



**FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES OF NORTH FLORIDA, INC.
BOARD MINUTES
Conference Room
4057 Carmichael Avenue
Jacksonville, Florida
September 14, 2010**

CALL TO ORDER

The Monthly Meeting of the Board of Directors of Family Support Services of North Florida, Inc. (FSS) was called to order at 11:30 AM by Philip Mobley, Board President. A quorum of voting members was in attendance as set forth in the Bylaws.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Mobley called for approval of the last month's Minutes. **Motion was made and duly seconded to approve the Minutes from the August, 2010 board meeting. Motion passed unanimously.**

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

A plaque was presented to Scott Ewers, senior programmer, and Gary Chartrand CEO of Acosta Sales for their assistance in the Foster Care Redesign project.

Through the generosity of Acosta; Scot Ewers was made available to us to create an on-line data base that could be accessed via the internet. This data base enables our workers or anyone with access to input a family profile and receive a list of available resources that can be used to assist that family.

FSS appreciates Acosta's support of this project. In particular we appreciate Scot's dedication. He worked with our folks to write the program and then bring it to fruition. The result has provided us with another tool for our use in supporting the families and children we serve.

.EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Financial Jim Adams reported that there was no significant financial news from the previous board meeting; Jim reported that we were still concerned with the deficit in the Independent Living funding and the Adoption subsidy line items. Lee Wilson and staff are working to minimize the IL figure deficit of \$1.6 million dollars.

There are adequate funds as an overall projection to offset the above deficits. FSS is working with the Coalition to achieve legislation that would minimize this exposure. Many

of the children come into care just prior to transition. FSS staff is carefully checking the eligibility of children receiving funds.

Jim reported that Performance Measurement goals have not been received by FSS for the 2010-2011 contract year as they have been held up in the Region awaiting responses by other CBCs. FSS has proposed an adoption goal of 137. This number continues to decline as the number of available adoptable children is reduced.

Community Events Several large events are upcoming: One Church One Child Prayer Breakfast to be held at the EverBank Stadium. The goal is to have black churches commit to finding an adoptive home for the large population of black males in the system.

The Florida Coalition for Children will be holding their statewide convention on October 18-20 at the Jacksonville Hyatt. Board members are encouraged to attend the seminars and the luncheon.

Legal - Jim reported that there were no pending lawsuits. Board members questioned whether this was normal. Jim replied that FSS is always subject to litigation considering the clientele with which we interact. There are some inquiries from plaintiff attorneys. Lee Wilson explained that our overhead increased as a result of increasing our professional insurance premiums and as we increased coverage to \$6 million dollars.

The issue of Sovereign Immunity was discussed. While the State of Florida has a \$250 thousand dollar legal suit cap, this does not extend to the CBCs. FSS and the Coalition will continue to work with the legislature to extend this immunity and dollar cap to the CBCs and providers.

FSS, Inc. Update – Raymond Bateh, the FSS auditor, will be addressing the board at the annual retreat to educate the board on the new 501 (c) (3) agency.

COMMUNITY CULTIVATION COMMITTEE

Jim Adams reported that Nassau County Commissioners will be honoring the Simmons, FSS foster parents in Nassau County, by a special proclamation.

Phil Mobley encouraged members to attend the Florida Children's First Annual meeting at the Haskell Building. Dee Wilson, foster parent and President of the Jacksonville Foster Parents Association will be honored as well as several of the FSS Independent Youth.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – minutes are included with the board report. Phil Mobley reported that FSS is lending assistance to the Daytona CBC who is undergoing some structural changes.

Jim mentioned that FSS is concerned that the current contract under negotiation requires FSS to have 90% of the board members reside in either Nassau or Duval County. Chuck Young requested that this item be placed on the Partnership meeting agenda. It is felt that FSS is distinctive since Clay and St. Johns Counties are bedroom communities to many people who work in Jacksonville.

Jim Adams reported that FSS has engaged a consultant/facilitator to determine the feasibility of sharing resources or combining organizations.

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE – Senate President-designate Mike Haridopolos (starting in November) will be visiting FSS to discuss current issues with staff, board members, foster children, adoptive families, and community providers.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – refer to committee report at the end of the Board Report. Mike Mullin requested that Lee Wilson give a brief summary in his absence. Lee referred the board to the Board Book, highlighting the high cash balance due to the July and August contract advance. Lee also pointed out the increase in Net Assets from the previous year which builds up the Board Reserve funds.

FSS was very close to the budget for the previous year. The Financial Statement of Activities shows an administrative expense as a percentage of the total DCF expenses was 8.0%. As mentioned previously, the prepaid insurance increased the percentage temporarily but is projected to return to less than 7.0% as the year progresses.

The Fund Source Summary report as of July 2010 shows that FSS has a total budget just over \$46 million dollars, an increase of \$1 million dollars from the previous contract year. FSS hopes to generate a surplus in the general revenue funds in able to offset deficits in adoption subsidies and Chafee state funds for IL children. Chafee state funds are used for those youth who are not eligible for Federal Funds and supplements the federally based programs offered by FSS.

FSS will continue to monitor expenses conservatively due to the State's revenue shortfall. It is felt that "holdback" of funding may be expected.

This is over \$642,000 in board reserve funds, an increase over the previous month.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

Michael Widman reported that he had met with Cindy Graves, a prospective board member. The Board Development Committee made a recommendation that she be elected to the FSSNF, Inc. Board of Directors.

- **Motion was made to approve the Cindy Graves as an FSSNF, Inc. board member. Motion passed unanimously.**

Lydia Russo from the Florida Coastal School of Law was introduced to the board as a prospective board member. Her candidacy will be voted upon at the October retreat.

Phil Mobley announced that the Board Development Committee would be selecting names for a slate of officers for the 2011 year. Additionally, he appointed Dr. Harriet Howe, along with Mike Widman and Lynn Sherman to this committee.

Anyone who has interest as serving as an officer of FSSNF should contact Michael Widman for the President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer positions.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Phil Mobley encouraged everyone to attend the Retreat on October 22nd. Dinah Kossoff passed out a questionnaire to assist them with planning for the retreat.

Joy and Dinah briefly explained the new IL project initiative.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM.