

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Via Teleconference

Monday, November 24, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: Judge James Cecile (President/Development Chair), Eric Caballero, Mitayah Donerlson, Steven Hodgins, Michael LaFlair, Tysha Martin, Christopher Montgomery, Edward Perry, Erich Shafer, Robert Tackman (Finance Chair), Jason Wallace (EEO/ Personnel Chair)

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Paula Freedman, Patricia Usherwood Fitzpatrick, Nicholas DeMartino

MEMBERS ABSENT: Shirley Copes (Planning Chair)

STAFF PRESENT: Carolyn Brown, Jamie Colucci, Todd Goehle, Mandy King, Kathleen O'Brien, Nancy Turo

CALL TO ORDER:

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order by President Cecile at 4:46pm.

ROLL CALL:

President Cecile noted for the record that a quorum was participating either in person or via Zoom.

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Board members observed a moment of silence.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The President requested a motion to approve the minutes of the October Board Meeting;

Ms. Mitayah Donerlson moved to approve the minutes of the October Board Meeting;

Mr. Edward Perry seconded the motion;

The motion carried unanimously.

PROPOSED CORPORATE BUDGET FOR FYE 1/31/2027:

Ms. O'Brien reviewed the Executive Summary and accompanying memo that was distributed to all Board members along with the proposed corporate budget for fiscal year 2/1/2026 to 1/31/2027. She highlighted the year-over-year differences in Revenue and Net Income and Normal Operating Income,

and she noted that a relatively conservative vacancy rate of 7.0% was used to project the Indirect Cost Rate of 26.0%, and that no COLA increase is included in the budget.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Cecile reviewed a proposed Board resolution to authorize the submission of an application for funding from the City of Syracuse Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in the amount of \$32,929 to support the agency's 2026 Let Me Be Great program.

The President requested a motion to approve the Syracuse CDBG application;

Mr. Steve Hodgens moved to approve the Syracuse CDBG application;

Mr. Michael LaFlair seconded the motion;

The motion carried unanimously.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT:

President Cecile asked Mr. Hodgens to present the committee report. Mr. Hodgens reported that HS/EHS Child Development Coach Katie Taylor presented highlights of the Spring 2024/2025 *Teaching Strategies GOLD* Child Development Outcomes assessment data, HS/EHS Director Rebecca Frank presented the annual HS/EHS Program Information Report, and Ms. Brown reviewed the Grants Summary Report. He noted that all of these reports were included in the Board meeting packet.

The President requested a motion to accept the Planning Committee report;

Ms. Tysha Martin moved to accept the Planning Committee report;

Mr. Eric Caballero seconded the motion;

The motion carried unanimously.

EEO/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT:

Mr. Wallace reported that the committee discussed health insurance cost-saving options, the monthly summary of recruitment activity, and the schedule of upcoming paid holidays.

The President requested a motion to accept the EEO/Personnel Committee report;

Mr. Robert Tackman moved to accept the EEO/Personnel Committee report;

Mr. Erich Shafer seconded the motion;

The motion carried unanimously.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Mr. Tackman reported that the committee reviewed and unanimously approved the proposed corporate budget for FYE 1/31/2027. He asked Ms. Turo to present the monthly financial statements.

Ms. Turo reported that the net income before depreciation as of October 31st is (\$135,708) versus a budget of \$260,638, that the net income after depreciation is (\$568,084), and that the net income from normal operations is \$40,447 reflecting timing differences of fixed asset purchases, revenue recognition grants, grants with revenue based on headcount, and donation cost centers. Ms. Turo also reported that as of October 31st the current ratio of assets over liabilities is 165%, the line of credit balance is \$0, the indirect rate is 23.9%, and the Head Start in-kind rate is 26.2%. She noted that the HS/EHS Administrative Costs have been moved to the Supplemental Information Report.

