Finance & Operations Committee Meeting Transcript

March 02, 2023
THE CHILDREN'S TRUST

FINANCE AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

(IN PERSON QUORUM WITH SOME VIRTUAL ATTENDANTS)

MEETING MINUTES

The MDC Children's Trust Meeting, Finance and Operations Committee Meeting was held on Thursday, March 2, 2023, commencing at 9:31 a.m., at 3150 Southwest 3rd Avenue, 8th Floor, The Children's Trust - Training Room, Miami, Florida 33129. The meeting was called to order by Mark Trowbridge, Committee Chair.

AUDIO TRANSCRIPTION

BOARD MEMBER APPEARANCES:

MARK TROWBRIDGE, Chair
MATTHEW ARSENAULT, Vice Chair
JUDGE NORMAN GERSTEIN
NELSON HINCAPIE
ANNIE NEASMAN
JAVIER REYES
ISAAC SALVER
LEIGH KOBIRNSKI
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YESENIA REYES
YULIET ALFONSO

GUEST APPEARANCES:

LAURA DE LOOF, Ayuda Inc.
TAMARA SAN JUAN, Ayuda Inc.
DIANA SUSI, Ayuda Inc.
JANETTE TAFT, Centro Campesino
BARBARA CESAR, Centro Campesino Farmworker Center Inc.
MARIA VILLACAMPA, Centro Campesino Farmworker Center Inc.
JEANNE TAMARGO, City of Homestead / Start Off Smart
YOLANDA CASTRO, COFFO
RHONDA, Fit Kids of America Corp.
THEMA CAMPBELL, Girl Power Rocks Inc.
ANNETTE CACICEDO, Kids Learning Center of South Dade
CIBELE STEMPNIAK, Kids Learning Center of South Dade III
TANIA HERNANDEZ, Kidsworks USA Inc.
OLIVE COOPER, Knowledge Builders of Florida Inc.
TERRI MORALES, La Viña Del Señor – Kidz XL
ROLLO CASIPLE, La Viña Del Señor – Kidz XL
YANNET AMADOR, Leadership Learning Center at St. John Bosco

NATALIE WILLIAMS, Miami Children’s Museum

LUIS MACHADO, O’Garrill Learning Center

FRANDY JEAN-BAPTISTE, OIC of South Florida

FARISED GARCIA, Parent to Parent of Miami

ANDREW POCOCK, Pocock Nonprofit Consulting

ROMNIE VERTUS, Prosperity Social and Community Development Group

MYRNA CHARLTON, The Arc of South Florida

ENRIQUE MIRANDA, Thumbelina Learning Center

ADRIEN TEJEDA, Thumbelina Learning Corp.

KERISPEARS, Touching Miami with Love

TRINA HARRIS, Touching Miami with Love

SHAREEF AH ROBINSON, Touching Miami with Love

ELIZABETH DEVEAUX, Town of Cutler Bay

CLOSED CAPTIONER, Verbit

CLAUDIA SARABIA, WOW MKTG

ELIZABETH DEVEAUX

YOLANDA CASTRO

TANIA HERNANDEZ

HARVEY ROFRIGUEZ

NADEGE VILSAINT, ACentral

SALIHA NELSON, Prosperity Social & Community Development Group
PROCEEDINGS

(Thereupon, the following proceedings commenced at 9:31 a.m.)

MR. TROWBRIDGE: All right. Good morning, everybody. Welcome to our Finance and Operations Committee meeting, Thursday, March 2, 2023, a few moments past 9:31. We're happy to advise we have a quorum, so we're going to call the meeting to order. I want to thank all of you for joining us here listening, and just go through the agenda. Look forward to your thoughts, comments, and input.

If you have any public comments -- not having the public comments, we'll close that part of the agenda. And we'll move on now to the approval of our January 12, 2023, Finance and Operations Committee meeting minutes. You have the summary of minutes in your package. Is there a motion to approve the minutes as presented?

MS. NEASMAN: So moves.

MR. GERSTEIN: Second.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: Thank you, Annie. Second, thank you, Judge. Any comments, corrections?

