



## **CASA CHILD ADVOCATES OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING August 4, 2016

Held at: Tetra Technologies, Inc., 24955 Interstate 45 North, The Woodlands, TX 77380

Directors Present (quorum met): Jim Funke, Sabina Rahman-Garcia, Richard Lane, Judy Olsen, Bob Evans, Clay McCollor, James Pung, Steven Earl, Monica Vils-Brawner (phone), and Robyn West (phone), Scott Creasman.

Not present: Sharon Geib

Also present: Ann McAlpin, Pat Creighton, Faye and Murray Batt

The meeting was opened at 4:30.

Faye and Murray Batt gave a testimony as to a case they worked on that allowed the children to be placed with grandparents from PMC.

### A. Jim Funke

1. Safety moment - drive safely and don't rush to get to a meeting.
2. Moment of silence regarding Cliff Hazel.
3. The minutes were approved (unanimously).

### B. Executive Director—Update

1. Development director search update – we are back to the beginning.
2. Annual campaign update (at \$71,000 now with about \$30,000 recurring)
3. Kids are coming into the system in our county at 22% faster than expected. CPS is not placing with relatives as much as expected.
4. We passed the Texas CASA audit.
5. CYO - United Way grant will last another year. We discussed the possibility of continuing United Way funding. What structure should exist? CYO is now having discussion over whether CYO should become an independent 501c(3). Unincorporated association is being

discussed, as a form that avoids liability for CASA as a member for wrongs done by others. There are about 134 kids/youth currently being served. CYO is being given a state award for innovation from the Texas Network for Youth Services.

6. The Superhero Run is in process—and we need sponsorships.

#### C. Governance - Judy

1. Directors are now serving one, two and three year terms. We had a discussion of how we historically locate, prospect, and vote on new board members. The Sandy Peterson nomination via email brought about discussion as to how we go about this, as two people voted no (not anything to do with Sandy Peterson but rather to discuss a more formal process). Jim Funke noted a desire for an approach than adding board members gradually rather than bringing on several at one time. We recalled prior discussions about tension between (I) diversity, (II) connections, (III) aid to mission, etc. Targeting and recruiting might help, but our tendency is to find more of (II) and (III) because of utility. Judy is willing to meet with other board members on the side to identify potential targets. Richard and James are interested in helping.

2. We currently do not have a board volunteer to chair the development committee. We had discussion about whether Sandy Peterson should be invited vs has she already been approved.

On motion, unanimously RESOLVED that Sandy Peterson is appointed as a director for a 1 year term.

3. Policy changes are needed to follow approval of Texas CASA presented. No material change from prior, merely additional material. On motion, unanimously RESOLVED that the policy changes are approved.

#### D. Finance committee

1. No meetings since May. Next item will be budget. (Complete report of current finances were sent out in the pre-reading.)

#### E. Strategic discussions

1. Eight building blocks article—how to keep building the organization, methods to spread the message on CASA and what it does, and grading on measures. Executive director will send out a message for response to the board on the eight measures.

#### F. Miscellaneous

1. Bob Evans asked about Advocates being able to transport children, which requires CPS approval. He noted some CASAs are doing this. The executive director discussed that policies are being developed in various places for pilot programs, such as Liberty County. She is hesitant to adopt policy on the leading edge of this effort. James Pung indicated that several Advocates have asked for this right. Tabled for another meeting, perhaps following the next meeting which will focus on budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00.

EXECUTIVE SESSION began at 6:03. Executive Session was adjourned at 6:06.