

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: July 23, 2026

Chairman: Kevin McDonald

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Location: KCI Boardroom

Members Present: Kevin McDonald, Brad Rodgers, Diana Brown, Chuck Troutman, Paula Mealy, Judith Williams, Walter Bussell

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

Not Present: James Nations, Rachel Kaser, Capt. Anthony Piarulli

Guests: via phone: Robert McAllister DCF Contract Mgr., Kristin Gray-DCF

In person: Sharon Gibbs, Sr. Director OOHC

Minutes: Vicki Austin, Executive Assistant

Quorum: Yes

Call to order at 12:34 pm

I. Chairman's Remarks

- a) Introductory Remarks – Welcomed the new Board members; Paula, Judith, and Walter.
- b) Approval of May 28, 2026, Minutes – Paula Mealy moved to approve. Brad Rodgers seconded the motion; **all voted in favor and passed unanimously.**
- c) Board development and committee appointments were discussed. Paula and Judith agreed to be on both the Strategic Innovations and Community Development Committees.
- d) Board Educational Segment: Sharon Gibbs presented a slide overview of the Placement process and answered questions from the Board members.

II. President's Report

- a) May 2026 Performance – John briefly reviewed May's contract performance scorecard and reiterated challenging targets due to the high population going to TPR; reunification against the recommendations by staff are frequent and sibling groups of 5-7 children are difficult to keep together.
- b) DCF Update: Secretary of Children and Families recently resigned leaving no defined leadership without the appointment from Governor DeSantis.
 - a. DCF informed several contract extension options but chose to post a Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) or Request for Proposals (RFP) instead. This is a challenging during an Administration change and the transitioning of a new DCF tracking system CCWIS that has staff extended from regular duties already to prepare for the October launch. Our stability will be questionable during this time and material changes are expected.
 - b. Pasco-Pinellas ITN/RFP has been posted, and we are reviewing this closely, no real changes except some penalties on deliverables. We will be prepared for the expected post for District 5.
- c) CCWIS has a intended "Go Live" date of October 1st, a big bang type of deployment that is not ideal. Currently training is full swing but is encountering many issues with modulators not working. FSFN will not be available when the CCWIS goes live.
- d) CFSR improvement plan; No state has passed this child & family service review audit and the initiative "Home for Every Child" with a simple tracking process was received last week that we will re-align our BSC to the new measures. It does not promote GHC by days in the Home, which causes concerns with the CCWIS database.
- e) Marion Recruitment Update – Marion CMA remains close to full staffing. Positions are posted on Career Source, Indeed and Social Media accounts. Kevin asked if the salary ranges were included in the posting and John confirmed yes, however applications aren't as many as we would like to receive.

III. Operations Report – Shalonda noted that Adoptions exceed our goals. We are actively networking with churches, community faith events, and following up on all referrals in recruiting new foster parent

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homes. Kevin asked how the approach to Churches works, Shalonda responded that it is usually referrals from current foster parents and staff to speak to the congregations. Shalonda welcomed any church referrals from the Board members.

Shalonda went on to discuss:

- a) Out of Home Care:
- b) Diversion & Prevention: John noted that the Lowell Maternity program where pregnant inmates statewide (not necessarily in our district) find placement with family prior to birth and staff provide background screening only.
- c) Quality Management & Training
- d) Healthy Start /MIECHV Chart- Car seat installation trainings have been well received. Healthy Start offices in Marion, Lake, and Alachua.

V. Finance Report

- a) May 2026 Financials – In Jim Nations absent Chuck Troutman briefly reviewed the financials and noted the insurance renewals favorable claim activity allowed FIT to renew policies without increasing premiums. The significant premium increase was worker's compensation. Diana recommended the approval of the Finance Committee Report, seconded by Paula, **all voted in favor and passed unanimously.**
- b) John Aitken mentioned the funding budget, Risk pool, and back of bill funding has been received since we last met and will be available for review at the next meeting. Spending trend increased and is still a deficit of two to three million from last year.

VI. Committee Reports

- a) Executive Committee – Kevin noted that the CEO evaluation has been completed and was favorable and the results will be finalized and delivered to John Cooper shortly.
- b) SIC Committee meets August 13, 2026 – Diana explained the new initiatives of the committee will be established in alignment with the Business Plan. Legislative Advocacy will be a strong commitment moving forward.
- c) Community Development – Brad Rogers thanked the new members for volunteering for the community development committee and welcomes new focus on initiatives for this committee.
 - The Community Development Calendar was shared so board members can plan for their participation –Especially noted was
 - September 2026**
 - Kinship Month
 - October 2026**
 - CARE Awards – October 9th
 - November 2026**
 - National Adoption Month

VII . Unfinished Business/New Business –

John Cooper mentioned that the CBC is partnering with KPMG on the funding model, looking at a four year comparison and the inequity in funding.

VIII. Public Forum – None

Adjourned the meeting at 1:55 pm.

Next Meeting: September 24, 2026, 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Wildwood – (KCI Board Room)