Seeing none, all in favor please say aye.
COMMITTEE MEMBER: Aye.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: Any opposed, nay.

Motion carries and our minutes of January 12 are approved. We just have two resolutions today or consideration of the Finance and Operations Committee. So, I'll draw your attention to those now. The first -- here's Resolution 2023-A.

This is an authorization to negotiate and execute contract renewals for advertising, creative media buying, and community outreach services in a combined total amount not to exceed $2,115,000 for a 12-month term commencing October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024, noting that there are no remaining renewals. Is there a motion to approve 2023-A?

MS. NEASMAN: So moved.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: Second? Just to remind you all that this is not the first time that we have seen a resolution like this. Yes, sir?

MR. ARSENAULT: I'm recusing.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: Oh, you're recusing. My apologies. Any other recusals? That will be important in our next steps --
MR. REYES: I would like to state the reason on the record for the recusal. Familiar relationship, principal, and of the wealth.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: Thank you.

MS. NEASMAN: This was moved by -- I'm recusing --

MR. TROWBRIDGE: Okay. Any other recusals? Thank you very much. Going back to 2023-A. I just said we have worked with these agencies for a number of years. And so you have Pencia Sagrado (phonetic), Wow Factor marketing group (phonetic) that Armstrong (phonetic) created.

You look at Page 4 of your package, you see the different services that they provide us under the various scopes. And it's important to note that this is the final year, again, of this particular resolution. And so, I'm sure at some point we'll be bringing back in our -- a year or something like that as we put this out again.

Any discussion, questions? All right. Seeing none, we'll put it through a vote. All in favor say aye.

COMMITTEE MEMBER: Aye.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: Any opposed, nay. Motion carries. Thank you very much.
Next, is Resolution 2023-B. This is an authorization to amend Resolutions 2022-36, 2022-37, 2022-38, 2022-39, 2022-45, 2022-46, 2022-47, and 2022-56 and to execute contract amendments with 89 programs across various initiatives identified herein and providing a one-time increase in funding in a total amount not to exceed $3,090,956 to assist in retention of staff, cover increased costs of program operations, and extend the contract period of the year-round Youth Development contracts to no later than August 14, 2023.

This will now be in alignment with our new Youth Development funding cycle to begin August 15, 2023. Your authorization to amend the current fiscal year budget to increase the total allocations that youth and parenting and family and neighborhood partnerships will accommodate the increases in funding.

All right. Is there a motion to approve?

MR. REYES: Recusal.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: Let's start with the motion, and we'll come to the recusals.

MR. ARSENAULT: --

MR. TROWBRIDGE: Thank you. Is there a
second?

MR. ARSENAULT: --

MR. TROWBRIDGE: Recusals?

MR. GERSTEIN: -- Miami Children's Museum will be exempt.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: Thank you very much, Your Honor.

MS. NEASMAN: -- I'm the President and CEO of Jessie Trice Community Health Center.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: We knew we would have a number of recusals here. Raise your hand. So, we have two recusals this far. Any other recusals?

Please take a very careful look. It's 89 different organizations that are being reviewed, discussed, and eventually approved today. So, have another quick look at that. Any other recusals? All right.

So, we'll move into discussion. And again, as the Finance Committee looks over in the next few months and into the next year, you're going to see a lot more of these as we go into our new funding cycles. So, it's great to have discussion. We do have some amendments here related, but the opportunity to support these
programs with some additional dollars is something that I think is one of our favorite things we get to do.

Discussion? Anybody online with us that would like to discuss? Okay. Make sure you look at those 89 different organizations.

All right. Seeing none, we'll move now to a vote. All in favor say aye.

COMMITTEE MEMBER: Aye.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: Any opposed, nay. Motion will carry. Great. We're going to move now onto the CEO's Report. Please welcome our CEO, Mr. Haj.

MR. HAJ: --

MR. TROWBRIDGE: Yeah. Let's do it.

