



Minutes of the Meeting of the  
**Board of Directors**  
 Eckerd Community Alternatives  
 Eckerd 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
 Clearwater, Florida  
 Tuesday, October 28, 2014

	BOARD MEMBERS	OTHER ATTENDEES
Attendees:	Nancy Nichols	Tony Moore
	Daniel Boon	Melanie Owens
	Glenn Waters	Ron Zychowski
		Will Jones
		Pam Griffith
Excused:	Ray Ferrara	Randy Luecke
	David Dennis	Danni Brewster - DCF
		Brian Bostick
		Lorita Shirley
Recorder:		Laura Hunt, Secretary

The Board meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Mrs. Nancy Nichols.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mrs. Nichols presented the minutes of the June 25, 2014 Eckerd Community Alternatives Pasco/Pinellas (ECA6) Board meeting for approval with corrections. Mrs. Nichols asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Ken O’Herron gave the motion and Mr. Daniel Boon seconded the motion.

Mrs. Nichols asked if we had any comments from the public.

With no comments from members of the public Mrs. Nichols asked Mr. Brian Bostick to give the operations update.

**Operations Report**

Mr. Bostick updated the Board on the operating report indicating the scorecard report. Mr. Bostick indicated that the Board packet has been updated to include performance information for FY 13/14 for their review. ECA-6 performance for FY 13/14 was the best performance Eckerd has had since obtaining the contract in July 2008. This performance is due to the commitment of the ECA Directors, Support Center staff, Quality Management, Finance staff, Lorita Shirley and Ron Zychowski. All of the measures were green except for Measure 3 which is the percentage of children reunified who were reunified in 12 months. Despite not meeting the measure ECA-6’s

performance was ranked in the top 10 out of 20 Lead Agencies in the state of Florida and is the best performance ever on this measure.

Mr. Bostick went on to discuss the FY 14/15 performance for the first quarter. To the right of the color codes we have included the numerator and the denominator that performance is based on for your review. There are two measures that are currently red in the board packet. Measure 3 under Contract Measures, Measure 3 is the Number of Children with finalized adoptions between 07/01/14 and 06/30/15. The target for the fiscal year is 318 adoptions. To meet the goal of 318 adoptions ECA-6 needs to finalize 27 adoptions per month or 81 adoptions per quarter. As of October 27, 2014 ECA-6 has finalized 71 adoptions which is behind target. ECA-6 is projecting to finalize 159 adoptions by the end of December which would put ECA-6 on target to meet the goal of 318 adoptions. Weekly performance discussions and the weekly Data Call are countermeasures used to drive performance.

The next measure that is red is Measure 5 under our Self Imposed Measures. This measure was established by Eckerd to help ensure positive outcomes for children and families that we serve. Measure 5 is the reduction in the number of children in licensed care by 5 percent. ECA-6 has experienced an increase in the number of children entering Licensed OHC during FY14/15 in comparison to FY13/14. ECA-6 ended FY 13/14 with 736 children in licensed foster care and there are currently 769 children in licensed foster care. This increase can be attributed to an average of 15 more children per month are entering the system of care so far this fiscal year. Performance is being addressed weekly during performance calls and Data Calls. The final chart is in reference to Independent Living that was included at the request of the board. All of these measures are in the green.

Mr. Bostick asked the Board if they had any questions about the performance measures.

With no more questions from the Board or the public, Mr. Bostick concluded his Operations report.

### **Community & Prevention Report**

Mrs. Nichols asked Ms. Jennifer Silva to give the Community & Prevention report. Below are a few of the events highlighted during Ms. Silva's report.

#### **Camp for Champs 2014 – July 30, 31 and August 1, 2014**

This year's Camp for Champs in Circuit 6 was for teen girls, ages 13-16, with 10-12 total youth participating. The camp had an "Empowerment" theme. On day one, the three-day camp featured a Museum trip/Lunch day followed by a visit to Painting with a Twist. Day two featured yoga, a group lunch, and then a swim in the afternoon. Day three had a Health/Mind/Beauty theme and included hair styles at a Pinellas Park Salon and a photo session. The Camp for Champs is presented in partnership with DCF with support from Angels Against Abuse, Lutheran Services of Florida, PEHMS, Pinellas County Schools, and Directions for Living.

