
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Via Teleconference

Monday, October 27, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: Judge James Cecile (President/Development Chair), Shirley Copes (Planning Chair), Nicholas DeMartino, Mitayah Donerlson, Paula Freedman, Steven Hodgins, Michael LaFlair, Tysha Martin, Christopher Montgomery, Erich Shafer, Robert Tackman (Finance Chair), Patricia Usherwood Fitzpatrick, Jason Wallace (EEO/ Personnel Chair)

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Eric Caballero, Edward Perry

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 4:48pm.

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 September Board Meeting;
Mr. Michael LaFlair moved to approve the minutes of the September Board Meeting;
Mr. Steve Hodgins seconded the motion;
The motion carried unanimously.*

RFP TIMELINES:

Ms. Turo reviewed the Request For Proposal timelines and processes for insurance brokers and financial/401(k) auditing firms. She noted that the current five-year contract for The Bonadio Group runs to the end of this fiscal year.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Cecile reviewed the HS/EHS grant re-application for 2/1/2026 – 1/31/2027 in the amount of \$14, 681,430. He noted that this includes a Change of Scope which would reduce the total number of children served to 713, for which our program previously applied and was still awaiting a decision.

The President requested a motion to approve the HS/EHS Grant Re-Application for 2/1/2026 – 1/31/2027;

Mr. Robert Tackman moved to approve the HS/EHS Grant Re-Application for 2/1/2026 – 1/31/2027;

Ms. Paula Freedman seconded the motion;

The motion carried unanimously.

EEO/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT:

The October EEO/Personnel Committee meeting was cancelled because there were no action items or presentations scheduled.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT:

The October Planning Committee meeting was cancelled because there was not a quorum.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT:

President Cecile reported that the committee discussed committee assignments for the two most recently seated Board members, Mitayah Donerlson and Michael LaFlair.

President Cecile reported that Ms. Brown discussed with the committee the NYSCAA Annual Conference and potential impacts of the government shutdown on federal funding.

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

Ms. Shirley Copes moved to accept the Development Committee report;

Mr. Jason Wallace seconded the motion;

The motion carried unanimously.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Ms. Turo discussed a recent pre-audit planning meeting with representatives from The Bonadio Group. She noted that a compliance supplement has not yet been released by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants which is required to conduct single audit testing.

Ms. Turo reported that the net income before depreciation as of September 30th is (\$204,693) versus a budget of \$231,678, that the net income after depreciation is (\$589,149), and that the net income from normal operations is \$12,171 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 September 30th the current ratio of assets over liabilities is 154%, the indirect rate is 24.4%, and the Head Start in-kind rate is 34%.

Ms. Turo reported that the Captive Health Insurance reserve balance as of September 30th is \$317,453 versus an actuary target of \$447,000, noting that the goal is to increase the reserve to within range of the target by September 30, 2026.

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

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

Mr. Christopher Montgomery seconded the motion;

The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Ms. Brown reported that amidst the government shutdown the 17 officials who administer the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) were terminated, and those terminations were temporarily stayed by a federal court; the agency's CSBG contract ended on September 30th, and continuing without a contract carries some risk. President Cecile informed the Board that he will schedule an Executive Committee meeting to discuss the issue.

Ms. Brown reported that with two staff vacancies and an aging building, the Southside FRC is exploring collaborative strategies to continue to serve its neighborhood.

Ms. Brown reported that the Senior Nutrition program opened a new site at the Southwest Community Center, with the County Executive and other county officials present for the opening.

Ms. Brown reported that Mr. Goehle and Ms. Arce have been setting up dialogue sessions with the Syracuse-Onondaga Food Systems Alliance and FOCUS Greater Syracuse.

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.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

President Cecile reported that a Retreat Survey was sent to obtain input from Board members.

Ms. Brown reported that State Senator Rachel May recently visited the Sumner HS/EHS site.

ADJOURNMENT: President Cecile adjourned the Board meeting at 5:15pm.

October 28, 2025

David Kadan, Regional Grants Management Officer
Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
330 C St SW
Washington, DC 20201

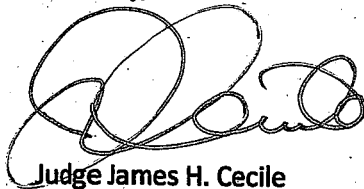
RE: Grant No. 02CH013040

Non-Competing Continuation Grant Application

Dear Mr. Kadan:

The PEACE, Inc. Board of Directors has reviewed and approved the baseline application of the Head Start/ Early Head Start program for the grant year February 1, 2026 through January 31, 2027 at the Board of Directors meeting on October 27, 2025. We applied for funding for 576 Head Start children and 137 Early Head Start children for a total amount of \$14,681,430.

Sincerely,



Judge James H. Cecile

President

PEACE, Inc. Board of Directors