So, I think you know that we're very blessed with 20 years of a history of trust and incredible work by our finance team and led by, of course, Bill (phonetic) and his staff. But it is the end of the fiscal year. I'm excited to announce that the Children's Trust once again awarded the Government Finance Officers Association, GFOAs, Certificate of Achievement and Excellence in Financial Reporting for the fiscal year end of 2021, continuing the decades
long tradition of awarded and now financial excellence, consistent with our Children's Trust quality and sound financial practices.

As you know, this report is judged by an impartial panel, meet the highest standards of the program, which includes demonstrating instructive spirit of full disclosure, we clearly communicate our financial story, and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report. This certificate of achievement bestowed by the GFOA is the highest form of recognition in the area of government accounting and financial reporting. And its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

How about a round of applause? We're going to actually ask you all to stay after the meeting for just a brief moment so that we can take a picture with the Finance Committee and congratulate our team for their continued excellence. And I think I read that this is the tenth year. Decade-long tradition. Unbroken chain of recognition.

Matthew?

MR. ARSENAULT: Yeah. I just want to
congratulate the team. That's a -- it's a big accomplishment. We talked a lot about kind of instilling trust in the Children's Trust and the community, and I think this is a big part of it. You know, every time I have to call Bill (phonetic) and ask questions on all the financial stuff, just the transparency, the way they do that, it -- it -- it's really a testament. And I just want to say congratulations and great work on that. So --

MR. TROWBRIDGE: James R. Haj or Bill, word of --

MR. HAJ: I just want to thank Bill and the team. We'll save most of the comments for the whole board meeting when we present the certificate to the whole board. But Bill, congratulations to you, Wendy, Lizanne (phonetic), and the entire team for an outstanding job. You know, Bill takes the lead in his department, but it really is that the other execs and the re -- and the collective team and led by this finance committee. So, we truly appreciate all your efforts.

MR. KIRTLAND: I'll just also say briefly that I want to thank the committee and the
school of accounting 101. I think, like,
they'll talk about, you know, the best way to
prevent, you know, any fraud or, you know, any —
— anything at any level of organization.
Whether it's a smaller organization or a larger
organization, it starts with the company
culture. So, I know that the committee and the
board members alike all share in the sentiment
to make sure that we implement sound financial
practices both here and at the trust and bestow
those expectations upon the service provider
organization.

And I think that we find ourselves married
very well at this point in time, and, you know,
hopefully no complacency has sets in as the
years pass by. We will continue to monitor our
activities very closely and provider services'
activities very closely to make sure that we
obtain and, you know, and -- and hold on to the
public in trust, which is a force -- a very --
the staple, I think, of this organization. So,
I just wanted to thank the committee for
encouraging that -- that -- that culture that we
have at the Trust and in supporting management
and staff and other decisions that we make to
maintain these financial practices at the organization.

So, we look forward to next month kind of continuing, I guess, as this rhetoric goes. Jim -- and you can stop me if you want. I just was going to kind of allude to the ACFR next month.

So, we're preparing -- we're awarded for last year's financials, but we're prepared to present the ACFR next month, to which we hope the same precedent rolls forward next year. We do not have any indication that there's -- thus far, at this point in the process, that there's any reason why we wouldn't qualify for this award again next year. So, I look forward to presenting our financial position next Monday. But I'll kick it back over.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: And --

MS. NEASMAN: I also want to echo Jim and all for this award. And from the providers standpoint of view, I can tell you that certainly for the last ten years, you all have done a marvelous job, if -- if my organization is a testament to that, in really helping us to understand where we need to be. And I think you've done a lot of that on both sides for
financially and for programmatic, which rolls
into that. And

-- and certainly, I can see why -- and I'm new
to the finance committee, and I'm enjoying it so
far. But certainly, you all have done -- I
think when you talk about trust in the community
and what the community sees, I think the
providers can see that.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: That's awesome. Great.
Do you have it with you? I think we would like
to touch it.

MR. KIRTLAND: Yeah -- . At this point, it
-- they -- they provided us in your 101, like, a
-- a nice flag, and we add a medallion each
year. Don't take the missing medallion in any
sort of way. We just don't know where the
previous year medallion is, been waiting on our
2021 medallion. So, I guess this is as nice as
the presentation gets as far as receiving the
award. We don't have '21 yet, but we do have --

MR. TROWBRIDGE: Our focus is our buying
goals. Back to you, Jim.

