

ALLEN COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES

BOARD MEETING

January 16, 2018

Members Present: Dr. Hughes, Ms. Provaznik, Mr. Reiff, Mr. Stolly, Ms. Wall, and Ms. Fox.

Not Present: Mr. Long.

Dr. Hughes called the Board meeting to order at 5:16 p.m.

Minutes of the December 19, 2017 were approved as corrected.

Guest Speaker: Sexton Joe Hicks, and President Ken Armentrout, Shawnee Township Cemetery.

Mr. Hicks stated he approached the County Commissioners last year in regards to returning the Children's Home burial plots located in Shawnee Township Cemetery the cemetery, since there was no longer a Children's Home. He stated he made this request due to the plots not being utilized for a child since 1984. The cemetery would like to utilize these burial plots in the event they have an indigent burial. He did state the cemetery used two burial plots for two adult indigent persons in 1996, and 2001.

If the cemetery is asked to donate a burial plot for an indigent person, the family must sign stating they would pay the \$600 plot cost, and the \$800 internment fee, prior to a memorial being placed on the grave.

There are currently 40 grave sites in this area, the current location of the Children's Home Burial area are plots 1-10, plots one and two already have sixteen children placed in them, plots 3-10 have six plots available in each, although today there would only be four available in each plot, due to the current size of grave sites. Dr. Hughes restated the purpose of the initial proposal from the cemetery, that Shawnee Township would like Allen County Children Services to release these grave sites back to the cemetery. Mr. Hicks stated the initial MOU would allow children services and the Veterans Administration to utilize these plots. Ms. Scanland stated that it was ascertained after the initial meeting that the Veterans Administration has no need for these.

Ms. Scanland stated when she was first approached with the request to release the plots back to the cemetery; the Agency was unaware of these plots. Research was conducted, and ascertained that these plots were donated to the Children's Home by the Women's Committee, ownership then passed to Allen Acres once the Children's Home closed, and then to Allen County Children Services once Allen Acres closed.

Ms. Scanland asked why is there need to do anything with the burial plots. Mr. Hicks stated there is no need to do anything with them currently, although there has been no use of these plots for a child since 1984, they would like to utilize these for indigent burials. Ms. Scanland also stated there was concern of using the burial plots for a different purpose than which they were originally purchased and donated to the Children's Home. Mr. Armentrout stated now that they are aware of the ownership of the plots; there is no need to do anything with them. Mr. Reiff stated we cannot change the original intent of the donation, without further discussion. Dr. Hughes asked if the locations of the graves are to be moved, Mr. Hicks stated they would not.

Mr. Hicks stated their purpose was to determine ownership, and now that this has been determined, we can either use them for indigent burials, or maintain it as the Children's Home location. These burial plots were established in 1934, when they were donated to the Children's Home.

Ms. Lisa Bradley, Civil Prosecutor with the Allen County Prosecutors Office attended meeting to oversee the request from Shawnee Township.

Further discussion ensued on the possible future uses for these burial plots. The topic was tabled until the February 2018 board meeting.

AGENCY BUSINESS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget and Finance Committee –

Ms. Provaznik congratulated Agency staff for the work they have done over the last year, the agency projected using approximately \$64,000 of the carry over funds in 2017, when in fact \$302,000 was placed back into the carryover at the end of 2017.

RESOLUTION 0118-01: Ratifies the payment of bills for the month of December 2017.

Mr. Reiff made a motion to approve, Ms. Fox seconded. Motion carried, resolution adopted.

Community Engagement Committee-

Committee met on 01/16/2018, and discussed the following:

- Our Levy will be on the November 2018 ballot
- There are six spots on Noon edition that the agency will be using to promote the agency, the programs, and the Levy
- April: Child Abuse, Neglect and Prevention month
- May: Foster parent Appreciation month
- Would like to present at more service clubs
- Facebook Campaign: A competition that would promote, tag and share of our face book page.

Donated Funds Committee: - did not meet.

Nominating Committee:

Committee met on 01/16/2018, and discussed the following:

- Looking to recruit additional board members
 - One from an actively working at, or linked to one of the hospitals
 - One from a Non-profit organization
 - Sheriff's Deputy

Personnel Committee:

The committee has not met; Dr. Hughes requested the Executive Director Evaluation form be sent to the personnel committee.

Program Services Committee – did not meet.

By-Laws & Policy Committee – did not meet.

PROGRAM DIRECTORS REPORT

- 57 children in agency custody
- 148 children in relative custody
- 47 current foster families

Foster Care and Adoption Recruitment:

- Live Interviews on radio, asking some of our foster parents to take part in these
- Church Recruitment
- Identify some of our more active foster parents, and ask them to assist in recruitment

Dr. Hughes stated we could ask the local newspaper to do articles that focus on our foster families, whether this is weekly or monthly. Ms. Wall stated we could also interview some foster families to provide testimonials, record this, and send these out to churches, and other social service agencies. They could also provide a link through our Facebook page, or have them available through our website.

Thirty Days to Family Grant:

- Hiring a family specialist who will work to identify relatives, with the goal of identifying approximately 80 relatives or kin per case, which includes one placement provider, with one or two back up providers.
- Return a child to family at a level of 70% within 30 days, and 90% stability of those placements.

Our current practice of inviting families and kin into the agency, prior to children entering into agency custody, was identified as not being a normal practice in other counties, therefore it will be interesting to see how this pilot affect our current best practice.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

Goals for 2018:

- Hire three new Program Directors
- Focus on moving families through the child welfare system with a focus on safety and timeliness
- Look at pay scales for contract staff
- Levy, gain exposure and highlight agency throughout the year

MEDIA REPORT – See packet

.OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS - None

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Board will look at management pay scales at February Board meeting.

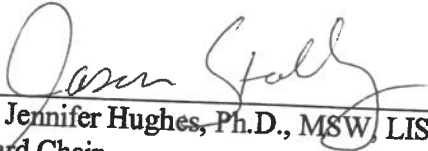
ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Stolly made a motion to adjourn, Ms. Fox seconded.


Respectfully submitted,



Joanne K. Sidener
Administrative Coordinator



Dr. Jennifer Hughes, Ph.D., MSW LISW-S
Board Chair



Cynthia M. Scanland, MSSA
Executive Director