

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Via Teleconference

Monday, May 19th, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: Judge James Cecile (President/Development Chair), Eric Caballero, Paula Freedman, Steven Hodgins, Tysha Martin, Christopher Montgomery, Edward Perry, Erich Shafer, Robert Tackman (Finance Chair), Patricia Usherwood Fitzpatrick, Jason Wallace

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Shirley Copes (Planning Chair), Nicholas DeMartino, Pastor Phyllis Lee-Williams (EEO/Personnel Chair)

STAFF PRESENT: Carolyn Brown, Jamie Colucci, Todd Goehle, Mandy King, Nancy Turo

GUESTS PRESENT: Jessica Sweet & Sean Tulumello, NYS Dept. of State Community Services Program Analysts

CALL TO ORDER:

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order by President Cecile at 4:47pm.

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 April Board Meeting minutes;
Mr. Christopher Montgomery moved to approve the April Board Meeting minutes;
Ms. Mitayah Donerlson seconded the motion;
The motion carried unanimously.*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Cecile reported that elections for Board officers will take place during the June Board meeting, which will be held at 717 Erie Blvd. West with dinner provided. He reported that all current officers had expressed interest in being reelected, and asked any other interested Board members to notify him.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT:

President Cecile reported that the committee unanimously approved recommendations to reappoint both him and Mr. Wallace, whose terms end in August.

The President moved to approve the reappointment of Judge Cecile and Mr. Wallace to new three-year terms as Board members;

Mr. Erich Shafer seconded the motion;

The motion carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Erich Shafer moved to accept the Development Committee report;

Mr. Jason Wallace seconded the motion;

The motion carried unanimously.

EEO/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT:

President Cecile asked Mr. Wallace to present the monthly committee report. Mr. Wallace reported that the committee discussed the Leadership Pathways project, the recent series of supervisor trainings, the applicant pool report, and Senator Gillibrand's anticipated visit to the Merrick site.

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

Mr. Steve Hodgins moved to accept the EEO/Personnel Committee report;

Ms. Patricia Usherwood Fitzpatrick seconded the motion;

The motion carried unanimously.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT:

President Cecile asked Mr. Hodgins to present the monthly committee report. Mr. Hodgins reported that Mary Beth Welch and Stephanie Bingham reviewed the 2024 Annual Progress Report, as per CSBG requirements. Mr. Hodgins noted that the committee asked for some of the exhibits in the presentation to be formatted differently.

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

Mr. Edward Perry moved to accept the Planning Committee report;

Mr. Eric Caballero seconded the motion;

The motion carried unanimously.

FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT:

Chair Robert Tackman asked Mr. Caballero to present the monthly committee report. Mr. Caballero reported that representatives from auditing firm The Bonadio Group presented the Audited Financial

Statements for FYE 1/31/2025, which they will also present at the June Board meeting. He noted that there were no findings and no Management Letter Comment, and that the committee convened an executive session to meet privately with the auditors.

The President requested a motion to accept the Finance/Audit Committee report;

Ms. Tysha Martin moved to accept the Finance/Audit Committee report;

Ms. Mitayah Donerlson seconded the motion;

The motion carried unanimously.

CHAMPIONS OF DIVERSITY:

Mr. Shafer reported that sponsorship for the upcoming event on May 21st has increased over the previous year, and that attendance is expected to be good.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Ms. Brown reported that HHS is not anticipating funding cuts or cost of living increases for Head Start / Early Head Start. She reported that although most administrative Americorp staff were fired by DOGE, PEACE programs that receive Americorp funding were not listed among those targeted for cuts according to leaked documents.

Ms. Brown reported that the agency received a grant of approximately \$431,000 for renovations at the Westside FRC expected to take place in 2026, and that a project manager and architect had been identified.

Ms. Brown announced that BBBS Director John Bruzdinski is retiring at the end of May, and that FGP Director Beth O'Hara will serve as interim BBBS Director for 120 days.

Ms. Brown reported that as part of a quality assurance initiative, there have been discussions to create a compliance officer position.

Ms. Brown reported on agency participation at upcoming events, including Light A Candle For Literacy at Beauchamp Library on June 7th, and the Juneteenth and Pride parades.

Ms. Brown reported that a line-item award from Assemblyman Magnarelli for the Foster Grandparent Program was increased from \$25,000 to \$40,000.

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. Ms. Brown called attention to the Care and Share programs administered by Family Resource Centers.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Brown encouraged all Board members to attend the Champions of Diversity event on May 21st.

ADJOURNMENT: President Cecile adjourned the Board meeting at 5:14pm.