

Tennessee Voices for Children
Board of Directors Meeting
July 17, 2015

In Attendance:

Rikki Harris	Dick Blackburn	Charlotte Wood
Sheila Peters	Brian Taylor	Katrina Donaldson
Bama Wood	Natalie Ray	Jack McKenzie
Chad Poff	Kim Sterling	Merrill Harris
Debbie Webb	Kathy Rogers	
Linda O'Neal	Blair Chapman	
Thomas Beck	Paula Sandidge	

Start: 10:01 am

I. Welcome and Introductions – Sheila Peters

Sheila opened the meeting and expressed gratitude for everyone’s hard work throughout the Strategic Planning process.

II. President’s Report – Sheila Peters

Sheila directed everyone to the agenda and noted that a representative from Regions Bank would be joining the meeting to present an investment policy plan to the Board. She stated that the Finance Committee had met with Regions and other financial institutions and was recommending Regions due to the fact that they offered the best opportunities for TVC moving forward.

Sheila also mentioned scheduling a new member orientation in the near future to educate new members on policies and procedures.

Lastly, Sheila updated the Board on the legal situation between TVC and Tonia Kirkpatrick. She reminded them of the email from April 2015 that stated that Mrs. Kirkpatrick, former TVC staff member, had taken legal action against TVC and accused management of discrimination during her employment at TVC. Sheila informed the Board that there was little to report as of now. After thorough investigation, the legal team felt that management had handled the situation properly and there was no negative activity on TVC’s part. The team recommended a settlement of \$500 to end the lawsuit because further litigation would cost TVC more money. A few members of the Board raised some questions. Kim Sterling, HR Director, stated that Mrs. Kirkpatrick had resigned from her position at TVC at was not terminated. Dick Blackburn made the motion to approve an amount not to

exceed \$1,000 for a settlement with Mrs. Kirkpatrick. Chad Poff seconded the motion, and it passed.

III. Secretary's Report – Paula Sandidge

Paula Sandidge presented the April meeting minutes and allowed for review. Mrs. Sandidge moved that the minutes be approved. Linda O'Neal seconded the motion, and it passed.

IV. CEO Report- Rikki Harris

Rikki began by informing the Board that TVC had just completed its fiscal year and ended in good standings. She stated that TVC had several contracts and plans to move forward with those contracts.

She stated that the K-Town program would be wrapping up at the end of September. She explained that they had received a one year no-cost extension and would be trying to extend their services during that time frame.

Rikki also discussed budget challenges and opportunities for TVC in the near future. She stated that TVC has leased an office space as an attempt to assist with these current budget challenges. This is an opportunity for TVC to share space and collaborate with Tennessee Prevention Alliance. Rikki informed the Board that the office space is being leased for \$350 a month.

V. Treasurer's Report – Chad Poff

Chad reported the Executive Committee had reviewed the financial report and recommended it for approval. He stated that the good news was that TVC was \$11,000 in the black and this was no small feat. Sheila asked if anyone had any questions regarding the financials. Chad made a motion to approve, Jack McKenzie seconded the motion, and it passed.

Chad then presented the Board with the 2015-2016 budget. He stated there was a one million dollar difference and asked the Board members to review the budget. Brian Taylor reminded the Board that K-Town's grant would be ending in September which meant 14-15 less staff members, office space rent, less insurance costs, etc. to take into consideration. Other Board members presented questions about differences from the past fiscal year to the current budget. Kim Sterling reminded them that the Just Care Family Network grant was included in the 2014-2015 budget which made up some of the difference in funds.

Sheila Peters stated that the Executive Committee had discussed reallocating some of the administration staff to grants. Many administrative staff members already work within these programs and their time needs to be allocated appropriately. Kathy Rogers is slowly being moved out administrative staff and reallocated into MCO funding. Rikki Harris stated that Natalie Ray would be allocating some of her time to State of the Child and Songwriter's Night. Rikki also mentioned reallocating other administrative staff members to program budgets.

Sheila also emphasized the importance of moving away from softer grant money and trying to find more resources for the future. She strongly encouraged the Board and Advisory Council members to assist in looking for fundraising opportunities for TVC.

