

MARION COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES BOARD
MEETING OF FEBRUARY 19, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: JOLENE CARTER
 DR. HENRY HEINZMANN
 SHAWN JACKSON
 ELLEN BRYANT-MESSENGER
 JOHN PETERSON
 STACI THOMAS

MEMBERS ABSENT: MARIANNE BAILEY

STAFF PRESENT: DAN DOWNES, BUSINESS MANAGER
 JACQUELINE RINGER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The regular meeting of the Marion County Children Services Board was held on Friday, February 19, 2021 at noon via Zoom video conferencing as a result of Ohio's social distancing recommendations due to COVID-19. Marion County was listed as a Level 3 on the Ohio Public Health Advisory System. Level 3 indicates a "very high exposure of spread". The Agency provided public notification via the Agency's website, February 1; main lobby bulletin board, February 1; and Agency Facebook page, February 5. The notice was posted at the Marion County Building on February 1. Marion County Job and Family Services remains closed to the public. Board Chair, Mr. John Peterson called the meeting to order at approximately 12:07 p.m. Ms. Marianne Bailey was unable to attend due to family needs.

Mr. Peterson called for Public Comment. No public comment presented.

Mr. Peterson called for the review of the Minutes. The January Board Meeting Minutes had been distributed to board members prior to the meeting for review. Mr. Peterson requested a motion. Dr. Henry Heinzmann motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Staci Thomas seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Peterson called for the monthly Financial Reports. The January Revenue and Expenditures reports had been distributed to board members prior to the meeting for review. Mr. Dan Downes reported \$146,658.81 in receipts and \$417,346.76 in expenditures. The primary revenue source for the month was Title IV-E placement reimbursement. Placement related costs remain the most significant monthly

expenditure; however, continues to trend down as a result of reduced foster care utilization. Ms. Ringer noted a decrease of \$161,373.93 in contract services from January 2021 compared to January 2020. Mr. Peterson requested a motion. Ms. Ellen Bryant-Messenger motioned to approve the January financial reports as presented. Ms. Jolene Carter seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Peterson called for the Purchased Care Report. The January report had been distributed to board members prior to the meeting for review. Ms. Jacqueline Ringer reported Child ID#4020919 was previously stepped down to traditional foster care; however, the child's behaviors required treatment level foster care. Child ID#3544990 was placed in the custody of kinship. As of today, the Agency has 33 children in purchased care for a net cost of \$190,028.73. Ms. Ringer summarized the Consolidating Appropriations Act which recommends local public children services agencies to maintain custody of children ready to emancipate through September 30, 2021. This could potentially affect five children currently listed on the purchased care report; however, the Agency will do what is necessary to support foster youth through the pandemic.

Mr. Peterson called for Committee Reports. The Monthly Services had been distributed to board members prior to the meeting for review. Ms. Ringer reported the Intake unit conducted 67 assessments of safety in January for an average caseload size of 12.3. The Ongoing units provided services to 130 families and 249 children for an adjusted caseload of 14.4. Ms. Ringer noted the Agency is ready to offer the last casework vacancy to a candidate. 65 children were in the Agency's custody and 99 children were in the temporary custody of kinship. Ms. Ringer noted the significant impact Speak Write has made on timely completion of dictation. Intake and Ongoing staff are reporting the voice-to-documentation system has increased time management and quality of dictation. The Placement unit provided services to 38 foster homes and 34 adoptive homes. The case of one child remains in the appeals process. The Agency continues the adoptive matching process for ten children in permanent custody. Post finalized adoption services were provided to 91 children and 46 families. Post emancipation services were provided to one child for the month. This number may increase during the course of the year as a result of the Consolidating Appropriations Act. The 30 Days to Family Annual Report had been distributed to board members prior to the meeting for review. Ms. Ringer reported out of the 10 formal 30 Days to Family cases, 100% were placed with kin. Informally, the program served an additional 37 children. Statewide, pilot counties experienced fewer children in foster care, more kinship placements identified earlier in the case, increased engagement of paternal

family, and more kinship support and connections. Ms. Ringer indicated similar results for Marion County. Financially speaking, the average placement cost for a 30 Days to Family case is \$8,929 less than comparison children. Should the pilot continue to show strong results for children and families, Ms. Ringer will recommend continuing the program at conclusion of the pilot. The Senate Bill 310 (Kinship Support Program) Summary had been distributed to board members prior to the meeting for review. Ms. Ringer provided background to the bill and current understanding of the legislative changes. Ms. Ringer noted the Kinship Support Program continues to evolve as more information is shared with local public children services agencies. The continuation of the current Kinship Incentive Program does not appear to have been included in the biennium budget. Preliminarily speaking, it appears that it is being replaced by the Kinship Support Program which mandates agencies to maintain custody of the children and requires kinship providers to become licensed foster parents within six months of placement. Ms. Ringer is recommending continuing with current Agency practice and continue to utilize the Kinship Incentive Program at this time. If the Kinship Incentive Program is removed from the budget, the Agency will work with Family Court as the Kinship Support Program will require significant changes to Marion practice.

Mr. Peterson called for Unfinished Business. No unfinished business presented.

Mr. Peterson called for New Business. No new business presented.

Mr. Peterson called for Miscellaneous/Other. No miscellaneous/other presented.

There being no further business, Mr. Peterson moved on to the date and time of the next board meeting. The next meeting will be held on March 19 at noon via Zoom. The board will conduct the meeting virtually due to Ohio's current COVID-19 exposure.

There being no further business to come before the board, Mr. Peterson requested a motion. Dr. Heinzmann motioned to adjourn. Mr. Peterson adjourned the meeting at 12:46 p.m.

John Peterson, Chair

Ellen Bryant-Messenger, Secretary

Jacqueline Ringer, Executive Director