Linda Carrington. The vote carried the motion.

SNR #10 Motion to approve by Jill Crowe. Second by LaVeta Sealy. The vote carried the motion.

SNR #11 Motion to approve by LaVeta Sealy. Second by Jill Crowe. The vote carried the motion.

SNR #12 Motion to approve by LaVeta Sealy. Second by Jill Crowe. The vote carried the motion.

SNR #13 Motion to approve by LaVeta Sealy. Second by Jill Crowe. The vote carried the motion.

SNR #14 Motion to approve by LaVeta Sealy. Second by Jill Crowe. The vote carried the motion.

SNR #15 Motion to approve by LaVeta Sealy. Second by Jill Crowe. The vote carried the motion. *SNR #15 was approved in 2 separate dollar amounts of \$1,720 from 2013 Budget and \$385 from 2014 Budget for a total amount of \$2,105.00 to be paid to CareNow.

III. Minutes

Linda Carrington

September minutes were presented to the Board prior to the meeting electronically and in paper form at the meeting. A minor spelling change was requested by Candy Noble and Katherine Howard requested the addition of "investigation" to the CPS report paragraph. Derek Baker had prior to the meeting given the necessary information needed to complete the minutes in regard to 4 of the SNR entries. With those changes, Jill Crowe moved to accept the minutes. LaVeta Sealy seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.

IV. Financial Reports

Derek Baker

Financial Reports were presented to the Board by the Treasurer, Derek Baker. Derek Baker had sent the reports to all Board members electronically prior to the board meeting and handed out paper copies at the meeting.

Mr. Baker's reports showed available funds of \$6,684.91 as of the September meeting in the county budget. However, after the approved expenditures in the October meeting, the county budget would have funds of approximately \$1,600 remaining.

Derek Baker moved that \$950 be moved from the County Clothing line item in the 2013 County Budget to Employee Education & Conference. Candy Noble seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.

In the meeting it was discussed that Derek would write a check as quickly as possible to pay CareNow for their open invoices. Kathrine Howard explained in the discussion that CareNow had voiced displeasure with the time frame in which they were receiving payment. Derek explained the steps that our system required in regard to payments. It was also discussed that Derek would talk to CareNow to explain the payment processes.

Due to regulations, several of the old checks on our financial reports that have not cleared the bank are now deemed "dead" and those monies can be reported back into our account balance which is a "gain" of about \$1,000 according to the Treasurer Derek Baker.

It also was determined at the point in the board meeting that any discussion on Board Funds would be discussed in a separate meeting directly following the Board open session.

Linda Carrington moved to accept the financial reports. Terri Green seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.

V. CPS Reports

**Katherine Howard CPS
Tanya Rodriguez CPS**

Katherine Howard provided the Board with 2 separate summary reports of the Collin County CPS activities. The reports were for 2013 and 2014 fiscal years.

The reports showed over 200 removals in fiscal year 2013 and 21 removals for the first month of the fiscal year 2014 which was an increase of over 6 for the same month the fiscal year prior.

Katherine Howard also reported that the current CareNow SNR invoices showed drug testing results of 16 positive and 13 negative.

VI. Children's Advocacy Center Report

Lynne McClean

Ms. McClean was not present at the Board meeting but did provide a written report.

- CACCC North will host a breakfast for McKinney leaders in November to update them on the accomplishments of the CACCC North location.
- In regard to community relationships and education, 546 educators have been trained on the Darkness to Light, Recognizing and Reporting, and Internet Safety.
- School Resource Officers will be trained on Internet Safety Facilitator training on November 8, 2013.
- The Healing Hearts Golf Tournament was a huge success netting \$70,000.
- The Teddy Bear Ride was October 27th at IKEA ending at Quaker State.
- Plans are being made for the Join the Fight Luncheon and also for the Gala at which DFW Lexus dealers will once again donate a car for the annual raffle at the Gala.
- Work is still being done by the Child Abuse Prevention Task Force in regard to recommendations to the Center executives and Center Board of Directors.
- Work and collaboration has begun by all the CACs in North Texas for Child Abuse Prevention Month in which all the North Texas centers will present a common message.
- In order to keep the civic leaders involved, the Partners Committee is developing a presentation and hopefully the use of this presentation will keep the leaders involved.
- Planning for a permanent CACCC northern location has begun through the formation of a special task force.
- Set up for the Holly Jolly Toy Store will begin on December 9th and the store will open for clients on December 12th with shopping times of 8 am to 8 pm.
- With teenage gifts always critical items, The CACCC is requesting that the CPS Board repeat their last year's donation of \$2,500 for teenage gifts for the Holly Jolly Holiday Project.

