

**Human Services Levy Review Committee Meeting Minutes for  
Franklin County Children Services  
May 2, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER—CHAIR**

The Human Services Levy Review Committee (HSLRC) meeting was called to order by Jerry Friedman on Thursday, May 2, 2024, at 11:04 A.M.

**ROLL CALL**

- HSLRC members present: Jerry Friedman; Michael Curtin; Jim Bowman; Rose Handon, Ph.D.; and Zachary Talarek.
- HSLRC members absent: Jesse Hemphill; and Nana Watson.
- Office of Management and Budget (OMB): Rachel Buske, Budget Analyst 3; and Madeline Gresham, Budget Analyst 2.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Friedman stated that the first item on the agenda was the approval of the April 4, 2024, and April 18, 2024, meeting minutes. Hearing no edits or comments, Mr. Curtin moved to approve the minutes and was seconded by Mr. Talarek. The motion carried by voice vote.

**LEVY SCENARIO UPDATE**

Ms. Buske provided an update of the 2024 HSLRC Projection, with new information based on actual revenue and expenditures through April. She noted that the 1<sup>st</sup> half settlement came in 0.8% lower than last year and that Board & Care expenditures are down from last year. She stated that it is too early to adjust either in the model and that the decrease in revenue and the decrease in Board & Care are comparable in size and basically cancel each other out. She said that OMB will look at the May actuals before the last meeting, but for now, she continues to support the 2024 Projection and the 2025-2029 Levy Model.

Ms. Buske indicated that OMB will meeting with FCCS fiscal staff to discuss YTD actuals and the model, and Mr. Friedman stated that this was a good idea.

Mr. Bowman noted that the ending cash balance in the model is close to the recommended cash balance and asked how it is handled if an agency goes below the recommended cash balance. Ms. Buske and Mr. Talarek explained that the Auditor can give an agency a cash advance prior to

settlement and that this has occurred (infrequently) in the past with other agencies. Mr. Bowman noted that this provides FCCS with an incentive to be fiscally responsible.

Mr. Friedman further opined that hopefully the increased spending in prevention will lead to lower Board & Care costs over time.

The Committee members all support a 10-year 1.9 mill renewal with a 0.6 mill increase pending further review of the projections and recommendations in the report.

### **DISCUSSION OF FCCS FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS**

The Committee discussed the follow-up questions and responses that had been received from FCCS. The Committee requested that OMB send them the revised FCCS Strategic Plan once it is completed.

### **HSLRC OPERATIONAL AND PROGRAMMATIC RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr. Friedman requested feedback from the Committee as to the programmatic recommendations to include in the report. A robust discussion ensued, and the Committee agreed to recommend:

1. Continue and enhance proactive community engagement, emphasizing two-way communication with served communities and an increase in FCCS leadership visibility. (As a part of this strategy FCCS should work to recruit and retain a diverse workforce that matches the children served).
2. Provide a data driven update on the impact of new or proposed services at the mid-levy review, including: Kinship Stipends, the MOU with Aging, the expansion of prevention services.
3. Pursue additional revenue and resources beyond cash, such as: ways to increase congregate care reimbursement, prevention services funding, etc.

### **LEVY REPORT OUTLINE**

Ms. Buske provided a draft levy report outline and explained that OMB has revised the content and the presentation for the new report. Mr. Friedman recommended that members review the draft outline again and reach out with any feedback over the next few weeks as OMB begins preparing the report.

### **NEXT STEPS—OMB**

Ms. Buske indicated that she will send a draft levy report to the Committee by May 17<sup>th</sup>.

She also asked the Committee if either September 10<sup>th</sup> or September 24<sup>th</sup> will work for the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board of Franklin County mid-levy review. The Committee agreed that both dates work as of now. Ms. Buske will reach out to members who were not present and send a calendar invite.

Mr. Friedman noted that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 23, 2024, from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

**CLOSING REMARKS—CHAIR**

Mr. Friedman had no closing remarks.

With no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:51 P.M.

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These minutes are a general summary of the Human Services Levy Review Committee meeting on Thursday, May 2, 2024.

Submitted by:

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Rachel Buske  
OMB Analyst 3  
Office of Management and Budget