The following members were present: Honorable Gail Bardach, Bob Bragg, George Buskirk, Honorable J. Richard Campbell, Steve Dillon, Susan Ferguson, Stephenie Gookins, Sheriff Dennis Quakenbush, Krista Radican, Steve Schwartz, Barbara Scott, Dan Stevens, and Kylene Toney.

A quorum was present. Ralph Watson, Kevin Mulrooney, Jennifer Armstrong and Tom Gehlhausen were also in attendance. Visitors present included Tammy Sander and Jeffery Ginebaugh.

Susan Ferguson called the meeting to order.

Mr. Watson reported that he was just recently notified that Christi Tucker-Beebe was no longer the Director of Hamilton County Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS). The local Director of DCFS is a member of the Board by statute and Ms. Tucker Beebe’s departure creates an immediate vacancy on the Board. Mr. Watson is awaiting the announcement of a new permanent Director at which time he will approach them about the vacancy.

Susan Ferguson called for the approval of the September meeting minutes. Sheriff Dennis Quakenbush made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. George Buskirk seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Following a brief summary by Mr. Watson, Susan Ferguson called for approval of August, September and October fiscal reports. Dan Stevens made a motion to approve the reports as presented. Sheriff Dennis Quakenbush seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Watson noted that in September the agency sent 38 delinquent accounts to the collection agency totaling $53,139.22.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Director’s Report

A written report was submitted and reviewed by the Executive Director.

Old Business

There was no old business on the agenda.

New Business

Mr. Watson presented for approval the revised grant application for FY 2020. He noted that the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC), after applications were submitted, had awarded an increase in the earlier proposed grant funds. To receive the increase an entity must have received funding in FY 2018-19 in the Personnel and Benefit’s series. The increase totaled 5% of that amount, and entities were required to use the additional funds for salary and benefit costs. Mr. Watson reported that we received an additional $111,778. He chose to apply the entire amount toward salaries, FICA and PERF. It was noted that employee compensation increases provided by the county over the past 8 years had always required
the agency to supplement a greater portion of each individual’s compensation with Project Income Funds. The additional funds awarded for 2020 resulted in our ability to reduce our proposed FY 2020 Project Income budget. Pretrial Services also received an increase of $9,925 in their grant award and, as noted in the memorandum provided, Stephanie Ruggles has applied that toward salaries. Dan Stevens made a motion to approve the revised grant application. Steve Schwartz seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

As 2020 approaches the time has come for the annual election of Board officers. Dan Stevens, Nominations Committee Chair, presented the following slate for consideration: President, Steve Schwartz; Vice-President, Chief Jim Barlow; Secretary, Sheriff Dennis Quakenbush. Stephenie Gookins made a motion to accept the slate as presented. Bob Bragg second the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Watson presented the proposed Board meeting calendar for 2020. It was accepted as presented.

A summary of recent personnel changes was provided by Mr. Watson. He noted that over the past 3 months we had one member of our support staff retire, and we had 3 Living Unit Coordinators move on to other opportunities. He noted that we hired from within to fill the support staff vacancy, which in turn created a vacancy. He provided brief information about each new member of the team. Deanna Teal is transitioning from her current position as receptionist to the support vacancy and Angela Spicer will be our new receptionist. Heather Dailey, Kristopher Beck and Latreacha Blackmon are full-time Living Unit Coordinators. Adam Cook and Paige Nikolov are part-time Living Unit Coordinators.

Mr. Watson noted that each Board packet contained a copy of the FY 2018-19 Performance Metrics Year End Progress Report. It was submitted to the IDOC as required. We were pleased with the final outcome measures and Mr. Watson thanked Kevin Mulrooney for his work on the project. Currently IDOC has yet to discuss their plans for 2020.

Also included in each Board packet was a summary of our level of supervision discharges by month for 2019. Mr. Watson noted that we plan to continue collecting the data on a monthly schedule and will be sharing it with the Board quarterly. He explained that a key component of evidence-based practices and evidence-based decision making is the regular review and discussion of success/failure in whatever you do. For the agency to quickly respond we need to have a mechanism in place to collect and review data such as discharges more frequently than what has customarily been an annual review.

There was no further business to be presented and Susan Ferguson adjourned the meeting. The next meeting will be December 5th at noon.