

Minutes  
Kids First Trust Fund Board  
July 18, 2024

Present: on site: Douglas Weinberg, Donald Travis, Will Young, Richard Hug, Eddie Kominowski, and Abigail Diener -- Via zoom: S.M. Finnell (part) and new board member, Olivia Clark.

A board quorum WAS present.

**Call to Order:** Chair Weinberg called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

**Minutes:** The group approved the minutes of the March 21, 2024 meeting with a unanimous vote.

**Financials:** The group reviewed the latest financial statement briefly and noted that there were no major changes from previous months.

**PCAIN Update and Report:** Chair Weinberg reported that Jeff Wittman was unable to attend the meeting because of a family illness.

**PCAIN Grant Proposal:** Nancy Gwin of the Villages, Inc. presented a revised version of PCAIN's framework expansion grant proposal for review by the board. This was an update to the proposal discussed at the last meeting. She answered budget and staffing questions about the grant and other issues related to the proposal. She indicated that a full-time person would be hired to oversee the project.

Following the presentation, board members discussed their concerns about the proposal – overall cost and cost of some individual parts, need for additional funding in year two, overlap with some already funded functions (e.g., establishment of prevention councils), possible duplication of other efforts (e.g., 211 operations), and other concerns.

One board member proposed an RFI (request for information) before going out with an RFP (request for proposal). The idea was that possible applicants might have some ideas about the best ways to shape the RFP and ultimately spend dollars consistent with the Framework strategy.

Chair Weinberg agreed to share feedback from the board with PCAIN.

**Vision for KFTF:** Chair Weinberg began the discussion of the vision for KFTF by reviewing the questions that he had asked of board members in an email dated July 11, 2024 (attached):

- 1) How much time do you have to commit to the Kids First Trust Fund? Please consider a range of hours per month.
- 2) What role or roles would you like to play? What activities would you like to be involved with?
- 3) What do you think the focus of the board should be? What strategic priorities should we pursue?

The ensuing discussion reviewed some of the history of KFTF and the changes in the environment since the early days. Among the key changes discussed were the decline of revenues from the KFTF license

plate and the arrival of a federal funding source for the local prevention programs originally targeted by KFTF (through the Community Partners program).

While the discussion did not feature many direct answers to the questions posed by Chair Weinberg, it did help to illuminate some key issues. The group seemed to accept the idea that it was important to rethink the role of KFTF and its board members in the new environment and engage in some strategic planning. Chair Weinberg proposed that the September meeting be devoted to this topic. Others suggested the possibility of a planning retreat.

Chair Weinberg noted that he had been engaged in discussions with key leaders in the legislature and representatives of the major candidates for governor. He argued that it was important to raise the profile of the organization with elected officials if KFTF is to become the major force for child abuse prevention that children's trust funds in other states have become. He noted that Indiana had made great progress in prevention in recent years but was still behind other states in certain respects.

He suggested that KFTF needed a 501c3 organization to assure continuity of the prevention effort. He noted that board members of such an organization would be controlled by KFTF and would likely have much more time to devote to the task of mounting major prevention efforts. He noted that the 501c3 would be solely focused on child abuse prevention and be able to attract major foundation dollars. It would also be able to be an honest broker and choose the best providers in the state to implement the chosen prevention initiatives. He suggested that the \$3800 cost of developing the new organization would be dollars well spent.

A discussion of the KFTF revenues over the last few years noted wide variations in the fee revenues received and interest earned. There was agreement that planning for KFTF going forward would need to be based on realistic estimates of revenues and that any possible errors in amounts received needed to be corrected.

Will Young expressed his opinion that more work needed to be done studying the feasibility of the creation of a nonprofit subsidiary corporation. Mr. Young expressed his opinion that an actual business plan with expected costs and revenue projections be drafted and developed before the Board voted to commit fund dollars to establishing a separate organization with additional legal and financial responsibilities. Mr. Young also suggested that a report be completed on the purported comparable organizations in other states to determine if these other organizations have been successful or not. Another board member noted that the proposed new organization, even with a board that had more time to devote to the enterprise, would likely require some staffing. A board member suggested that a local foundation might be willing to underwrite a start-up of the new organization assuming that the new organization could help realize its philanthropic goals.

Prior to the close of the meeting, Will Young pointed out to the board that under the Kids First Trust Fund statute there were two statutory deadlines coming up for reports to the General Assembly: (1) an annual report submission by October 1, 2024; and (2) a budget submission by December 31, 2024. Mr. Young suggested placing these items on the agenda for the next meeting to deliberate and vote on these reports so they could be timely submitted to the General Assembly.

**Adjournment:** Because the vision discussion took more time than expected, the remaining agenda items were deferred to the next meeting and the meeting was adjourned at 2:56 PM.

**Next meeting:** September 19, 2024 -- 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM (Eastern)