



## Regular Board Meeting Minutes

**January 17, 2019**

9:36 a.m., 213 Court Street, River Room, Middletown, CT

**Present:**

- Board: A. Smith (1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair) (CAANH); M. James (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair) (CAAWC); P. DeBiasi (*Access*); L. Rodriguez (CRT); R. Tricarico (HRA); and, D. Morgan (TEAM) (via conference call)
- Staff: E. Karsky, R. Evans, K. Hall
- Guests: Patrick Gill and Naomi Marinelli, Financial One; Jean Cronin, Hughes and Cronin (via conference call)
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With a quorum being present, Mr. Smith convened the CAFCA board meeting at 9:36 a.m.

Item	Discussion	Action Taken/Needed
<b>Consent Agenda</b>	Reviewed Consent Agenda.	Motion ( <i>DeBiasi/James</i> ) passed to accept Consent Agenda as presented.
<b>Finance Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviewed Finance Report. There are no outstanding issues with this report. Financial One will make any additional changes to the report as needed and/or requested by the board.</li> <li>• Reported that Ms. Karsky, Ms. Evans, and Mr. Tricarico met with Mr. Gill and Ms. Marinelli from Financial One to review questions raised at the December board meeting about the Finance Report, and found that the reason for the questions was that an incorrect Finance Report was mistakenly distributed to the board in December.</li> <li>• The board discussed potentially changing CAFCA’s fiscal year and reporting format to match the Federal FY.</li> </ul>	<p>Motion (<i>James/Rodriguez</i>) passed to accept the Finance Report as presented.</p> <p>Staff will explore the steps needed to change CAFCA’s fiscal and will bring a recommendation to the board.</p>
<b>Legislative Update</b>	Review legislative update with Jean Cronin. See attachment.	None taken

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<p><b>CAFCA Budget and Executive Session</b></p>	<p>Reviewed CAFCA FY 2019 budget.</p> <p>Reported that Ms. Karsky, Ms. Evans, and Mr. Tricarico worked with Mr. Gill and Ms. Marinelli to revise the budget previously presented and to clarify line items.</p> <p>Members asked questions about various line items. Financial One will make requested changes.</p> <p>The board moved in and out of Executive Session.</p>	<p>Motion (<i>DeBiasi/Tricarico</i>) passed unanimously to go into Executive Session at 10:04 am with the Exec. Dir. invited.</p> <p>Motion (<i>DeBiasi/Tricarico</i>) passed unanimously to exit to exit Executive Session at 10:30 am</p> <p>Motion (<i>DeBiasi/James</i>) passed unanimously to approve the CAFCA budget presented with the elimination of specific staff salary lines, and an agreement that individual staff raises would be capped at 3%.</p> <p>At the board's request, staff will ensure we have executed MOUs with every consultant that CAFCA uses.</p> <p>Staff will provide to the board a 6-month comparison of current versus previous monthly common costs.</p>
<p><b>ED Search Consultant Report</b></p>	<p>Ms. James proposed that the board select Steven Eppler-Epstein as the consultant to lead the CAFCA Executive Director search. This was the consensus of board members who met by phone prior to this meeting to discuss this topic.</p>	<p>Motion (<i>James/Tricarico</i>) passed unanimously to authorize the Chair to engage Mr. Eppler-Epstien as the CAFCA E.D. Search consultant consistent with his proposal.</p> <p>DSS will be asked to cover the costs of the search consultant. If DSS cannot, the board reached consensus that reserve funds would have to be used.</p> <p>CAFCA board chair Ms. Monahan will contact Mr. Eppler-Epstein to begin the process and report back at the February board meeting.</p>
<p><b>Other Business</b></p>	<p><u>CHW</u>: Mr. Morgan had a discussion with the CT Hospital Association about the network and CHW initiative. Ms. Karsky and Ms. Monahan met with Sylvia Kelly, President and CEO of the Community Health Network of CT and with Lori Szczygiel, Beacon Health Options. Although hospitals have CHWs, they do not know their communities as well as CAAs do and have expressed interest</p> <p><u>Board received</u> Facilitator Eve Berry's summary of the Board's Annual Retreat.</p>	<p>CAFCA to meet with Minakshi Tikoo for follow-up about the electronic health records.</p> <p>They are trying to schedule meeting with the CT Hospital Association next to follow-up on their expressed interest in working with the CAA network. The board would like DSS to attend the meeting with the CT Hospital Association.</p> <p>Motion (<i>DeBiasi/Rodriguez</i>) passed to accept Retreat Summary. Ms. James abstained.</p>
<p><b>Adjourn</b></p>	<p>Motion (<i>DeBiasi/James</i>) passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:23 a.m.</p>	



