

BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 21, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT: J. Bauman, C. Bedwick, J. Carmody, R. Chopick, M. Erwine, R. Gawlas, J. Kern, E. Mahler, J. Nolan, K. Pettinger and V. Splendido.

MEMBERS EXCUSED: H. Berlew, N. Michalisin, J. Roberts, A. Smith, B. Tielle, D. Toomey, G. Walsh and W. Yeager.

STAFF PRESENT: M. Bedwick, S. Frazier, S. Jones, N. Nealon and T. Olaviany.

Jack Nolan presided in the absence of D. Toomey whose wife was hospitalized due to an auto accident. Members expressed concern and wished her well. Jack said Dennis is where he needs to be.

MINUTES: Minutes of the December meeting were emailed and copies were distributed. V. Splendido made a motion to accept the minutes. E. Mahler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: J. Bauman said Dolores and staff are going over issues with the United Way so he has no updated cash balances or the financial report. He hasn't signed off on bills so there are no appreciative changes in cash balances. However, he has no figures. Tanya said the United Way proposals are due. She sent emails to Dolores and copied to Ron giving the dates of board meetings as deadlines for statements. Tanya attends 4 other board meetings and is anxious to have cash balances on a monthly basis. When they want things from Tanya they get them. She hopes they will provide financial statements as requested. Vince said an agency staff should never come to a board meeting ill prepared to give a report to the board. Fiscal services should always have at least a cash statement and a semi profit and loss statement available, not just for the meeting but they should be distributed to the board prior to the meetings. He asked we document it and have it in the minutes. Tanya said to talk to Ron about it first. Vince said it is stewardship and reports should be available for meetings. Chris said it is a reasonable request. Tanya said this was her first written request. E. Mahler made a motion to accept the report. B. Chopick seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT: E. Mahler reported for J. Walsh and recommended the acceptance of the application of candidate Mark Altavilla of The Citizens' Voice. He has been a Big twice so he understands the program. Eric said he knows Mark personally from Leadership Wilkes Barre. Mark can help Jim and Megan in the marketing arena. He was also a Junior Achievement board member. When asked why he wanted to join the board he said to help gain more Bigs to match with Littles. B. Gawlas said Mark is also a GAR graduate and Eric said he has deep roots in the community. Eric made a motion to accept Mark's application for membership. V. Splendido seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Eric said although 2 members recently resigned the committee is moving toward their goal. They discussed seeking a parent of a Little and

someone from Wilkes College, a high school or Wyoming County. Anyone with a connection in Wyoming County should notify the committee. The committee is working on the by laws and quarterly attendance review. After this meeting Dennis will make phone calls. J. Bauman made a motion to accept the report. J. Roberts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

FINANCE AND FUND DEVELOPMENT: J. Nolan said BFKS will not be included in the report since it was covered in the BFKS meeting prior to the board meeting. We grossed \$1,255 on the Donovan McNabb Jersey Raffle with 360 tickets sold. Gifford Nolan, a Cowboys fan, won the jersey. Jack thanked the staff, board, Justin McCarthy, McCarthy Tavern and Pinnak's Bar for selling tickets. Whiskey Business, Patte's Sports Bar, McCarthy Tavern, Frog Pond, Pinnak's, Grotto Pizza Edwardsville and Wilkes Barre and Pizza L'Oven Wilkes Barre posted signs for the raffle. Tanya said we closed Pinnak's since it went out of business. M. Erwine made a motion to accept the report. C. Bedwick seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

MARKETING: B. Chopick reported for J. Roberts that the committee met and discussed BFKS and the Facebook advertising. There were 400 clicks on the male campaign. Megan will do press releases for new board members. Jack asked if it is still too early to know if any of the 400 clicks resulted in volunteering. Tanya said with web site inquiries there is no way of knowing unless specifically asked. B. Chopick said everything helps and it is positive that people are clicking. There was discussion on the donor page. Bob said the committee meets on the second Wednesday of the month. E. Mahler made a motion to accept the report. V. Splendido seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

