**Minutes – Kids First Trust Fund Meeting**

**June 17, 2021**

**-- Zoom Session / Conference Call –**

**Board Members Present:** Candes Shelton, Richard Hug, Will Young, Doug Weinberg, Eldon Whetstone, Laura Wynn, Maria Finnell

**Others Present:** Sandy Runkle (part) and Shannon Schumacher (part) – Prevent Child Abuse Indiana, Sarah Faulkner (DCS) and Janet Wakefield (former board member)

A quorum WAS present.

**Call to Order / Welcome:** Board Chair Candes Shelton called the meeting to order on Zoom at 1:09 PM (Eastern). She welcomed former board member Janet Wakefield and Will Young noted that Sarah Faulkner of the DCS legislative office was also present.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the April 22, 2021 minutes were approved as submitted on a roll call vote, 7-0. There was a discussion of the status of the fiscal 2022 KFTF budget. All recalled that it was passed at the special December 29, 2020 meeting (as required by law) but that the minutes of that meeting did not clearly indicate that fact. [RH note: The minutes of the February 18, 2021 include a reference to the fact that the budget was passed at the last meeting]. Accordingly, the group voted 7-0 on a roll call vote to amend the minutes of the December 29, 2020 meeting to indicate that a budget in the amount of $374,000 for SF 2022 was passed on a vote of 6-0. The budget included $363,000 for Prevent Child Abuse Indiana, $6000 for board expenses and $5000 for materials and supplies.

**Financials:** Chair Shelton reviewed the financial statement briefly noting the decline in revenues over time and the totals in the various accounts.

**Committee Reports**

**Governance:**  Governance Committee member Doug Weinberg reported that he and some lawyer volunteers would begin drafting an implementation plan for the legislation (SEA 137) allowing KFTF to establish a not-for-profit partner entity. Will Young suggested the possibility of engaging some third party (e.g., the IU School of Philanthropy) to assist in developing the implementation plan. Doug and others indicated that previous board discussions over several years had established the need for such an entity and that the legislation was modeled on similar legislation in Wisconsin. He said that that he had had extensive conversations with Wisconsin officials about the issues that arise in creating and operating such an entity. Doug and his volunteer group will work on a draft of the implementation plan for review at the August meeting.

**Planning Committee:** Planning Committee Chair Doug Weinberg and others reviewed the top strategic plan priorities recommended by the committee at the last meeting. Taken together, the selected priorities reveal the board’s determination to move forward to expand private sector funding of child welfare initiatives, expand and improve the voice of “lived experience” in KFTF and state policy-making, strengthen local community voices and action to support families, promote diversity and equity in KFTF and state policy and procedures, and explore opportunities to improve communication and messaging about family support and child welfare issues in the state. There was no objection to the top priorities as presented.

**Board Development:**  Chair Laura Wynn noted that the committee had met to discuss the charge of the board to the committee to establish a parent advisory committee. Committee member Candes Shelton noted that she and other committee members had recently attended an excellent Alliance of Children’s Trust Funds webinar providing details on critical issues related to recruitment, optimal size, composition, training, pay, and other issues related to establishing and operating an effective advisory group. There was also some discussion of KFTF developing its parent advisory committee and offering it as a service to other organizations to assure parent involvement in decision-making.

Committee Chair Wynn presented a report (attached) on some tentative suggestions on who would serve, how they would be recruited, and other matters that needed to be resolved in the coming weeks. Board chair Shelton asked the committee for a timeline for completing the various tasks related to establishing the committee.

There was also some discussion of the effort to get Tyrone Spann appointed to the board. Chair Shelton noted that she would be speaking to Mr. Spann soon as part of the Board vetting process.

**Communications:**  Chair Rick Hug reported on a meeting of the Alliance communications committee that focused on efforts 1) to serve as a resource for crisis messaging (e.g., how to deal with publicity about horrendous abuse deaths), 2) to promote the possibility of a celebrating a Family Resilience Week or Month 3) to explore a promising source of information about local services for families (Aunt Bertha), and 4) to provide technical assistance on social media issues.

Rick also reported that the committee will work on plans to communicate with KFTF plate buyers and look for opportunities to work on a statewide child abuse and neglect prevention communication plan focused on the “mandated supporter” message promoted in the state of Arizona and other places.

**PCAI Report:**  PCAIN director of programs Sandy Runkle reviewed recent PCAIN activities noting that the group is slowly moving toward more conventional operations though most training is still virtual. She noted that another statewide council meeting had been held (May 19) and that PCAIN’s signature event series would be completed soon. She focused on training efforts on child psychological maltreatment, safety and sexual abuse prevention (Child Safety Matters), and equity and inclusion (a June 25th webinar). She noted that more counties, separately or together, are establishing prevention councils and that enthusiasm is high among the leaders of those groups.

New Villages CEO Shannon Schumacher expressed amazement at how much the small PCAIN staff was able to accomplish but noted that she was aware of how much more needed to be done.

**Framework Update:** Sandy and Doug reported that the Indiana Prevention Framework project was moving forward with eight pilot sites using a collective impact approach. There was an extended discussion of how the pilot projects would be supported (a statewide “backbone” organization in collective impact jargon) and what local organizations would serve as “backbones” for the local effort – to facilitate meetings, help with data collection and perform other necessary tasks of the collective impact model.

Sandy reported that she would be discussing the matter with other Framework officials including Julie Whitman of the Indiana Commission for Improving the Status of Children and Families. She said that she would also contact Deborah Daro, the University of Chicago researcher associated with the framework approach, for advice. Some role for KFTF in facilitating the implementation of the pilots in the framework and eventually extending the process to all 92 counties is envisioned in the KFTF strategic plan and priorities for the coming year.

**Thriving Families Initiative:** Chair Shelton and others reported on recent meetings of the state team. It was noted that there are several efforts under way as part of the state’s effort – including the framework, the pilot Family Resource Centers in the state, efforts to improve involvement of parents in decision making, and diversity and equity initiatives. The Thriving Families initiative has directed more attention to these on-going efforts but the group itself has not undertaken any new initiatives on its own. The last meeting of the group, unlike previous meetings, DID include an articulate young man with “lived experience”, who was confident that the state was serious about parental involvement. (Chair Shelton had pointed out the absence of persons with lived experience at previous meetings and encouraged stronger efforts to secure their participation.)

**Next meeting:** Chair Shelton noted that the next meeting would be Thursday, August 19, 2021 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM (Eastern). (Reminder: Other 2021 meetings are scheduled for 1:00 to 3:00 PM Eastern on October 21, 2021 and December 16, 2021)

There was a discussion of fact that the next meeting would probably happen at a time when no emergency order for public meetings is in place. That means that the group will need to have at least two persons meeting in person (with others on the phone or Zoom) to meet the requirements of the law. Maria Finnell noted that such hybrid meetings can cause audio problems. One possible option is to have a single microphone at the originating site with others at that site using computers or tablets with the audio off.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 PM.