## Summary of Board Meeting Legislative Update January 17, 2019

Ms. Cronin gave the following legislative update:

- Legislative session began on January 9, 2019 and ends on June 6, 2019.
- 41 new legislators:
  - 11 in senate (3 additional after 2/26 special election)
  - 30 in house (3 additional after 2/26 special election)
- Governor will deliver budget address on February 20<sup>th</sup>.
- OPM staff: Melissa McCaw, Secretary of OPM; Jonathan Harris, Undersecretary; Anne Foley, Undersecretary for Policy Development and Planning.
- Some of Governor's staff has little state capital/political experience, such as Ryan Drajewicz, Chief of Staff. But the Governor's chief lobbyist, Chris Soto, Director of Legislative Affairs, is very familiar with nonprofit sector; should work well with us.
- Ms. Cronin sent out new Appropriations and Human Services committee lists; CAA Network and/or Ms. Cronin needs to meet with Rep Gail Lavielle, Ranking Member, Appropriations.
- Appropriations budget hearings tentatively scheduled to begin Monday February 25<sup>th</sup> and end Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Governor Lamont has not decided if he will keep Commissioner Bremby (*\*updated 1/24: Commissioner Bremby will not stay on*).
- Former state representative Melissa Ziobron is the new budget director for the senate republicans.
- Board discussed several issues that may come up this session that will impact the network including the minimum wage initiative, paid family leave, nonprofit privatization, and work requirements for Medicaid and SNAP recipients.
- Possible OEC changes include: repealing requirement to attend certain higher education facilities; changing the C4K income eligibility to 75% of the FPL to 85% of the state median income; deleting C4K priority group 7; matching background check provision to match the federal government; and, penalizing daycare and family centers that close without notifying their employees at least 30 days in advance
- Pat Wilson Pheanious is the new state representative from Tolland.
- Ms. Cronin will continue to schedule necessary and requested meetings with legislators and pertinent agency staff.

- Ms. Cronin encouraged members to reach out and speak to new legislators if they have not done so already



## Regular Board Meeting Minutes

**February 21, 2019**

10:38 AM, AARP Board Room, 21 Oak St, Hartford, CT, 06106

**Present:**

- Board: D. Monahan (Chair) (TVCCA); A. Smith (1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair) (CAANH); P. DeBiasi (*Access*); J. Gatling (NOI); M. Ferguson (ABCD)
- Staff: E. Karsky, R. Evans, K. Hall
- Guests: Patrick Gill and Naomi Marinelli, Financial One; Jean Cronin, Hughes and Cronin (via conference call)

*Note: The following 2 items were discussed prior to the meeting being called to order, so are not part of the official minutes*

Item	Discussion	Action Taken/Needed
<b>*Legislative Update</b>	Review legislative update with Jean Cronin. See attachment.	None taken. See attached summary for detail.
<b>*ED Search Consultant Report</b>	Ms. Monahan provided an update on the CAFCA Executive Director search. An outline of the transition process was included in board packet from Steve Eppler-Epstein, consultant. He will post the position announcement in March. Ms. Monahan will keep the board updated on the process.	None taken.

**With a quorum being present, Ms. Monahan convened the CAFCA board meeting at 10:38 AM.**

Item	Discussion	Action Taken/Needed
<b>Consent Agenda</b>	Reviewed Consent Agenda.	Motion ( <i>Smith/Gatling</i> ) passed to accept Consent Agenda as presented.
<b>Finance Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviewed Finance Report, including Statement of Financial Position and Changes in Net Assets as presented by Patrick Gill and Naomi Marinelli from Financial One. There are no outstanding issues with this report. Members discussed and Ms. Karsky clarified the “Due to Funding Sources” line item on the Statement of Financial Position.</li> <li>• CAFCA and Financial One will meet to discuss the CAFCA audit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion (<i>Gatling/Smith</i>) passed to accept the Finance Report as presented and with the recommended corrections.</li> <li>• Agreed that future reports will show board-approved transfers as a separate line item.</li> <li>• Finance Committee encouraged to meet prior to board meetings to review reports.</li> </ul>
<b>Other Business</b>	As requested at the January CAFCA board meeting, Ms. Karsky reviewed the 6 month cost comparison analysis for New Britain and Middletown.	None taken.
<b>Adjourn</b>	Motion ( <i>DeBiasi/James</i> ) passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:03 AM.	