VII. Special Report

Judge Cynthia Wheless

Judge Wheless reported that there were as of this date 16 families adopting a total of 21 children at National Adoption Day on November 23rd at the Collin County Court House. This would require that the Board purchase at least 16 bracelets to give to the adoptive mothers as a gift from the Board.

There also, according to Judge Wheless, complaints from those companies issuing and publishing citations. The complaints were for late payment from the Board. The Board Treasurer explained the payment process and the normal time frame for payment. It was decided that Mr. Baker would call the principals to explain the payment process. As well, Terri Green offered to call the principals as she deals with them on a regular basis in her law practice. It also was agreed that the minutes would be delivered to Mr. Baker by the 10th in hopes this could help with the payment dates for those questioned invoices.

Judge Wheless also announced that the new DFPS Commissioner is an excellent choice and doing an excellent job. Judge John Specia is a former judge from Bexar County and resides in San Antonio.

Judge Wheless related to the Board that there have been 8 deaths of children in foster care so far this year.

Judge Wheless feels the solution is to find kinship placements as much as possible. She also commented that group homes and homes operated by churches work very well versus the traditional foster situation. In addition, Judge Wheless felt that foster parents as a general rule not really acting like parents. However, Judge Wheless did want the Board to be fully aware of the fact that kinship reimbursement is hard to get and rare.

In a profound statement, Judge Wheless, told the Board that the government does not make a good parent.

For the judge to get as clear a picture of any ill treatment to the children in foster care, a CASA volunteer or an Attorney Ad Litem will report to the judge their findings.

Judge Wheless' oral report stated that there are 4 courts hearing all the CPS cases in Collin County. Judge Wheless also said that the children have a right to be at their own hearing and the practice of bringing the children to court is happening but with great care and understanding of the child's needs and concerns.

Judge Wheless asked the Board to be cognizant of and to make certain those foster children that are graduating from high school are getting all the available help to further their education and to be aware of the problems that the children incur when they "age out" of the foster system. Judge Wheless outlined many issues caused by the "aging out" process such as the children becoming homeless and not having an emergency contact. The only sources of shelter for these children is often Samaritan Inn or City House. But more often they end up living on the streets.

VIII. Old Business

Mike Bronsky

It was decided that Mike Bronsky would buy for the Board PCs instead of Apple computers to be given to those graduating senior who have or will be entering into further educational programs.

It also was discussed again that Mike Bronsky will buy the name badges for each of the sitting Board members.

Derek Baker at this time announced that he had successfully reached an agreement and had paid the approved medical expenses from the previous month's Board business for 1 kinship placement.

As reported in the last month's meeting, Dawn Hooper and Derek Baker did meet with the auditors during the month. The major achievement in this meeting was to insure that the entire clothing allowance amount of \$350 could be requested and reimbursed during the fiscal year with no penalties in regard to the time frame that the requests were submitted to the board.

Linda Carrington told the Board she had attended the Collin County Council on Family Violence monthly meeting and also their White Ribbon campaign. She also told the Board that she had received the documents necessary to join the Council. Candy Noble moved that the Board join and Linda Carrington submit the necessary paperwork to join. Mike Perez seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.

IX. New Business

Mike Bronsky

Derek Baker asked the Board Members submit a SNR form with any reimbursement request. Mr. Baker told the Board that he would send out electronically a copy of the SNR for the Board Members' use.

It was also discussed that Derek Baker had met with the County's IT department and the County Auditor, Jeff May to discuss the possibilities of having all SNR requests processed totally online.

In conjunction with the SNR discussion, Derek Baker moved for the Board to adopt a new SNR numbering system which would be year/month/SNR #. LaVeta Sealy seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.

Terri Green discussed with the Board the upcoming board seat opening due to Jill Crowe leaving the Board. She also read from a county listing of those Board Members and their expiration dates to serve on the Board. LaVeta Sealy was the only member affected by this expiration date and she announced that she would like to be reappointed. Discussion was held by the Board in regard term limits and the process needed to have the term limits changed. Mike Perez suggested such approval would have to come from Commissioners Court.

X. Public Comments

Mike Bronsky

Public comments are limited to five (5) minutes per speaker. Please note that no one requested speaking privileges for this meeting nor did anyone other than the above noted individuals attend the meeting.

IX. Meeting Adjourn

Mike Bronsky

Linda Carrington called the adjournment of the meeting at 8:07 p.m. LaVeta Sealy seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.

Respectfully submitted by:

Secretary Linda Carrington