

Minutes – Kids First Trust Fund Meeting
June 18, 2020
-- Zoom Session --

Board Members Present: Candes Shelton, Richard Hug, Will Young, Doug Weinberg, Jeni O'Malley, Christina Hage, and S. Maria Finnell

Board Members Not Present: Laura Smith-Wynn and Chuck Dietzen

Present for part of meeting: Sandy Runkle and Sharon Pierce

The group acknowledged that a quorum WAS present.

Call to Order / Welcome: Board Chair Candes Shelton called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM. She said that this was the first quorum for the group in some time and asked all the members to introduce themselves. She noted that Chuck Dietzen had indicated his intention to resign from the board and welcomed advice on a replacement suggesting that we attempt to achieve geographic, racial/ethnic, and other types of diversity on the board. She mentioned the possibility of adding a person from the southern part of the state or someone from an active parenting group. She indicated that Laura Smith-Wynn might be able to help us with that. She said that Laura, a very active board member was unable to attend today due to pressing family and work obligations.

Approval of Minutes: There was no objection to the minutes of the April 23, 2020 meeting as submitted.

Financials: The review of the financial figures noted that license plate sales continued to decline and that there would be no allocations to Community Partners or to Prevent Child Abuse Indiana (PCAIN) this fiscal year. It was also noted that DCS has covered expenses for both programs and that KFTF commitment to both programs remained strong and that allocations would likely resume in the next round of funding.

Report of the Governance Task Force: Rick Hug reported that the governance group (Shelton, Young, Weinberg, and Hug) had met three times on the phone to discuss required board activities and a possible committee structure to meet those requirements.

A review of the enabling legislation showed that the board is required to undertake the following activities each year: 1) prepare a budget, including priorities, for the following fiscal year (by January 1) [IC 31-26-4-5]; 2) Choose a chair person and a vice chairperson [IC 31-26-4-7]; 3) Meet at least quarterly and at the call of the chair [IC 21-26-4-8]; 4) Adopt and make available to the public a) a strategic plan and b) a method for proposing projects and requesting funds [IC 31-26-4-11]; and 5) prepare an annual report (before October 1) for each fiscal year [IC 31-26-4-15].

Standing Committees and Charges: As a result of its deliberations the committee recommended the following committees and charges to meet the Board's responsibilities:

Governance – Review and revision of by-laws, future legislation, committee structure, meeting schedule, etc. [Required Activity 3]

Planning / Budgeting – KFTF strategic plan and annual budget, establish process for grantmaking, representation of KFTF in state prevention framework development. [Required Activities 1 and 4]

Communications / Advocacy – Public outreach, KFTF messaging, advocacy programs.

Board Development – Board recruitment, orientation, engagement, and training; nomination of officers and new members. [Activity 4]

[The committee recommended that the chair be responsible for preparing the annual report [Activity 5] in conjunction with the Department of Child Services.]

The standing committees and their charges as listed above were approved on a roll call vote, 7-0. (Will Young had noted that roll call votes were required by law for electronic sessions.)

Electronic Communication/Participation: Will Young reported on the Open Meetings law and the Governor's emergency order on meetings during the pandemic. During the current emergency, electronic meetings of state boards are allowed with ALL members at remote locations. During regular times electronic participation is allowed if at least one-third of the members are present in one place and the group has passed an official policy meeting this standard and other criteria established in the law.

Will shared the Kids First Trust Fund Board Electronic Communications Meeting Policy (see attachment 1) recommended by the committee and reviewed its provisions. Chair Shelton called for a vote on the policy.

The recommended Kids First Trust Fund Board Electronic Communications Meeting Policy was approved, 7-0, on a roll call vote.

New legislation: Doug Weinberg led a discussion of Senate Bill No. 144, <https://legiscan.com/IN/text/SB0144/2020>, legislation proposed during the latest session of the Indiana General Assembly which would allow KFTF to create a subsidiary corporation that could receive charitable contributions with favorable tax treatment for donors. The current plan is to discuss the legislation with DCS and the Governor's office in late summer or early fall to prepare for presentation in the next legislative session.

Chair Shelton encouraged members to review the proposed legislation and make suggestions for changes. She also asked for a volunteer to chair the Communication / Advocacy committee. Jeni O'Malley agreed to serve.

There was a discussion of the need for the nominating committee to prepare a slate of officers for the new year and for a decision on whether to hold the annual meeting in August or in October. Candes will contact Laura Smith-Wynn about her willingness to serve as chair of the Board Development committee, the group responsible for nominations. All were encouraged to volunteer to serve as officers and/or make recommendations to the nominating group.

Prevent Child Abuse Indiana Report:

Sharon Pierce of Prevent Child Abuse Indiana (PCAIN) gave some background information on the Villages and PCAIN and reported on PCAIN's partnership with Transform Consulting and the Indiana Minority Health Coalition to prepare a framework for prevention of child abuse and neglect in Indiana (under contract with DCS). Candes noted that Doug Weinberg would be our representative on the statewide advisory group for the effort.

Sandy Runkle then provided an extensive report on PCAIN activities in recent months following the outline of the informal report to the Board submitted on June 12 (see attachment 2). She emphasized the non-traditional methods PCAIN was

using to reach potential reporters of abuse and neglect at a time when the regular reporters (e.g., teachers, day care operators) were not in contact with children. She indicated that virtual events were being well-attended and that PCAIN had purchased more slots for online Darkness to Light / Stewards of Children training. She reminded members of the online events to come in PCAIN's 2020 Signature Event series. She mentioned specifically the event on June 26 at 10:30 Eastern entitled "Left to their own devices: Increasing awareness and guidance regarding youth and technology" by Dr. Jim Schroeder.

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_K_wYH7R8SnSM-QfpC2YdJw?fbclid=IwAR2a90h2-T-d5_m2sZY5gLWm-W0yz3smGW4Jjy4gsvD5x7rCPSU8JnJuk-Q

Sandy noted that work with Andrew Campbell on the correlation of child abuse and neglect with domestic violence and animal abuse was continuing. Data collection, preparation of research papers, and meetings with local animal abuse officials have continued at a steady pace.

Discussion – “Using the Essentials for Childhood Framework to Promote Great Childhoods for All”:

Participants noted that the presentation by Dr. Bart Klika of Prevent Child Abuse America provided an excellent summary of recent research on the impact of abuse and neglect. The framework for the presentation, the CDC's Essentials for Childhood are as follows:

Goal One – Raise awareness and commitment to promote safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments for all children

Goal Two – Use data to inform actions

Goal Three – Create the context for healthy children and families through norms change and programs

Goal Four – Create the context for healthy children and families through policies.

Discussants noted that the goals provide a good framework for action by KFTF in the future. They said that KFTF might want to encourage and fund special data gathering efforts (e.g., ACE's data) (Goal Two) and special communication and messaging efforts to change norms (Goal Three). Efforts to promote family-friendly public policies (Goal Four) like enhanced family leave policies and Earned Income Tax Credit sign-up promotions – shown by recent research to reduce the incidence of abusive head trauma – might also be considered in addition to the usual awareness efforts (Goal One).

Reminders: Candes encouraged board members to review the Klika materials and the video of PCA's Melissa Merrick that she sent recently with the meeting notice. She also reminded board members to let her know which committee(s) they wished to serve on and to submit any recommendations they may have for new board members and officers for next year. She indicated that board meetings are currently scheduled for August 20, October 15, and December 17, all from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM (Eastern). She asked members to mark their calendars now.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM.