

**TEXAS COUNCIL OF CHILD WELFARE BOARDS, INC.**

**Lady Bird Lake Room, Wyndham Garden Hotel  
Austin, Texas  
Minutes of April 3, 2014-Full Board**

President Nancy Preston called the Texas Council of Child Welfare Boards, Inc. to order at 9:00 a.m., welcoming the board members.

Patsy Baggett determined that a quorum was established, with all regions except Region 3 being represented by the following delegates:

Region 1: Anna Rigler  
Region 2: Patsy Baggett  
Region 3: None  
Region 4: Nancy Preston  
Region 5: Tim Allen  
Region 6: Jeanette Elis  
Region 7: Jeanne Stamp, David Williams, David Woodberry  
Region 8: Frank Tapia  
Region 9: Noemi Samaniego  
Region 10: Vicki Maline  
Region 11: Shannon Guerrero  
Members-at-large: David Cory, Sandy Hilliard, Joel Levine  
Executive Director: Shannon Ireland

Minutes of the January meeting were read and approved.

**Treasurer's Report**-David Williams presented the report. Current Chase Bank account balance as of April 1, 2014  
**Total Cash Balance=\$39,061.54**

- **CAPTA-\$2,212.33**
- **Council-\$5,136.93**
- **Discretionary Funds-\$17,071.20**
- **License Plate-\$14,641.08 (FY13 \$10,819.49, FY14 Q1 & Q2 \$3,821.59 received payments)**

**Total Available to Council=\$43,975.45**

**Pending reimbursements include:**

- **Council-\$515.32 January 2014**
- **Council-\$131.27 February 2014**
- **CAPTA-\$2133.66 January 2014**
- **CAPTA-\$2133.66 February 2104**

**Total Receivables=\$4,913.91 (Yet to be paid)**

All billings through February 2014 have been sent to the DFPS office. March billing will be sent in the first week of April. The executive director has been paid through April 1, 2014 on her part time salary. The PCAT conference receipts have been received, and reimbursements for TCCWB members attending the conference will be paid the first week of April. Following the change to Quicken books, \$117.00 per quarter will be required in order to allow Shannon Ireland and David Williams access to log in to Quicken. Mr. Williams reported that the Council is right in line with budget as far as expenditures. A budget is to be developed for discretionary funds. Included in the budget will be funds for the awards ceremony and luncheon to be held in September. Total expenses for the 2013 TCCWB Awards Ceremony came to \$2,001.67. Money received towards the cost included CWB donations-\$625.00, DFPS staff-\$115.00, and Council Contract

paid \$528.00 for a total of \$1,268.00. George Johnson was hired as booker/auditor. David Cory stated that the reimbursement forms need to be updated to reflect the current state reimbursement rate. The Treasurer's report was approved.

**Executive Director's Report:** Shannon Ireland reported that members of the TCCWB participated in the Partners in Prevention Conference in Round Rock, TX in January. David Cory secured an exhibitor's table with Region 7 assisting at the table. The PCAT conference was held in San Antonio in March. TCCWB members attending the conference provided training opportunities for Child Welfare Boards through a special Child Welfare Board track. Power point training as well as handouts are available on the website. Wednesday, April 9, 2014 was set as Go Blue Day, and events to be held throughout the state are listed on the help&hope.org website. The Executive Committee Summer Planning Session will be held in Austin July 9 and 10, 2014. As of February 1, 2014, Lisa Black is the new leader of Child Protective Services. She has a 28-year history with CPS. Mrs. Black succeeds Audrey Deckinga, who retired December 1, 2013. Volunteer value of time has increased to \$22.57. Charitable organizations can use this estimate to quantify the value of time provided by volunteers. Per the state office as of January 1, 2014, this can be used to record the value of the Child Welfare Boards volunteer time as well. Also as of January 1, 2014, insurance for former foster youth has changed, providing many of the youth who had previously aged out with insurance. Ms Ireland stated that the short video ReMoved will be viewed during the Full Board Meeting on Thursday. The film is the story of a young girl removed from her home and placed in foster care.

**Old Business:** Website redesign-the TCCWB agreed to pay up to \$1000.00 to Willard Interactive for consultation while working on the website. Each committee will complete a questionnaire regarding the website and how it pertains to their committee. Results will be compiled in order to accomplish the objectives set forth by TWCCB. CPS is requesting that the website be able to disseminate information to those who will be using it. Three main considerations include who will use the website, what are the goals of the website, and what does the Council want the website to communicate.

President Preston invited the new members to the board to join a committee of their choosing to serve on. She then reviewed training information that was currently available on the website.

**Committee Breakout:**

Education  
Advocacy  
Resource Development  
Awards

**Video Presentation-ReMoved**

**Normalcy for Foster Children-**Jenny Henson of DFPS discussed normalcy issues for children in foster care. The state office develops policies and procedures regarding the concept of normalcy, which suggests that the legal status of who has custody of a child should not impact normalcy in day to day life, preventing the child from doing normal child activities. The Prudent Parent Standard is a guide for foster parents to apply when determining whether to allow a child to participate in activities such as extracurricular activities, forming friendships, working, etc. Also, pictures can be taken of foster children as long as they are not identified as such. Other areas included in normalcy are basic living and social skills, connections to family, religion, organizations, school, as well as recreational activities, and travel. Mrs. Henson addressed factors determining level of supervision and rights of children and youth in foster care to participate in activities such as Boy/Girl Scouts, sports, leadership conferences, as well as other activities that do not involve unreasonable risks. Finally, she provided suggestions as to how Child Welfare Boards can help provide normalcy for foster youth. Some of these included providing scholarships to YMCA programs, parent's night out, tickets to events, helping with costs of school trips, summer camps, supplies. It was suggested that local boards be very specific with the CPS staff as to what supports they are willing to provide.

**Reports of Standing Committees:** Education-Jeanne Stamp reported that the PCAT conference in San Antonio was well attended. TCCWB had six tracks and two Child Welfare Board trainings. There were a number of Community Initiative Specialists in attendance, and a wide variety of knowledge was shared among regions. During the breakout sessions, the committee focused on issues pertaining to goals the Education Committee would like to address regarding the website. This included identifying the audience-local, regional, and state board members, CPS staff, educators, general public,

and aging out youth; what the committee would like the website to provide-training, resources, upcoming events and activities, a calendar, forms for boards to use, and downloadable materials and brochures; a section for statistics, links to searches, and a section for Frequently Asked Questions; and finally how the website may be of use to TCCWB in recruitment, training, prevention studies, and prevention awareness. Advocacy-Joel Levine reported for the committee. He recommended that the TCCWB website have tabs with links to various sources of information. Some suggested tabs and websites include the following: Advocacy Tab 101 for advocacy training/information-[www.nn4youth.org](http://www.nn4youth.org); [www.tnoys.org](http://www.tnoys.org); [www.onevoicetexas.org](http://www.onevoicetexas.org); Statistics/data Tab-[www.cactx.org](http://www.cactx.org); Child Abuse Prevention Month Tab, and Advocacy Alerts Tab-[www.TEXPROTECTS.org](http://www.TEXPROTECTS.org). It was also suggested to have regional tabs with a local contact from each region, and finally a fund-raising tab. Resource Development-Vicki Maline and David Williams reported on this committee's goals for the website. They suggested that the starting point is the homepage and what should be on that homepage. Mrs. Maline reported on tray liners in fast food establishments to be used during November National Adoption Month. The tray liners would be sponsored by TCCWB. A sample has been sent to the legal department for approval. If that is approved, the tray liners will also be considered for use during April Child Abuse Prevention Month. Fast food establishments to be considered for tray liners are McDonald's, Wendy's, and Burger King. The committee also introduced the topic of placing a list of approved vendors for promotions. Following discussion, it was decided that a list of vendors used by TCCWB could be on the website without providing endorsements from the board. Awards Committee-Jeanette Elias reported that the date for the awards ceremony was set for September 12, 2014. The committee would like to have a speaker for the luncheon, and Commissioner Specia was one suggestion. Plans are being finalized for the luncheon and ceremony.

Following committee reports, the meeting was adjourned and will reconvene on Friday.

#### **Friday, April 4, 2014-Full Board and Committee Meetings:**

President Preston called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. following the establishment of a quorum. The following members were present-Region 1-Anna Rigler, Region 2-Patsy Baggett, Region 3-None, Region 4-Sandy Hilliard and Nancy Preston, Region 5-Tim Allen, Region 6-Jeanette Elias, Region 7-David Williams and David Woodberry, Region 8-Frank Tapia, Region 9-Noemi Samaniego, Region 10-Vicki Maline, and Region 11-Janet Stansbury.

**New Business:** Issues for discussion-Pocket Pals handouts need to be ordered by individual boards and not TCCWB. CPS offices can copy training materials for local boards also. David Williams asked how much money TCCWB has budgeted for supplies and promotional items. This comes from the contract discretionary fund. Clarification was given on questions from local boards regarding foster parents being on child welfare boards. The foster parent handbook provided by CPS states that foster parents can be liaisons, but not voting members due the relationship with the agency and voting on monetary matters. Adoptive parents can serve in a voting capacity. The date for the July summer planning session for the Executive Board was set. The meeting will be July 9 & 10, 2014 in Austin at the Habitat Suites. Mrs. Preston stated that once the website is up and running with only maintenance requirements, TCCWB will need to decide on another project. Suggestions for projects included providing scholarships for Foster youth and providing the Play It Safe Curriculum in schools, beginning with one grade at a time, grade PreK-6 appropriate. David Cory suggested that we consider becoming a partner with the Women's Center of Tarrant County in order to get a discount for the curriculum materials. Blue Cross/Blue Shield was also proposed as a possible source for a grant to fund the program.

Motion: Tim Allen moved and it was seconded that David Cory begin negotiations with The Women's Center of Tarrant County to examine the possibility of purchasing the Play It Safe child abuse prevention program to be used by local boards in the school systems. The motion was approved.

Shannon Ireland suggested that the TCCWB could provide grants to cover expenses in communities where there are no active boards. This money could be used to provide clothing vouchers, summer camps, back to school drives, scholarships for summer sports activities or YMCA memberships. A standardized form would be needed for requests.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. by the president.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Anna Rigler  
Secretary