Tampa Bay Rays Home Run Club – April through September 2014

The fifth season of the Home Run Club came to an end in September. This season, the Rays doubled the size of the suite, allowing nearly 100 foster children and their families to participate. Home Run Club “team members” were each treated to around 12 baseball games in the specially outfitted suite, a Team day on the field during which they got to meet players and get autographs, and an end-of-the-season group birthday celebration featuring the Rays Team (cheerleaders), DJ Kitty and a giant birthday cake.

#ItCANbedone Campaign Kick-Off Event – October 28, 2014

This DCF social media campaign highlights successes of Florida’s foster youth and former foster youth in pursuing their educational, professional and life goals. Developed in partnership with former and current foster youth, the campaign aims to engage local businesses, organizations and communities to rally around foster youth to support and empower them in achieving their goals. Eckerd’s kick-off event will feature comments from independent living youth and stakeholders from both sides of the Bay. The event takes place at the Family Place in Tampa from 11am to 1pm.

National Adoption Day Event, Pasco County – November 7, 2014

Pasco Unified Family Court Judges from the Sixth Judicial Circuit will clear their calendars on this day to preside over adoption hearings that give children in foster care a new forever family. A ceremony to celebrate the adoption finalizations will include refreshments, gift bags for participating families and entertainment for the children. Local media is expected to attend and cover the event.

National Adoption Day Event, Pinellas County – November 14, 2014

Pinellas Unified Family Court Judges from the Sixth Judicial Circuit will clear their calendars on this day to preside over adoption hearings that give children in foster care a new forever family. A ceremony to celebrate the adoption finalizations will include refreshments, gift bags for participating families and entertainment for the children.

With no questions from the Board or the public Ms. Silva concluded her report.

**ECA Finance Report**

Mrs. Nichols asked Mrs. Pam Griffith to give the Board the ECA Finance report.

Mrs. Griffith gave the Board an overview of the August financials stating that Eckerd is currently projecting a positive variance to budget of \$1.3 million for FY2015. Mrs. Griffith highlighted the below:

Independent Living

Currently, Eckerd is projecting Independent Living to basically meet plan. The new legislation regarding extended foster care went into effect January 1, 2014. Since Extended Foster Care is still relatively new, we will continue to participate in statewide discussions to monitor participation and the budget.

Out-of-Home Care

Out-of-Home Care is expected to have a positive variance to plan of \$1.3M. Daily OHC costs are budgeted at \$34,840, the August daily cost was \$30,892 and the current daily cost is \$31,253. There has been an increase of \$156 in the daily cost and 5 children since the beginning of the fiscal year. Since this is our most volatile expense, we are monitoring daily both operationally and financially.

Maintenance Adoption Subsidies

Based on current funding and the contractual adoption target of 318, a \$1.9 million shortfall in maintenance adoption subsidies is anticipated. However, we are expecting to be fully funded: DCF has held back \$5.8M in funding which will be distributed later this fiscal year; the amount held in reserve will not be sufficient to fully fund all the Lead Agencies so once again, additional appropriation of MAS funding by the legislature will be necessary. Mr. Ferrara inquired about the change in Independent Living services since January 1, 2014. Services are no longer an entitlement. Eligible youth must meet specific goals: to stay in foster care past the age of 18; to receive assistance for an apartment; and to receive educational funds.

ECA-Pinellas/Pasco will continue to monitor out-of-home care placements and costs; be pro-active in the extended foster care workgroups and begin discussions on how to approach the anticipated shortfall in MAS.

With no more questions from the Board or the public Mrs. Griffith concluded his report.

With no more questions from the public or the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Laura Hunt  
Secretary