PROGRAM: C. Bedwick said the committee continued the self assessment. N. Michalisin is a nice addition to the committee. He is eager and helpful. The committee did a review of the caseload and workers are doing a good job. Green, yellow or red codes are used with green representing good. One was coded yellow and that match did not occur so the system works. The next meeting will be on the second Thursday in February at 5 o'clock. E. Mahler said that the program committee should be added to the membership application. B. Gawlas made a motion to accept the report. J. Bauman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT: T. Olaviany said the search for a Casework Supervisor has been temporarily suspended given the uncertainty with some on the contracts within the agency. Only 5 resumes were received and most did not have human service backgrounds or had extremely limited experience. Although she hoped to have someone in place for BFKS it is put on hold. Tanya said AIM is wonderful but because of the level of supervisory reviews a caseworker can't close out cases. She must do it. We are requesting \$110,000 from the United Way. We have drawn down 67% of the current year allocation after six months. Tanya was contacted by Lori Colacito, marketing director of the Little Theatre. They will put on the play Cinderella and are interested in partnering with us. The shows are March 12, 13, 19, 20 at 8:00 p.m. and

March 14 and 21 at 3:00 p.m. The partnership would include assisting in publicity around the event. BB/BS would be able to set up an information table and do a raffle. Tanya spoke to them about the Little Theatre Board and performers forming teams to bowl at BFKS and they could use that money as their team sponsor money. Lori is also going to request a group rate for matches to attend the performances. Tanya asked board members to consider manning the table for some of the performances. She was realistic with Lori about our ability to extend ourselves too much because of BFKS. Any assistance board members could give would be greatly appreciated. The BB/BS State Association has contracted for the services of a lobbying/marketing firm to put agencies across the state in the sites of legislators. There has been a Mentoring Month Resolution developed and it will be introduced on Tuesday, January 26. The resolution recognizes BB/BS mentoring as the premier mentoring program in the country. They are also developing a 'Big Caucus'. The Caucus will be a group of legislators focused on causes important to BB/BS agencies statewide. Lisa Baker and Karen Boback have signed on. Tanya's term as President of the State Association is over and she is pleased it has moved into the direction it needed to go. Tanya asked Vince to speak about an article that appeared in the Times-Tribune. Copies of the article were distributed to members. Vince said the National BB/BS would not be eligible for grant monies due to a technical issue in submitting the grant application. The grant was awarded to Goodwill over 2 years and allows them seed money to start their own mentoring program. He said there are some BB/BS agencies that sell used clothing to fund their agencies. Rhode Island is one. Goodwill of Northeastern Pennsylvania has signed an agreement with the Dunmore School District in Lackawanna County to provide mentoring services. Good Guides is mirrored after our school based program. They also want to get into our service area and we will be competing for funds and volunteers. Vince said they have never done mentoring. He has heard our staff express concerns. It so angered him that he fired off a letter to Karen Mathis, President and CEO, BB/BS of America. Vince read the letter and asked that it be entered into the minutes. (Letter will follow the minutes) Vince said there will be competition for funds, children and volunteers. He knows what our agency puts in to provide for the safety of children. Goodwill will be very aggressive. Tanya said Boys and Girls Club also got grant money. J. Kern asked if Vince if he anticipated a response to the letter and Vince said he does. B. Chopick said our counterpart in Lackawanna County is weak. In the past there was talk of merging and Vince said this may force the issue. We can leverage it to our benefit and we should be BB/BS of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Tanya said she too is angered that someone with no experience is handed \$300,000. The staff has done some undercover work and called Bo Hoban, Good Guides program manager. He has not returned their calls. Vince suggested their husbands or boyfriends call since they are looking for male mentors. Vince said we have never compromised safety and quality. If mentoring gets a black eye we do too. J. Kern asked what politicians could help. Tanya said the problem is kids don't have advocates. Vince said kids don't vote. Politicians give lip service but don't back it up with cash. He said the loss of this grant could bankrupt some agencies. Chris said National made the mistake and we all suffer. Tanya said Karen Mathis inherited this problem and must now deal with damage control. J. Kern asked if we can lobby. Tanya said Karen Mathis asked President and Mrs. Osama to be National Chairs. J. Carmody questioned the value of their support now. Tanya said a valuable lesson has been learned.

She also said that with Karen Mathis as CEO we are coming back to where we want to be. Vince and Tanya believe we will hear from her. J Kern said we need a definite plan. J. Nolan thanked Vince for the well written and passionate letter. Jack reminded members that their assistance is needed to staff tables through intermission at the Little Theatre performances. He asked Tanya to send an email.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Vince Splendido made a motion to adjourn. E. Mahler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Pettinger