

## **Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board**

Minutes

July 17, 2023

Video Teleconference

### **I. Welcome and Introduction of Guests**

The Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m. on July 17, 2023, via Zoom video teleconference, by Board Chair, Heather Wagers. Prior to the roll call, David Cozart, the Chief Visionary Officer of Commonwealth Center for Fathers and Families, was given time to introduce himself, as well as his staff.

### **II. Roll Call by Heather Wagers**

#### Present Virtually

Heather Wagers, Office of the Attorney General  
Jill Seyfred, Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky  
Caroline Ruschell, Children's Advocacy Centers of Kentucky  
Andrea Bruns, Kentucky CASA Network, Inc.  
Eboni Thompson, Administrative Office of the Courts  
Mary Carpenter, Cabinet for Health and Family Services  
Jamie Link, Education & Workforce Development Cabinet  
Rep. David Meade, Speaker Pro Tempore, House of Representatives  
Michelle Sanborn, Children's Alliance  
Bradly Stotts, Kentucky State Police  
Mona Womack, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet

#### OAG Staff

Stacy Woodrum, Office of Administrative Services  
Serah Wiedenhoefer, Office of Trafficking and Abuse Prevention and Prosecution

#### Guests

David Cozart, CVO and Founder of CCFF (Commonwealth Center for Fathers and Families)  
[Left the meeting at 2:14pm]  
Sarah, Administrative Assistant at CCFF  
Tyler Moore, CCFF [Left the meeting at 1:47pm]  
Ronnie Williams Jr., Communications Outreach Specialist at CCFF  
Kimberly, Training Coordinator at CCFF

### **III. Commonwealth Center for Fathers and Families Presentation by David Cozart, Chief Visionary Officer**

David Cozart began the meeting by providing an overview of the goals and general focus of the Commonwealth Center for Fathers and Families (CCFF). Throughout his presentation, Mr. Cozart showed the importance of fathers being present in the home, by giving examples and statistics pertaining to how childhood development is affected, when fathers are absent. The list of the effects of fatherlessness included poverty, addictive behaviors, elevated crime and suicide rates, and many other issues. One of the national statistics showed that "75% of the long-term correctional facility inmates are from father-absent households." Overall, the goal of the CCFF is

“to improve child outcomes and enhance families and communities through increasing positive fatherhood engagement across Kentucky.” A few of the practical ways that the CCFE plans to deliver on this goal include raising public awareness, establishing policy and advocacy, hosting an annual fatherhood summit, providing mini-grants to aid similar organizations, hosting KYDAD Academy events across the state, and facilitating professional development of fathers.

#### **IV. Review of the March 20, 2023 Minutes for Action by the Board**

Board Chair, Heather Wagers updated the Board by explaining that they have transitioned to storing files, such as meeting minutes, on Dropbox, rather than sending them as emails.

Jill Seyfred moved to approve the minutes. Michelle Sanborn seconded this motion. The motion to approve was unanimous.

#### **V. Financial Update**

Stacy Woodrum presented a financial update to the Board.

Andrea Bruns asked whether Ms. Woodrum had the amount for the fiscal year ending in 2023. Ms. Woodrum explained that while they do not have the final amount just yet, it will likely be available by the end of July.

Board Chair Heather Wagers added that her office has been looking into how they can diversify the income that comes into the Child Victims’ Trust Fund. She told the Board that they have seen a 21.43% increase in child victims license plate revenue, and that this was the first year that the trust fund participated in the Kentucky Employees Charitable Campaign, which provided \$22,151.91 in donations.

Ms. Sanborn noted that, while Board Chair Wagers indicated an increase in the license plate fund, the spreadsheet with the budget breakdown showed a decrease of around \$10,000. Chair Wagers explained that this is due to the dispersion of funds. Because of the way that the numbers are processed, some funds may not be dispersed until after the end of the fiscal year. Ms. Woodrum further added that there is a 21-day window, in which revenue and spending can be posted. If the Transportation Cabinet does not report a certain amount of funds within this window, then the Board is unable to count it on their end. So, the Transportation Cabinet may be reporting an overall increase that the Board has not actually seen yet.