Rikki stated that the MCO budget is currently increasing and these funds will assist with the budget. However, Rikki stated that she did not know an exact amount since it's constantly changing and new. Brian mentioned that the MCO rates had doubled over the past year which was a positive sign. Kim Sterling mentioned a contract with Volunteer Behavioral Health, which is currently our highest paying contract.

After a few questions were answered, Chad made a motion to approve the budget, Dick Blackburn seconded the motion, and it passed.

VI. Finance/Personnel Committee Report- Chad Poff

Chad shared with the board that the Finance Committee was looking into several investment options, but the committee was most impressed with Regions Bank and the array of services available through their corporation.

Chad introduced Hobbs Yarbrough, a member of the Regions Bank Investment Team. Hobbs thanked the Board for inviting him to present and stated that Regions Bank is grateful for the opportunity to partner with TVC.

Hobbs explained to the Board that Regions Bank is a large financial institution, but is also very in touch with the community. Hobbs stated that Regions Bank portfolio managers would begin by listening to TVC and getting a feel for it and the direction TVC wants to move forward. He also explained that they would research what TVC's peers are doing with their investments and guide TVC through the investment process.

Hobbs then began discussing how important the investment strategy is to potential donors. Hobbs stated that donors want to see that your organization is committed to its cause and uses their resources and assets wisely.

Chad asked Hobbs to explain how the investment strategy would work moving forward from this point. Hobbs stated that the portfolio managers would begin by collaborating with TVC and forming an investment strategy and then offer guidance

in the right direction. Dick Blackburn asked about conservative investments because he feels as though TVC can't afford to risk losing money in high risk situations. Hobbs stated that Regions would discuss parameters and then apply an asset allocation model based on the parameters.

Several board members, including Linda O'Neal, asked about annual fees and retainer fees. Hobbs stated that Regions Bank offers fee transparency and shows the upfront cost once the investment plan is created. Hobbs also gave some examples of fees based on certain percentages for the Board to get an idea of the fee amounts.

In closing, Hobbs thanked the Board for the time and opportunity. He expressed that it would be a pleasure to work with TVC in the future.

After Hobbs concluded and left, Chad stated that the Finance Committee strongly recommended Regions Bank because not only do they offer investment strategy services, but also offer money management and donor services assistance. Chad stated that on behalf of the Finance Committee that he would make the motion to move forward with Regions Bank. Sheila Peters agreed and thanked the Finance Committee for their efforts.

VII. Policy Committee Report- Rikki Harris

Rikki informed the Board that Adam Horn was out of town on vacation and that Kathy Rogers was leading a training in East Tennessee.

Rikki stated that Jim Henry had taken on a new role and that Bonnie Hommrich had taken on the role as Children's Services Commissioner. She stated that she was very knowledgeable and hopes that TVC can form a relationship with her like we had in the past with Commissioner Henry.

Rikki also discussed Public Chapter 431 which gives parents of children with an IEP in place \$6,600 to forfeit their rights. Rikki passed around a copy of the document for Board members to read and review. Linda O'Neal stated that \$6,600 won't cover the costs and will have very little impact on students and families. Board members had many concerns over this new charter and the negative effect it could have on families.

Rikki gave an update on Insure TN and said there was still a pretty strong opposition to it. She stated that right now we are still just waiting to see how it moves forward.

Linda O'Neal informed the Board of the most recent ACES study on adverse childhood experiences. She stated that this was a collaboration between DCS and other state departments. She stated the study showed that adults that experienced childhood trauma had a higher risk of mental and physical health challenges.

She stated that trauma informed care is now raising the question “What happened to you?” as part of the recovery process. Several Board members discussed the findings of the study and the impact it will have on the future.

VIII. Bylaws Committee Report- Dick Blackburn

Dick discussed that the Board had made the decision to replace the immediate past president with a member at large on the Executive Committee. Dick stated that this decision gives the Board more flexibility and allows parent members to play a larger role. Debbie Webb agreed and stated that this shows that TVC is a team effort and that a parent can be part of the highest level of leadership. Merrill Harris also agreed with this statement. Dick also discussed the functions and operational guidelines of the Advisory Council and referred to a document in the packet. Dick explained a few details in the document and made the motion to approve, Linda O’Neal seconded the motion, and it passed.

IX. Lunch

X. Marketing Report- Natalie Ray

Natalie pointed the Board members towards *The Networker* newsletter and stated that TVC had an eventful quarter. TVC was involved in the Big Payback and Natalie thanked Board members that donated on behalf of TVC.

