

Connections for Independent Living

Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 28, 2021 @11:00 a.m.

Attendance in the Meeting:

President-Mary Jo Brockshus, Secretary-Elizabeth Mahoney, Member-Kate Howell, Member-Lou Steinberg, Member-Erica Barraza, Director IL Services - Josh Fulenwider, Community Outreach Coordinator - Jessica Standiferd, Executive Associate-Carol Cochrane

Absent: Executive Director-Rochelle Miller

President Brockshus called the meeting to order at 11:23 a.m.

The board members stated that after the board meeting on June 23, 2021 they went into executive session to discuss, plan and implement the Executive Director's review.

Director Steinberg motioned to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2021 Board of Directors meeting and Treasurer Mahoney seconded. Vote taken. Motion approved unanimously.

Financial Report

The finance committee met the prior week to review the financial reports. The financial statements were in order. A significant concern is the past due amount with UNC. Connections attorney Brad Hoffman and ED Miller are in process of conversing with UNC's legal counsel regarding the unpaid balance. Director ILS Services Fulenwider presented the financial reports. Supplies expense is up due to the replacement of computers for staff after the ones purchased at the beginning of the pandemic were not adequate for daily business usage. The monthly professional legal and accounting expenses continue to decrease. Connections is now actively billing for the SEEKS program. The Reeve Foundation Grant funds are being expended on technology and labor.

Operations and Executive Director Report

Director (IL services) Fulenwider delivered the presentation of this report. 80% of the board identifies with a disability. Clifton Strengths will be the next training opportunity. BDO and CDLE audits are complete, BDO final draft was delivered to board members in June. Final draft of the CDLE audit will be available in August. The disability vaccine

funding utilization is expanding to focus on education. Connections is mailing vaccine myths and misconceptions large print postcards to registered voters in the five smaller counties of our catchment area. It is possible that postcards will be mailed to the two larger counties at a later date, if budget becomes available. Part C drawdowns are on track. The SEEKS grant is a double blind study. We have our first intervention study participant for SEEKS. This study requires follow-up contacts with intervention study participants every six months for five years. The Independent Living Services department is in the process of purging inactive participants and currently has 424 confirmed active participants with the possibility a few more may still be culled. Prior month service contact numbers were increased due to the vaccine clinic, as every phone call made counted as a contact. This month's service contact number is more realistic for normal activity. The Reeve Foundation Grant is for one year of funding Connect With Friends. If this program is successful and we desire to continue it beyond one year a different revenue source will be needed for the second year.

Housing will open the wait list October 1, 2021. As affordable housing is needed, the city of Greeley is discussing a new project titled Weld Village. Connections was not on the initial invite list, but we have inserted ourselves into the discussion in order to address the accessibility aspect of affordable housing. The transitions department has two active transitions in process.

The interpreting department has additional requests coming in. Currently the VRI room is not being utilized as there are internet access issues. Once these are resolved we hope to become an official testing site for ASL certification. 62 computers were given out to consumers in the computer vouchers program. We are pursuing opportunities with other agencies to assist in technology training for those computer recipients with a limited technology knowledge base.

Director Howell left the meeting at 12:17 P.M.

Connections media outreach is continuing to improve. Both social media and the website are receiving more attention from the public. We are no longer utilizing a paid consultant for social media as a Connections employee is now tasked with the social media communications responsibilities.

The Board requests that a specific policy be drafted for their approval stating that the Executive Director has authority to sign contracts and other items on behalf of Connections for Independent Living. It will be drawn up and presented for an electronic vote before the next board meeting.

Old Business

Community Outreach Coordinator Standiferd joined the meeting to present an update of the 35th Anniversary event. Triple S party rental will provide the chairs, tables, and table settings. The bartender is selected. The caterer is not yet chosen as many are previously booked for the 17th of September. Board members suggested possible caterers for the hors d'oeuvres and committed to contacting specific businesses for contributions of alcoholic beverages. Connections is expecting between 100 - 175 invitees to attend the event. Tie Dye is the color scheme. The chosen honorees former Connections ED Beth Danielson, and longtime Connections employee Brad Taylor, will both be attending. Invitations and programs will be printed by Consider It There. The twenty cocktail tables and ten 3 foot rounds will have an assortment of colored linens to further enhance the Tye Dye color scheme. Board members stated that they believed flowers for centerpieces might be appropriate. Attendees may leave their cars in the parking lot and continue to the Friday Fest event. Ms. Standiferd left the meeting at 12:47 P.M.

The nominating committee, having met prior to this board meeting, presented their thoughts. They will try to add Clifton Strengths to the board matrix and hope to have a new member selected by the end of the year. They believe having people volunteer for a committee, which would have a one year term, was a good way to achieve diversification and utilize people with desired talents who would want to support Connections without having to do the commitment of serving on the board. It was stressed that people from outside Greeley/Weld county are most desirable to provide representation of our catchment area.

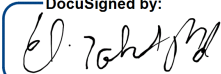
The finance committee reported that they conducted their meeting last week. The items they covered were discussed earlier in this board meeting. They did stress that expenses for most items are incurred before the income for them is received. The budget for next year will be developed with a better understanding of expenses than in any year prior.

The building task force committee has PB Roach Solutions on board. Hard numbers for the initial grant request were provided. They are looking at possible solutions and figuring out how to attack the rest of the building needs. The floor was specifically mentioned.

The next board meeting is on August 25, 2021. It will be in person at the Connections building at 1331 8th Avenue, Greeley, CO. Director Steinberg moved to adjourn the meeting. Secretary Mahoney seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The Board adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, done to the best of my belief and ability, by Carol Cochrane.

APPROVED AT BOARD MEETING held Aug. 25, 2021

DocuSigned by:

Affirmed by: 23CEE8C6941748B... Date: 9/3/2021 | 11:44 AM PDT
Elizabeth Mahoney, Board Secretary