Ms. Seyfred said that it looks like not all of the funds received by the Transportation Cabinet actually go to the trust fund. She asked Ms. Woodrum for clarification on this. Ms. Woodrum answered by saying that there are certain statutes that govern the distribution of license plate funds.

#### **VI. Update on Grant Awards for Fiscal Year 2023 (November 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023)**

Chair Wagers provided an update on grant awards for fiscal year 2023. She reported that, due to Senate Bill 8 coming into effect, billings for medical examinations decreased. Staff from the Office of the Attorney General, Office of Trafficking and Abuse Prevention and Prosecution (TAPP) conducted approximately 21 site visits with each prevention partner. At a future meeting, TAPP staff will provide a detailed summary of the impact of the grant awards. Chair

Wagers told the Board that if anyone had any particular details that they would like to see in the summary they could let her know, via the chat or email, so that the information can be added into the summary.

## **VII. Discussion of Strategic Planning**

Chair Wagers told the Board that, although her team has been meeting with and interviewing facilitators across the state, there are no facilitators on the state's master agreement list. Therefore, if a facilitator was selected outside of the master agreement list, then a solicitation had to be posted and the agency would take bids, and typically the cheapest bid that came in would win the contract. After discussion, the group consensus was for the Strategic Planning Committee was in the best position to develop an overall plan to present to the Board. The entire Board would be great assets to the development of this strategic plan.

Ms. Seyfred asked whether the Board should vote on working toward this new strategic plan, since the Board had previously voted to find a contracted facilitator. The Board unanimously supported a vote on this issue. Ms. Seyfred made a motion to authorize the Strategic Planning Committee to proceed with developing the strategic planning process. Caroline Ruschell seconded this motion. This motion passed unanimously. A folder on the dropbox will be created for all Board members to store data that would be helpful to the committee in developing the strategic plan.

## **VIII. Discussion of Grant Solicitations for the Upcoming Fiscal Year (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024), FY 24**

Prior to this discussion, Ms. Wiedenhofer reminded Board members that, if they have any conflicts of interest pertaining to the discussion of grants, they could leave the call during this time. Chair Wagers said that any members who leave the call would receive a text when the discussion is over so that they can rejoin the meeting. Jill Seyfred chose to leave the meeting, during this discussion. Mr. Cozart from CCFE also chose to leave the meeting, at this time.

Chair Wagers began the discussion around grant solicitations, by telling the board that the current grantees have expressed their gratitude for the Child Victims' Trust Fund grants, because of the way they have been able to impact their respective communities, as a result. She also mentioned that there has been a concern regarding the fact that a new fiscal year is approaching without the Board having a grant application set pending. Chair Wagers asked the Board whether this is something that they would like to currently revisit. She emphasized the length of time that grant applications take to be implemented, explaining that any applications made at this meeting would likely not be put into effect until the end of this winter. It was collectively decided by the Board that the strategic plan would be in place by July 1, 2024, and that the Board would update existing solicitation documents so that the Board can sponsor child maltreatment prevention efforts in the Commonwealth in the meantime.

Chair Wagers then asked if anyone on the Board had any recommended changes to the current application process. Ms. Bruns said that her committee has a draft of some minor changes that could be made, which was submitted back in November, should the Board choose to review these changes. Chair Wagers suggested the idea that Board could call a special meeting specifically to review any changes to the application process. Ms. Carpenter added that she

would support this review of the recommended changes. Chair Wagers said that she would begin suggesting some various meeting options in August, so that the Board could get a meeting scheduled.

At the end of this discussion, Ms. Seyfred rejoined the call.

