

**Human Services Levy Review Committee Meeting Minutes for
Franklin County Children Services
May 23, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER—CHAIR

The Human Services Levy Review Committee (HSLRC) meeting was called to order by Jerry Friedman on Thursday, May 23, 2024, at 11:05 A.M.

ROLL CALL

- HSLRC members present: Jerry Friedman; Michael Curtin; Jim Bowman; Rose Handon, Ph.D.; Nana Watson; and Zak Talarek.
- HSLRC members absent: Jesse Hemphill.
- 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 May 2, 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.

DISCUSSION OF LEVY REPORT

Mr. Friedman commented that he liked the new report format and style. He opined that the report did a good job of presenting agency information before leading into the Committee's recommendations and the financial analysis that was used to develop the millage recommendation.

A robust discussion on the levy report draft ensued. Members offered suggested edits with a focus on strengthening the recommendations section.

The Committee requested that staff strengthen the sections as they relate to:

- Recommending that FCCS identify and capture data necessary to evaluate new initiatives while also reviewing existing initiatives from time to time so that they are still providing value and meeting objectives.
- Recommending that FCCS continue to work to enhance its communications and community engagement with a focus on working to include the many diverse communities

that live in Franklin County and adapting its strategies to reach non-English speakers and recognize the variety of cultural traditions that exist.

Mr. Curtain opined that the report was the best and most comprehensive report since he has been on the Committee. He referenced the COTA LinkUS sales tax request that was just approved to be on the ballot. It would be an increase of .75%, which was higher than anticipated. He noted that he appreciated that the Committee referenced that they were very judicious with the recommended millage in light of other tax increase proposals.

Dr. Handon asked OMB staff if this would change any part of the FCCS review process moving forward. They stated it would not.

Mr. Friedman noted that the Committee had assumed that COTA would be placing a tax on the ballot and that the review had taken that into account.

Hearing no additional feedback from the Committee, Ms. Buske offered a special thank you to Ms. Gresham for all her hard work redesigning the format of the report and creating its new look and visualizations.

Mr. Friedman asked for a motion to approve the report (pending stylistic edits) and the recommendations it contains. Ms. Watson moved to approve the recommendations and it was seconded by Mr. Bowman. All members voted aye, and the motion carried.

LETTER TO ACCOMPANY REPORT

The Committee reviewed the draft letter for the Franklin County Board of Commissioners that will accompany the report. Mr. Friedman asked that it be amended to include a thank you to OMB staff for its hard work during the levy review.

The Committee agreed to this change and decided to draft a second letter to the Commissioners recognizing the need for agencies to improve their outreach and engagement efforts with a focus on inclusivity, working to connect with those it might be overlooking.

Mr. Talarek stated that staff will look to draft that letter after this levy review has ended. He also noted that staff will be revising the checklist that they send to agencies as to what they want an agency to include in its levy request. The update will include a request for information on agency staff demographics as well as information on how they address racism as a public health crisis and how they provide inclusive engagement.

NEXT STEPS—OMB

Ms. Buske walked the Committee through the next steps in the process. OMB will update the draft to include the revisions discussed during the meeting. She asked that if the Committee has any additional edits or feedback, to please send them to staff by the 31st at the latest. OMB will send the revised draft by June 7th at the latest.

The final meeting of the FCCS levy review will occur on June 13th at 11am. At that time the Committee will be able to finalize any last edits. She will then send the draft to the Public Affairs team for review. OMB will finalize the report and it will be submitted electronically to the Commissioners, County Administration, FCCS staff, and the HSLRC by June 20th, with hard copies being provided on June 25th.

Ms. Buske noted that the Request for Certification of Estimated Resources resolution would be presented at the Board of Commissioners (BOC) Briefing Session on Thursday, June 27, 2024, as well as at the BOC General Session on Tuesday, July 2, 2024. Ms. Buske also noted that the Ballot Language resolution would be presented at the BOC Briefing Session on Thursday, July 11, 2022, as well as at the BOC General Session on Tuesday, July 23, 2022.

Mr. Talarek will present the resolution for approval on the Committee's behalf and Ms. Buske will send the Committee members the necessary information on how they can attend the call if they would like to do so.

Ms. Buske explained that the dates after the last meeting are tentative and could change. Once both resolutions are approved, the BOC Clerk will take certified copies of the resolutions to the Board of Elections by the filing deadline of August 7th. Election day this year is on November 5th.

Ms. Buske noted that the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board of Franklin County Mid-Levy Review is scheduled for September 10, 2024, from 1-3pm.

Mr. Friedman noted that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 13, 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 12:02 P.M.

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These minutes are a general summary of the Human Services Levy Review Committee meeting on Thursday, May 23, 2024.

Submitted by:

Rachel Buske
OMB Analyst 3
Office of Management and Budget