## Summary of Board Meeting Legislative Update February 21, 2019

Ms. Cronin gave the following legislative update:

- Governor delivered budget address on February 21, 2019.
- There are no cuts. Revenue between \$750M-\$1B through sales tax increases on exempt items. Includes sugary drinks, liquor bottle deposits, haircuts, dry cleaning, real estate sales, and more. No change in sales tax rate, just expands the base.
- Democratic caucus progressives opposed to tax increases; would rather see an income tax on the higher wage earners.
- Budget deficit over next two years is \$4B due to long-term debt obligations as well as state employee pensions and health funds.
- DSS Appropriations Committee budget hearing Tuesday March 6, 2019. CAFCA will request a COLA for HSI.
- Paid Family Leave
  - Bills passed out of Labor Committee; will head to house and senate.
  - Companies with 1+self-employed and/or employees will pay one half of 1% of their weekly pay into a fund managed by DOL administrator. Employer responsible for sending in money to fund. Employees get up to 12 weeks/calendar year and must apply to DOL administrator to use the fund.
  - Reimbursement rate is 100% of weekly rate, capped at \$1,000/week. Start taking the money out July 2020; employees can't access it until July 2021. Governor putting in \$5M to get jump start it. It is essentially a payroll tax; there is not an option to opt-out.
- Minimum Wage Bills
  - Consensus of many in nonprofit community who are grant-funded by the state: supportive of minimum wage increase, but need an increase in funding to comply. They don't want to lay people off, but can't sustain their workforce on the same grant amount. This is also a concern with federal grants. Board members agree with this stance.
  - Ms. Cronin thinks legislature will go with Governor's plan, staggered over 4 years: January 1, 2020, increase to \$11.25; January 1, 2021, increase to \$12.50; January 1, 2022, increase to \$13.75; January 1, 2023, increase to \$15.
- Special election Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 3 senate seats, 2 house seats
- Ms. Cronin urged board members to reach out to new legislators if they haven't already, including any that sit on the Appropriations Human Services Subcommittee.
- Although the budget doesn't have any cuts now, she does not think it will stay that way. The network should advocate to protect what we have now, and ask for a COLA tied to minimum wage.



## Regular Board Meeting Minutes

**April 18, 2019**

9:38 AM, River Room, 213 Court St., Middletown, CT 06457

**Present:**

- Board: D. Monahan (Chair) (TVCCA); A. Smith (1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair) (CAANH); Michele James (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair) (CAAWC); Rocco Tricarico (Treasurer) (HRA); P. DeBiasi (Secretary) (*Access*); J. Gatling (NOI); David Morgan (TEAM), via conference call
- Staff: E. Karsky, R. Evans, K. Hall
- Guests: Naomi Marinelli, Financial One; Jean Cronin, Hughes and Cronin; Eve Bunnell, U.S. Census