**IX. Discussion of the Children’s Trust Fund Alliance and consideration of the following issues:**

Over the course of the discussion, Chair Wagers and Jill Seyfred, who attended last year’s Children’s Trust Fund Alliance conference, highlighted the fact that the Board’s membership in the national Children’s Trust Fund Alliance has brought about a great amount of collaboration with other states. This collaboration has helped to inform the Board of new ways that they can be growing the Child Victims’ Trust Fund in Kentucky. The Children’s Trust Fund Alliance can offer invaluable assistance with policy, trainings, and content and product development. The Alliance facilitates multi-state collaboration, by encouraging states to share what is working best in their respective departments, for the betterment of those involved in the Alliance.

**a. Membership in the Children’s Trust Fund Alliance;**

Ms. Seyfred made a motion that the Kentucky’s Children’s Trust Fund should be a part of the Children’s Trust Fund Alliance. Ms. Carpenter seconded this motion. The motion for Kentucky to be part of the Alliance was unanimous.

**b. Payment of Annual Membership Dues; and**

Being part of the Children’s Trust Fund Alliance comes with dues that are owed. The dues do not exceed \$1,000 from any state trust fund. Ms. Carpenter made a motion to pay dues to the Children’s Trust Fund Alliance in an amount no greater than \$1,000. Eboni Thompson seconded the motion. This motion was unanimous.

**c. Funding Attendance at the 2023 Children’s Trust Fund Alliance Membership Meeting**

After a brief discussion around who on the Board would attend the Children’s Trust Fund Alliance Membership Meeting, it was determined that the Board Chair and two Committee Chairs would be funded by the Child Victims’ Trust Fund to attend, each year. Ms. Thompson made a motion that the Board Chair, along with two Committee Chairs, be in attendance to the conference, every year, with rotation in the Committee Chairs. Ms. Carpenter seconded this motion. The motion was unanimous across the Board. An email would be circulated among the pertinent members to gauge interest in attending this year’s conference.

**X. Committee Update**

**a. Grants Management, Chair Andrea Bruns** – No report at this time.

**b. Marketing & Development, Chair Steve Shannon** – No report at this time.

**c. Operations & Finance, Chair Michelle Sanborn**– No report at this time.

**d. Policy, Co-Chairs Shannon Moody and Heather Wagers**

Shannon Moody said that they have not had a team meeting yet and she would like to meet with Chair Wagers to discuss this before discussing her updates with the Board. She also mentioned that she needs to communicate with the Department of Community Based Services and others as well, before she is able to provide an update.

**e. Strategic Planning, Chair Mona Womack**

Ms. Womack provided an update on the Strategic Planning Committee, saying that they have a meeting coming up, during which they will share brief and high-level ideas about the strategic plan. Outside of this, the Committee will be scheduling another meeting, which will open the discussion to the rest of the Board, so that everyone involved will have the opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas pertaining to the strategic plan. Since the plan relies on the entire Board, it will be most beneficial to include everyone in the planning process.

Chair Wagers also mentioned that, with the upcoming amending of the bylaws, the Board will have the ability to shift the focus of each committee and redesign the structure of them for the overall benefit of the Board.

**XI. Partner Updates and Announcements**

Ms. Seyfred provided a brief update on Lean on Me Kentucky, saying that they had a high-level planning session recently. Part of this session included a conversation about the great feedback they have had on resources they have provided so far. One of these resources is a data training surrounding the idea of motivating people by saying “Kentucky is number one.” The training concludes that this kind of motivation does not truly motivate people, but rather causes them to be overwhelmed and unsure of how to respond.

Chair Wagers also mentioned that Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky was awarded a grant from the Child Victims’ Trust Fund pertaining to messaging and marketing. The materials provided through this grant are great resources to assist with motivating people toward change.

**XII. Adjournment**

Ms. Seyfred made the motion to adjourn. Ms. Carpenter seconded this motion. The motion to adjourn was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 2:51 p.m.

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