

IMAGINE! BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

April 27, 2010

Eldridge Room, Coal Creek

7:15PM

Present:

Board:

Present

Whitney Blair, Diane Carroll, Bob Davis, Scott Doyen, Donna Fairchild, Lisa Fiero, Joe Hansen, Annette Higgins, Kevin Nelson, Jerry Rudy, Natalie Smutzler, Bill Sabin, Susan White, Mark Zentner,

Absent

John Frisbie,

Staff: Mark Emery, John Nevins, Greg Wellems, Jodi Walters, Leslie Brossman, Julie Hartman, Tom Riley, Kevin Harding Jan Rasmussen, Caroline Siegfried

**Election of
New Board
Member**

Mark Zentner asked for a motion to elect Scott Doyen to the Imagine! Board of Directors. Annette Higgins made a motion to elect Scott Doyen and Joe Hansen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes:

Joe Hansen made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 31, 2010, meeting, Bob Davis seconded the motion. Minutes approved as written.

**Finance
Committee
Report**

There was no Finance Committee Meeting this month.

**Services
Committee
Report**

There was no Services Committee Meeting this month.

**Foundation
Report**

There was no Foundation Report this month.

**President's
Report**

On May 25, 2010, at 6:00PM, Imagine! will host a public forum before the board meeting.

On May 18th, Mark Zentner and Whitney Blair will visit the Foothills Gateway CCB Board of Directors meeting in Fort Collins.

The Executive Committee passed a resolution to allow John Nevins and Mark Emery to become signatories on a line of credit account.

CEO Report General News

The Long Bill is progressing through the Legislature with little debate. On top of our Medicaid rate cuts of 4.5% (2.5% this current year, and 2% beginning in July, and our 4.5% cut in Family Support Services Program, we are also expecting a 9.5% cut in Early Intervention (\$171,600) while the projected number of children eligible will increase by 2.1%.

The other legislative bills we are tracking, have settled down to have little projected effects on services for people and our operations. SB 121 is the creation of a Legislative Oversight Committee to make recommendations regarding services for persons with developmental disabilities and autism was postponed indefinitely, and later rewritten and introduced as a Resolution. This essentially suggests that the Colorado Developmental Disabilities Planning Council will include the recommendations of last year's Autism Commission in its purview. SB 114 sponsored by Rep. Weissmann and Sen. Carroll is calling for new levels of public transparency of all government contracts and records associated with the contracts. Our work with Rep. Weissmann has removed all of the risks to us, and he is now in negotiation with the Senate sponsor. We are also tracking a bill that will eliminate Early Intervention licensure as a Department of Public Health and Environment requirement and allowing for a one year study to determine if this same licensure requirement will hold for some Supported Living Services. Our position, of course is that we are already over-regulated for these services, and we do not need one more state department regulating the services; adding costs, potential conflict, and complexity.

Division for Developmental Disabilities, DHS, and HCPF

The Department of Human Services and Department of Health Care Policy and Financing have established a task force that is studying the issue of the potential Conflict of Interest inherent in the service system in Colorado. They expect that the task force will propose to the Legislative Audit Committee, resolutions for conflicts by the end of May 2010. This issue has been documented and studied as far back as the mid 1980's and each time has resulted in maintaining a system that has worked for people. As I have stated before, many in our service system are anxious about the potential outcomes of the task force – mainly the risk of literal separation of case management from service provision. As the task force has progressed, the agenda set forth by the Departments has become less clear. Note that the system within which we operate is set in statute 27-10.5, and any significant changes would need to be addressed through legislation in 2011. Simple conflict of interest mitigation can be handled through rules. This is where the agenda of the Departments is unclear. This initiative by the state could have significant effects and

consequently the most important item for us to attend to on behalf of those we serve.

There are plenty of other important issues and unanswered questions at the Division. Included are the June 2010 projected \$13 million cost overruns in Comprehensive Services, \$2 million cost overrun in Targeted Case Management, and projected \$7 million under expenditures in Supported Living Services. This questionable management of funds is not driven by the economy, but rather driven by the results of the newly introduced (7/2010) Medicaid Waivers and subsequent billing and accountability system. I have argued that the focus of attention by the Division should be on repairing the design of the Waivers and billing system since, if left unchecked, this problem will only be exacerbated in the years to come. The Division argued back that this is not their top priority (see paragraph above) and that they need to focus on how to exit this current fiscal year and how to continue to manage their bottom line for next year. The options available to the Division to take corrective action for next year are troubling to us. One option is to further reduce rates for Comprehensive services, or reduce state general funded programs like Family Support Services, or simply reducing the Supported Living Services line allocation and moving it to Comprehensive services. Again, none of the issue is driven by the economy, and none of these solutions is good for consumers of services. John Nevins has been asked by the Division to join selected other finance gurus to help resolve their issue.

Division of Child Welfare

Communication with some state other offices remains a challenge. Child Welfare is among them. The funding for the kids in foster care is managed by counties, regulated by Child Welfare of the Department of Human Services, and billed to Health Care Policy and Financing the responsible party for Medicaid in Colorado. Even though John and Jodi negotiated a reasonable rate for our group centers, Child Welfare is refusing to approve PAR requests written by the county case managers on behalf of the kids enrolled in our services. It remains unclear why this is the case, and our attempts understand the disapprovals have been unsuccessful. It is possible the issue could be remotely related to the conflict of interest issue under review by the Departments, however if this is true, then Child Welfare has jumped the gun on mitigation at the expense of the kids and providers.

I continue to participate on the Department of Human Services, Policy Advisory Committee task force for Child Welfare kids with DD. (The name is actually longer, but I thought I would spare you) The task force is charged with studying the system of support for families of kids who are at risk of out of home placement, or in out of home placement, and proposing solutions to improve the system of support. The draft proposal is nearly complete and has been accepted and supported by DHS Policy Advisory Committee, and will then go to the Director of DHS, Karen Beye. The proposal will suggest that the system move from Child Welfare to the Division for Developmental

Disabilities and take advantage of the knowledge and capabilities of the CCB system. Interestingly enough, this is in contradiction to the likely results of the Conflict of Interest task Force.

Imagine!

We hope to have one-time pool of resources available for limited staff bonuses by May 2010. As part of the work completed on this initiative this year, it is clear we need better planning for staff compensation. Mia, John, and I will work toward a plan to prepare for better compensation options for next year. We are beginning the budget building process for 2010 ó 2011. As part of this we are looking at options to possibly redirect some local funds to the growing list of adults on the wait list for services.

I joined other not-for-profits in Boulder County in a meeting with the County Commissioners to discuss any potential ballot measures for the next elections. Even though early childhood education was identified as a broad need, my gut feeling is that commissioners will probably not introduce a similar ballot measure this election ó but then again, what do I know.

Adjourn: Bob Davis made a motion to adjourn. Joe Hansen seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:00PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Frisbie, Secretary