Ms. Turo reported that the Captive Health Insurance reserve balance as of October 31st is \$268,972 versus a target of \$447,000. She noted that for the fiscal year end closing, a reserve of net assets will be set up to cover the shortfall, and that this will not impact the audit findings.

Ms. Turo reported that at the request of the Finance Committee, a draft of a timeline of key events has been included in the monthly report.

The President requested a motion to accept the Finance Committee report;
Mr. Christopher Montgomery moved to accept the Finance Committee report;
Ms. Mitayah Donerlson seconded the motion;
The motion carried unanimously.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT:

The November Development Committee meeting was cancelled because there were no action items or presentations scheduled.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Ms. Brown reported that the 17 Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) officials who were terminated during the federal government shutdown have been reinstated, resolving the risk of continuing operations without a CSBG contract.

Ms. Brown reported that the agency has been in contact with state officials about a proposal to reallocate some weatherization grant funds to directly assist low-income households with utility bills.

Ms. Brown reported that the United Way announced a pause in funding from January 1st through June 30th to review applications, and that they will start a new funding cycle on July 1st. She noted that the impact to affected programs is being examined.

Ms. Brown reported that she is joining the Syracuse Community Health Center Board, as did former Executive Director Joseph O'Hara previously.

Ms. Brown discussed the community response to funding reductions for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, noting that the Food Bank reported that their usage has recently doubled.

Ms. Brown reported on several holiday season events: the reboot of the Give-A-Holiday program, the Senior Nutrition Harvest meals that were served to 1,289 participants, Eastside FRC turkey dinner donations to 30 families through Dot Foods, the BBBS Holiday Party on December 7th at the Destiny Skydeck, the December 15th Board meeting at DEHS, and the paid leave for agency staff from December 24th through January 1st.

Ms. Brown reported that the upcoming annual Board Retreat will be held at the Sumner Head Start site on January 23rd, from at 11:00am through the monthly Board meeting scheduled to start at 4:00pm, with dinner to follow.

Mr. Tackman thanked Ms. Brown and the leadership team for continuous and helpful updates.

PROGRAM REPORTS:

Monthly program updates for Big Brothers Big Sisters, Family Resource Centers, Senior Services, and Head Start/Early Head Start were distributed to all Board members in meeting packets for review.

President Cecile referenced the success stories in the County South FRC and Westside FRC reports.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT: President Cecile adjourned the Board meeting at 5:26pm with wishes to all for a happy Thanksgiving holiday.

Board Resolution Authorizing Submission of Application
Monday, November 24, 2025

Request for Board Resolution authorizing PEACE, Inc. to apply for funding from the City of Syracuse Community Development Block Grant

PEACE, Inc. is applying for funding from the City of Syracuse Community Development Block Grant which requires a Board Resolution authorizing PEACE, Inc. to submit the application for funding.

The following paragraph provides more information on the grant proposal:

For the City of Syracuse Department of Neighborhood and Business Development's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Year 52, PEACE, Inc. requests \$32,929 to support the agency's 2026 Let Me Be Great program.

Let Me Be Great is a youth summer camp housed out of PEACE, Inc.'s Viola G. Chisholm Eastside Family Resource Center which provides low-income children residing in the City of Syracuse with access to local educational, recreational, financial enrichment opportunities. In addition to activities, guest speakers/demonstrations, and field trips, youth are eligible for up to \$250 in participation stipends based on their attendance.

The proposed budget for Let Me Be Great is \$49,824; Community Services Block Grant is funding the remaining \$16,895.

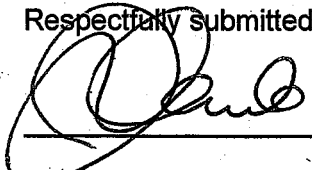
Motion to Approve the Resolution:

Made by: STEVE HODGINS Date: 11/24/25

Seconded by: MICHAEL CAFLIN Date: 11/24/25

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted by:

 Date: 11/24/25

Judge James H. Cecile
Board President

