

## AGENDA

1. Call to order at 6:42 p.m.
2. Board members present include: Lorraine Perry, Joan Parks Saunders, Jeri Harwell, Sue Tejml, William Collins, Dawn Cobb and Lee Ann Kelly. Also present were Karen Lowery and Ruthie Cherry from CPS.
3. Absent: None
4. A quorum was established. Everyone introduced himself or herself and gave their history.
5. Lorraine told new board members that a background investigation needed to be completed as well as online training for the Texas Open Meetings and the Open Records online courses on the Secretary of State website.
6. Consideration of the minutes from the November 2022 meeting – Motion to approve by Jeri and seconded Lee Ann; abstain from Sue. Passed unanimously.
7. Liaison Reports
  - A. Community Partners -Lorraine Perry – 170 checks written for Christmas. Need to set up new account with Walmart after closing former account. None of current board members is on the account. Commissioners Court provided gift cards, some of which remain for future use. Carrollton office is being closed. Offices operated
  - B. Commissioners Court – Dawn Cobb explained the make-up of the board trimming to 10 members and that existing board members should become acquainted in order to consider electing new officers in March or April 2023.
  - C. Jeri noted that April is child abuse month – first Tuesday of the month, need to appear before Commissioners Court. Sue Tejml to write an article for *The Cross Timbers Gazette*. Several members suggested getting numbers from CPS as well as ideas for story content. Dawn to write a proclamation. A member of the board will speak before Court to give Information to include how many people in foster care, no. of investigations, staffing status, holiday events, etc.
8. Treasurer’s Report – Lorraine supplied a financials report. She explained in the meeting that another account was found totaling \$20,366.96. Lee Ann mentioned that several names should be removed from the account. Jeri will review the treasurer reports for information about the second account, which she believed was created but does not recall the reason. Rob Seay has been asked to do the audit. Records and files
9. Jeri makes a motion to accept the treasurer’s report as it is written and will receive a more thorough report after the audit is complete due to unaccounted for funds in a second account. Lee Ann seconded the motion. Board voted unanimously in favor.
10. Child Protective Services Report –
  - A. Ruthie reported that 287 children are in foster care; 91 of which are Denton County children. Another 291 children from other counties are placed in Denton County homes. Board members discussed their desire to see Denton County children in foster care remaining in Denton County. Ruthie also reported seeing some staff churn in light of community-based care programs getting underway. The new community-based care is expected to give more local control in placing foster children locally.
  - B. Karen reported 496 intakes assigned for Denton County in December, a period when it slows. Has staffing issues and has four vacancies currently. Also short in support

staff. Legislative bill is seeking a 10 percent increase in pay over a 2-year period. For Human Service Technicians, CPI/CPS is starting a program to help them build up to a case worker.

### **Old Business**

11. Denton County CPS budget – Lorraine asked for CPS/CPI budget supervisor to attend meetings for better understanding for the board.
12. Denton County CPS Audit – Done

### **New Business**

- A. Permanency Conferences – Jeri indicated that the new system is difficult to access. Family conferences allow board members to learn more about operations. Jeri suggested the board needs to attend more meetings. Ruthie said the meetings are the third Thursdays of the month and sometimes on the third Fridays. The meetings begin at 9 a.m. Jeri will see what the issue is with notifications and try to get a point of contact.
  - B. Quarterly gifts for workers (3 each quarter) – CPS employees cannot receive gift cards. Lorraine submitted a link to a gift system to select gifts. Options include gifts valued at under \$50, providing the Keurig cups for employees to use in machines purchased by the CPS board.
  - C. Employees being recognized by the CPS board upon referral by CPI/CPS supervisors will be provided at the February meetings. Joan said she will make the plaques, up to 12 a year.
13. Plans for Upcoming Year – Lorraine said the board needs to create a calendar and plan the next year. Board members can send ideas and suggestions to Lorraine for the next meeting.

Jeri moved to move the meetings to Lewisville every other month, beginning in February 2023. Lee Ann seconded. The board voted unanimously in favor.

14. Announcements
  - A. Treasurer of the 501c3 is going to resign.
15. In other business, Jeri asked that officers be appointed in February.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.