

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: March 26, 2026



Chairman: Kevin McDonald

Date: March 26, 2026

Location: KCI Boardroom

BoD Members Present: Kevin McDonald, Brad Rodgers, James Nations, Rebecca Schatt, Diana Brown, Rachel Kaser, Stephen Spivey, Chuck Troutman, Lt. Anthony Piarulli

Advisors: John Cooper (CEO), John Aitken (CFO), Veraunda Jackson (CLO), Shalonda McHenry-Sims (COO)

Not Present: Elizabeth Thompson

Guests: via phone: Robert McAllister (DCF Contract Mgr.), Amanda Wilson-DCF, Mark Wickham-YFA, Susan Eby-YFA, Kristin Gray-DCF

In person: Dave DeStefano (CSO)

Minutes: Vicki Austin, Executive Assistant

Quorum: Yes

Call to order at 12:36 pm

I. Chairman's Remarks

- a) Introductory Remarks – Kevin thanked everyone for attending the Holiday Decorating Contest Luncheon.
- b) Approval of January 22, 2026, Minutes – Jim Nations moved to approve. Stephen Spivey seconded the motion; **all voted in favor and passed unanimously.**
- c) Board development was discussed. Becky Schatt will complete her 18-year tenure on the Board, and she has agreed to accept the request from advisors and board members to create a Marion County Legacy Award — in Her Name for an employee at the CARES Awards ensuring her influence continues.
 - Stephen Spivey is also completing his tenure after a return to assist the Board when there was a shortage of board members.
 - Diana Brown mentioned that she has two people in mind and will be introducing them to Mr. Cooper for discussions and encouragement to submit an application.
- d) Board Educational Segment: Dave DeStefano presented the Fatherhood Initiative-RISE UP DADS, fostering stronger relationships between fathers and their children through mentorship and access to resources.
- e) Halo Event to be held May 2nd... reminder that the Board members contribute money towards the purchase of the contents creating a Basket for this event. Jim, Becky, Diana, and Stephen donated money today. Shalonda McHenry-Sims reminded the BoD that the theme is Super Heros and be prepared to where their superhero capes.
- f) Retreat meeting in May was briefly discussed and reminded that the CEO evaluation will also take place.

II. President's Report

- a) Legislative Report: No Financial changes for DCF CMA funding-this will be evaluated another year. Out of 1,895 bills submitted only 86 passed. HB047 regarding 2nd opinion medical diagnosis and HB145 regarding sovereign immunity were two that passed. Diana asked about the BoD letter sent to the Senate and how it was received. John explained the Senators he personally delivered the letter too had expressed an understanding whereby he believes it is one reason it remains for further review.
- b) January 2026 Performance – John briefly reviewed January's contract performance scorecard and noted the targets are challenging due to the high population going to TPR. Adoption targets are on chart to be met this year and for Case Management Marion County is doing well.

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- c) Annual Report: after printing a mistake was found. It was corrected and sent back to the printers and will be discussed at Executive Committee meeting and distributed from there.
- d) Marion Recruitment Update – Marion CMA remains close to full staffing. No resignations are pending and several applications are in review.

III. Operations Report – Shalonda reviewed the Marion Office

Shalonda thanked the BoD members that visited the Marion CMA and suggested a trip to YFA in Citrus County soon. Diana and Becky visited Marion Co. together and mentioned the positive atmosphere and appreciation was very noticeable. Liz visited on a separate occasion on her own. Shalonda also passed a retirement card for a staff member who is retiring after an extensive employment time with Kids Central. Shalonda went on to discuss:

- a) Out of Home Care:
- b) Diversion & Prevention: More sibling groups are coming in with excess of 5 siblings and staff are trying to keep them together whenever possible.
- c) Quality Management & Training
- d) Healthy Start /MIECHV Chart.

IV. Audit Report

Becky Schatt said the Audit was very good and timely.

- a) John Aitken stated that the Auditors gave a high-level presentation and the .pdf was provided to the BoD members.
- b) Stephen noted there were no significant findings, and he has not seen any during his time of service to the BoD and thank John Aitken for his diligent work.
- c) John Aitken noted that in addition to Audit committee members who meet 2-3 times a year, a new Audit Chairperson is required when Becky retires from the BoD.
- d) Brad Rogers volunteered to be on the Finance Committee.

Jim stated the Audit requires ratification. Becky Schatt moved to approve the Audit, it was seconded by Brad Rogers, **all voted in favor and passed unanimously.**

V. Finance Report

- a) January 2026 Financials – Jim Nations briefly reviewed the financials and noted we are in a good position after the Budget adjustment. The income statement regarding the Out of Home care remains with the same issue. Jim recommended the approval of the Finance Committee Report, seconded by Anthony Piarulli, **all voted in favor and passed unanimously.**
- b) John Aitken mentioned some of the funds were recovered from a Fraud payment case and that the Insurance claim has been submitted to recover the remaining loss. Since there is a 25K deductible, the entire amount will not be recovered. The incident has been reported to the Inspector Generals office and is being closed as a report only.
- c) Jim Nations reminded all to remain diligent.

VI. Committee Reports

- a) Executive Committee – February meeting was cancelled. John Aitken discussed the support and attendance at the Boot Scooting Boogie fundraiser. Liz Thompson has sponsored a large group to attend but due to the inclement weather and traffic they were not able to make it to the event. This event netted \$13K.

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- b) SIC Committee meeting for April 2026 – Diana explained the current initiatives of the committee has been so successful, they were able to hand over to staff without further BoD involvement.
- Because of this success the committee needs new projects and would like to align them with the business plan which will not be available at the April 9th meeting. The April meeting has been cancelled, and the following meeting is not until August. The intent is to hold an interim meeting in-person when the business plan is available. Committee members will be notified and invited to attend.
- c) Community Development – Brad Rogers mentioned it is a committee of one, himself, therefore meetings have not taken place. He also noted that Kimberly is doing a fantastic job keeping up the social media and getting John Cooper out in the Public for notability.
- The Community Development Calendar was shared so board members can plan for their participation –Especially noted was:
 - April 2026**
 - Child Abuse Prevention Month
 - Adoption Event - TBD
 - May 2026**
 - HALO – May 3rd
 - National Foster Care Month
 - June 2026**
 - Reunification Month
 - September 2026**
 - Kinship Month
 - October 2026**
 - CARE Awards – October 9th
 - November 2026**
 - National Adoption Month

VII . Unfinished Business/New Business –

- Steve Spivey reiterated the need for new Board members and as he is leaving, he feels a responsibility to find a potential replacement. He is talking with Scott Quintell (sp?) in Ocala who has previously been with the United Way and is now in Banking. Scott is on an affiliated Board relating to the Pearl Project and was not sure if this would present a conflict of interest.
- Veraunda Jackson reiterated the intent of the conflict-of-interest disclosure regarding no financial relationship for BoD members.
- Veraunda thanked the Board for participating in celebrating staff today. She also reminded them of the employee workgroup and the picture clock in the hall entry way. John Cooper noted that a staff member Abilgail is on the picture clock and that she spoke about her story at a prior Cares award.
- Veraunda provided an account of the memorial service she attended for Judge Howard and how many saw him for the last time at our CARES awards where he was a speaker, this reminded her how our connection to our community is powerful.

VIII. Public Forum – None

Adjourned the meeting at 1:36 pm.

Next Meeting: MAY 28, 2026, Annual Board Retreat 10:00am – 11:30am Wildwood –(KCI Springs Room)
Regular Board Meeting 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Wildwood – (KCI Board Room)