**With a quorum being present, Ms. Monahan convened the CAFCA board meeting at 9:38 AM.**

Item	Discussion	Action Taken/Needed
<b>Consent Agenda</b>	Reviewed Consent Agenda.	Motion ( <i>Smith/James</i> ) passed to accept Consent Agenda as presented.
<b>Finance Report</b>	Mr. Tricarico reviewed the Finance Report and indicated that there are no issues of concern in the report. He further indicated that some members still owe 2019 dues for the lobbyist.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion (<i>Gatling/Smith</i>) passed to accept the Finance Report as presented.</li> <li>• CAFCA will send out another lobbying invoice.</li> </ul>
<b>Legislative Update</b>	See attachment.	
<b>ED Search Update</b>	Ms. Monahan gave the ED search update. Consultant Steve Eppler-Epstein provided an update in the board packet. To date, he received 80 applications and is working to narrow down the pool of applicants. Members stressed the importance of beginning interviews as soon as possible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Monahan will request a revised ED search timeline from Mr. Eppler-Epstein.</li> <li>• The Executive Committee will review his top choices and decide who to bring in to interview.</li> </ul>
<b>Program Advisory Group Report</b>	Mr. DeBiasi gave the Program Advisory Group Report. The group met on April 4 <sup>th</sup> . SSBG is operating as required and numbers have improved. The SSBG Housing Fund has reopened, but there are reduced funds available. The CAA Readiness Self-Assessment tool is being revised by CAFCA as requested by the committee. The checklist is designed to determine the capacity of agencies to participate in a statewide grant, should a RFP come out.	The revised checklist will be provided as a part of the packet for the May board meeting.
<b>2020 Census Presentation</b>	Ms. Bunnell presented on the 2020 U.S. Census. Census Bureau is in need of Census Ambassadors to share information about the 2020 Census, especially with hard to reach populations. The Census Bureau is currently hiring for a variety of temporary jobs to assist in the 2020 Census count. Ms. Bunnell stressed the importance of Community Action's role in the 2020 Census.	No action taken.
<b>Other Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members gave an update on the NCAF conference.</li> <li>• Members discussed recent challenges with agency and DSS meetings.</li> </ul>	No action taken.
<b>Adjourn</b>	Motion ( <i>James/Smith</i> ) passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:29 am.	



## Summary of Board Meeting Legislative Update April 18, 2019

Ms. Cronin gave the following legislative update:

- Session adjourns June 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Finance and Appropriations Committees working on tax package and budget. Governor presented his budget proposal in February. Proposal has almost no cuts; HSI and 2<sup>nd</sup> year increase stay intact.
- Finance Committee members pushing back on the progressive nature of the governor's proposed taxes (mostly sales tax expansions). If the committee does not approve the governor's proposed taxes, there will not be enough revenue to balance the budget and the legislature will have to make cuts.
- Finance JF deadline is May 2<sup>nd</sup>; Appropriations is May 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Ms. Cronin, Ms. Karsky, and Ms. Monahan met with Toni Walker, who said they do not plan on making any cuts. Finance will come up with the revenue. She's working on CAA network COLA request, and plans to suggest that the network do C4K eligibility. They discussed SB 859, the CHW legislation, and she is impressed by the network's CHW training.
- Progressive caucus wants taxes on higher wage earners, and propose one half of 1% tax surcharge on people earning \$500,000+. Other proposals include a bill that taxes 2% on capital gains, dividends, and interest, and Senate Democrats are looking at a mansion tax.
- Sugar drink tax is included in governor's proposal. Some legislators support it for the health aspect, but the black and Hispanic caucuses are pushing back on it because the tax mainly falls on low-income people.
- Republicans are not putting out a budget.
- There may be special session.
- Surplus is \$1.2B, without the revenue will be from the income tax. Surplus is from a huge payment of capital gains, dividends, and interest from last year.
- Governor and Republicans do not want to spend the rainy day fund in anticipation of another recession, but Democrats want to use it if need be.
- Delayed pension, health care, and state employees and teachers retirement obligations keep growing.
- Ms. Cronin scheduling meeting with Ms. Monahan and Beth Bye about a contract amendment for OEC
- Bills of interest:
  - HB 7408, Municipal Revenue, Section 6, proposes nonprofits pay property taxes.
  - SB 945, Innovation Incentive Program, sets up a pilot program for human services nonprofit providers allowing them to retain up to 50% of the revenue saved in program efficiencies.
  - SB 932, Staff Qualifications for Early Childhood, delays requirements for 2 years.
  - SB 936, OEC Recommendations, includes increasing family income ceiling for C4K up to 85% of statewide median.
  - SB 935, OEC Educator Compensation Schedule. \*Ms. Cronin will set up a meeting with network and Beth Bye; unit rates must be increased if this goes through.
- HB 7338, Increase Funding for Elderly Nutrition, especially targeted to the CT Homecare Program for elders.
- HB 7072, Increase Funding for Elderly Nutrition, requires DSS increase the reimbursement rate for Meals on Wheels by 10%
- SB 1080, Two-gen initiative
- There still is no DSS Commissioner.





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<b>Other Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members gave an update on the NCAF conference.</li> <li>• Members discussed recent challenges with agency and DSS meetings.</li> </ul>	No action taken.
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- Republicans are not putting out a budget.
- There may be special session.
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