Natalie also reported to the Board that TVC had several activities and events to celebrate Children’s Mental Health Awareness Week 2015. She mentioned the Youth M.O.V.E. events and the fact that TVC received proclamations from three county mayor’s offices and the governor’s office.

Natalie informed the Board that she is currently updating the TVC marketing materials. She also mentioned the new annual report included in the packet and stated that she is trying to give all the TVC marketing materials a consistent look.

She reminded the Board about the 2015 State of the Child Conference in September. She said she had forms available if anyone’s organization was interested in sponsoring or exhibiting at the conference. She mentioned that TVC has several great speakers lined up, including Freddie Scott and Matt Timm, Ph.D. She stated the conference would be a great way to earn CEU credits and support TVC.

She reported that we are still searching for an artist for Songwriter’s Night 2015. She said that we have several possibilities, but no one confirmed as of now. Natalie asked that if anyone had any artist connections, to please let her know.

In closing, Natalie reported that the grant committee is actively seeking out grant opportunities and new sources of funding for TVC.

XI. Strategic Planning- Sheila Peters

Sheila began by thanking Paula Sandidge for allowing the Board to use the University Club in June under her membership. She stated that along with Rikki and Brad, she will be forming a strategic planning committee. She asked members to let her know if they were interested in being involved moving forward and working on the committee.

Sheila stated that the Board may need to meet again for a session, but hopefully not for a full day. Possibly a short session before the October 2015 meeting. She is working on a timeline with Brad Gray. Dick Blackburn stated that he was glad the TVC staff was involved in the planning process.

XII. Mission Committee Report- Linda O'Neal

Linda reported that the Mission Committee held a conference call on June 30, 2015 to discuss the mission statements created in June at the Strategic Planning Session. She said the committee read over the proposals and agreed that the language needed to be updated. Since TVC needs to generate more revenue, this means moving from an advocacy agency that provides services to a service provider that advocates. Linda pointed everyone to the proposed new mission handout and asked them to review it. Merrill Harris stated that it seemed too cumbersome and needed to be clearer. Natalie Ray explained that the committee was attempting to incorporate all the aspects that TVC has to offer. Linda asked for suggestions/edits from the members. Dick Blackburn stated that using the term services/supports vs. speaking out updates what TVC is currently doing. Several members and staff discussed the term "champion" and the meaning behind it. Dick Blackburn suggested that we approve it for now and continue to work on it in the future if needed. Linda O'Neal made the motion to approve, Dick seconded the motion, and it passed. Sheila Peters stated that it could be modified in the future, but it is what the Board will work from as of now.

XIII. Core Values Committee Report- Dick Blackburn

Dick reported that the Core Values Committee had a conference call to discuss options from the planning session in June. The committee had narrowed it down to six core values containing important principles. He asked that the members review the core values handout included in the packet. Several members discussed the wording in core value #3, "self-sufficiency". Members offered suggestions of "increased competence", "increased capabilities", and "increased ability to meet". Dick, on behalf of the committee, made the motion to adopt core values with one amendment in #3- "improved ability to meet" to replace "self-sufficiency". Chad Poff seconded the motion, and it passed.

Sheila thanked both committees and stated that she appreciated the time and effort put forth by all members.

XIV. Nomination Committee Report- Linda O’Neal

Linda reported that she had two nominations to present to the board.

The first nomination was Rhonda Ashley-Dixon from Vanderbilt Behavioral Health. Linda stated that she knew Rhonda and believed she would be an asset to the Board, therefore recommending her as a new member. Other board members agreed with Linda.

Linda presented the second Board nomination, William Kirby. Linda shared with the Board that she had spoken to Mr. Kirby and he seemed very knowledgeable about strategic planning and investment policies and she would strongly recommend him as a new member as well.

Linda made the motion to elect these two nominees to the Board, Chad Poff seconded the motion, and it passed.

XV. Old Business

Brian Taylor stated that a Board page was created on the TVC website to include important documents. Brian informed the Board of the web address and password.

Sheila reminded everyone that Merrill had experienced a home fire and had lost many belongings. Merrill stated that she was doing well and thanked everyone for their concern.

XVI. New Business- None

Adjourned at 2:00 pm