MR. HAJ: Thank you. The monthly Financial
Statements were in your packet. The -- the
health mobile units -- just a reminder, the
board meeting, board meeting in March in two weeks. We have the mobile units, six of them. They'll be parked across the street if you can come half an hour early just to come to walk through our mobile units. And the resos that will follow the board meeting are mostly dealing with health. So, I think it's appropriate.

Board of Directors site visits -- Ken spoke about this, that we're going to scheduled board site visits throughout the year. And believe it or not, the first one is next week, March 9 from 10 to 11 at Belafonte Tacolcy Center. It would be great to have the providers. I know you -- you reviewed the resos, you approved the resos, but to go out and see the actual work-in-progress and see what the -- our providers are doing and the impact they have in this community is special.

So, I hope you can join us March 9. And then April 12 is the next one at the YMCA at Shenandoah Elementary. Champions for Children, our big event, which we hope to get 1,000 people in the room on April 27 is coming sooner than later. We -- you --I always think it's far away. And I know we always manage to suck in
oxygen trying to get ready for this thing and get -- get the champions moving. But that is -- should be in your calendars. It's a great event, from 11:30? 11:30? 11:30 to 1:30. And all the board members have seats. We have the VIP seating for you. Did we send out the RSVPs to the board yet?

MS. NUNEZ: Yes. We sent the save the date.

MR. HAJ: Save the date. So, the RSVPs will be coming. Young Talent Big Dreams -- again, another one of our highlighted events. This is going to be Saturday, May 13 at 7:00 pm at the Miracle Center if you want to see talent in this community, our youth showcasing their -- their talents. It really is a very nice event. May 13, and we'll also send out that invite. Bill talked about a little bit about next month's committee.

We will get the auditor's report, and we also will be releasing -- you already approved in January the release of auditing services. The release of the RFP is going out March 21, and it's coming back in June for this board to select a new auditor for the next five-year
cycle. And then just a reminder, the -- the finance committee members stay back one minute for Bill's missing medallion --

MR. TROWBRIDGE: I had a quick question going back to champions. I know that the team did an amazing job last year with hundreds of you. Do you feel like you're on par with that in terms of -- because I think anybody who invested last year would immediately raise their hand and say we're back because it was just an incredible -- incredible day.

MR. ZAE: Your lips to God's ears. If you want to give an update. We're -- we're about halfway there. So, you know, any, you know -- all -- all supports and -- and good vibes are welcome. So, thank you.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: Terrific.

MR. HINCAPIE: To comment on that, Mr. Chair, I would caution us not to focus so much on the fundraising. The last thing we want to do -- you know, our organizations, while they get a lot of support from -- from the Trust, they rely on -- on private fundraising for their sustenance. So, I would caution us not to go
into the fundraising bit. You know, it's great that we're doing it, but I don't think that that should be our -- our focus.

MR. HAJ: And I agree. Just -- just for clarification, we're not -- we don't fund raise -- what we do for this event is just to pay for the event itself. That's it. Anything above that's just -- the cost of the event's 130,000. Perfect.

MR. HINCAPIE: We have about 65,000 locked away, and we should have about -- we have about 110 in commitment. It really is -- when we started this six years ago, we're not going to pay taxpayer money for an adult event, and we're going to get sponsorship to cover the cost. Beyond that, we don't fundraise.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: Great point, Nelson. Other thoughts? All right. We are ready to adjourn and take that big photo. Is there a motion to adjourn? Thank you. Without objection, we stand adjourned.

MR. HAJ: Thank you.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: Thank you all very much. Welcome to our newest finance committee members, too. Great to have you with us.
MR. HAJ: Thank you.

(Thereupon, the proceedings concluded at 9:48 a.m.)
CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTION

The above and foregoing transcript is a true and correct typed copy of the contents of the file, which was digitally recorded in the proceeding identified at the beginning of the transcript, to the best of my ability, knowledge and belief.

Cecil Clark

CECIL CLARK, Notary Public

February 14, 2023