



Child Advocacy Board Minutes 8/1/2023

Present: Director Melinda Beard, Jason Shaw, Craig Shaw, Sgt. Nikki Hill (APD), Sherita Nickerson, Kari Leong, Todd Etheridge, Dan Cox, Janey Wawerna, Dee Moore, Aubri Ward, Asst. Chief Craig Jordan, Chief Chris Selander, Judge Phil Crowley, and Haley Cagle.

With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 4:03 PM by Chair Jason Shaw. Jason called for any comments or corrections from the previous meeting. Having received none, he called for a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Motion to approve by Aubri Ward and second by Sherita Nickerson. Motion passed unanimously.

The board was presented with a short explanation of the need for approval of the updated Board By-laws and Record Retention Policy. A motion was made by Dee Moore and second by Kari Leong to accept the updates as written. With no dissention, the vote passed unanimously.

Chair Shaw asked if there was any new discussion on the Loose Change for Change event. There was none.

The CAC board shirts were distributed and many remarked favorably on how the shirts turned out.

The board discussed upcoming awareness opportunities. National Night out was discussed. More information on this event, scheduled for October 3rd, will be available soon. Asst. Chief Craig Jordan reminded the group that APD's Trunk or Treat will be October 26th. The group also discussed Boo at the Zoo in October and Feast of Sharing in November. Todd Etheridge volunteered to be part of Boo at the Zoo and Jason Shaw said he would be participating at the Feast of Sharing.

CAC Director Melinda Beard reported on two new employees. One is LaShawn Parker who will be working with the MDT program and Jennifer Wagoner who will be a Victim Services Specialist. Both have experience that will be helpful in their jobs. Melinda also brought up the duffle bags purchased for children who are moving in to foster care. The CAC had spent \$500 of board funds to purchase 20 bags for this purpose. Todd Etheridge reported that a new regulation requires all children who are moving into foster care to have a new duffle bag to carry personal clothing and possessions. The bag will stay with the child if there are subsequent moves. Funding for the bags will come from local entities such as fire department and local CACs. Todd reported that there were 314 children placed in Foster Care in Taylor county in the

last reporting year. Aubri Ward suggested that the local Junior League might be interested in helping with future costs. Jason reported that the CAC had almost \$6,000 in its discretionary fund and that approximately \$7,000 more was scheduled to be added from the recent fundraiser. Kari suggested that we keep purchasing more duffels. A motion was made by Dan Cox to earmark \$2,500 for purchase of duffel bags and the second came from Judge Crowley. The motion passed without dissent, and Todd Etheredge abstained from voting.

CAC Director Melinda Beard also reported that the CAC was participating in creating gift bags for incoming AISD teachers, but it was. The items offered for those bags included educator guides on reporting child abuse and swag items for the bags. In addition, the CAC would participate in the event by purchasing a door prize for the meeting. These were purchased from unrestricted funds, not from the board fund or from grant funding.

Chair Shaw asked for any more input, and with none responding, reminded everyone of the next meeting in October, and adjourned the meeting.
Minutes by Dan Cox.

Aubri Ward

