



**Children's Trust Fund**  
*Protecting Michigan's Children*

## **Board of Directors Virtual Meeting**

**May 20, 2021**

**1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

### **Minutes**

**Members Present:** Tammy Bernier, Rabbi Amy Bigman, Bill Hardiman, Sharif Hussein, Kelle Jo Ilitch, Amy Tattrie Loepp, Earl Major, Sgt. Martin Miller, Lauren Rakolta, Alisande Shrewsbury, Jill Simms, Kristin Totten

**Members Not Present:** Willie Dubas, Stan Hannah, Orlando Todd

**Guest Speakers:** - U.S. Senator - Debbie Stabenow

Capitol Fundraising Associates – Rebecca Bahar-Cook

**Public:** John Tuinstra, Teresa Plachetka (legislative liaison to Sen. Debbie Stabenow)

**Staff Present:** Suzanne Greenberg, Tasia Clay, Heidi Coggins, Anne Stokes, Emily Schuster-Wachsberger, Taylor Williams

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Amy Tattrie Loepp, at 1:31 p.m.
2. **Approval of Board Minutes.** The minutes of the board meetings held on March 18, 2021 were approved. **Motion by Tammy Bernier and seconded by Jill Simms. Approved unanimously.**
3. **Financial Report: Suzanne Greenberg, and Anne Stokes**
  - a. Anne Stokes reported that thus far the year's expenses show no anomalies although there is an erroneous expense that was recorded by MDHHS. This is in the process of being corrected.
  - b. The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) – Improving Minority Health grant revenue has been added to CTF's budget and the spending plan was adjusted.
4. **Board Chair Report: Amy Tattrie Loepp**
  - a. Amy announced that there will be an abbreviated board meeting on August 19th at 1:30pm (EDT) to review and give final approval to the 2022 Direct Service grant applications.
5. **Executive Director Report: Suzanne Greenberg**
  - a. Suzanne welcomed CTF new team members, Tasia Clay, Emily Jaszewski and Atticus Soloman. Suzanne noted that both Emily J. and Atticus weren't able to be at the meeting due to being at a training, but she was able to introduce Tasia who comes to CTF with over 15 years of state experience and will now become the board's main point of contact. Emily J. was previously CTF's intern and Atticus had previously worked on the U of M and CTF Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) grant project. Suzanne also expressed gratitude to those team members that have been with CTF prior to this latest employee expansion, particularly to Anne Stokes.
  - b. Rebecca Bahar-Cook provided an auction update. She praised the board for their enthusiastic active support for the auction.
    - i. The fundraising goal prior to the auction is \$500K and currently \$145K has been raised.
    - ii. Sharif has arranged to have a portion of the auction at the Capitol Building.

- iii. Looking ahead to 2022 CTF is looking to hold an in-person event in April or May, coinciding with CTF's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Proposed dates include April 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and, May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Rebecca ([rebeccabc@capitolfundraising.com](mailto:rebeccabc@capitolfundraising.com)) if there are any date issues. Sharif requested that Rebecca send the proposed dates directly to the board.
- c. Suzanne announced that CTF was chosen in phase 2 of the Prevent Child Abuse America's (PCAA) Government Affairs Initiative. Along a PCAA consultant, the purpose of this project is to help us educate our programs about how to keep policy makers and other stakeholders informed about CTF programming and community needs.
- d. Also announced, was that through the Children's Bureau FRIENDS network (the educational arm of the federal CBCAP grant) and the University of Kansas, CTF was one of six states to receive support for creating a parent leadership state plan.
- e. Suzanne will be sending the board a document that clearly defines as per our federal funding source, the types of programming and activities that are allowed and are compatible with our mission and, federal grant(s) and other funding sources.
- f. Suzanne shared a draft CTF framework document. She thanked Amy Tattrie Loepp and Tammy Bernier for their work in developing the framework.
  - i. This work is part of the process of creating a state prevention plan and will clearly provide definitions for primary and secondary prevention.
  - ii. The Strengthening Families/Protective Factors Framework (<https://cssp.org/our-work/projects/protective-factors-framework/>) provides the lens in which the framework document was created.
  - iii. Kristen Totten commented that CTF consider state needs related to the following; children with disabilities. family resource centers and, standardized definitions of risk factors. Kristen Totten, a newer board member is an attorney that represents the interests of children and adults with disabilities and works with MDHHS on those cases.

## 6. Senator Debbie Stabenow:

- a. Senator Debbie Stabenow provided a history of the organization.
- b. She along with then Senator Curtis Hertel Sr., sponsored legislation establishing CTF as an independent agency of MI and to create the tax campaign. Governor William Milligan signed the legislation into law in fall of 1982.
- c. The Senator is still of the firm belief that primary prevention is a major key to stopping child maltreatment.
- d. The Senator expressed her continued enthusiastic support for CTF and looks forward to CTF's upcoming 2022 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- e. The board engaged with the Senator in enthusiastic conversation. Highlights of that conversation included assuring that parents have the necessary concrete resources and skill sets and, the acknowledgement that child sexual abuse prevention should be a priority. Kristen Totten suggested the addition of a state phone helpline. Sharif Hussein stressed the need for data being involved for all prevention endeavors.

## 7. Board Committee Reports:

- a. Executive Committee: Amy Tattrie-Loepp

- i. Amy stated that the committee was instructed to go through the Attorney General's office when asking about legal matters.
- b. Program Committee: Emily Schuster-Wachsberger for Alisande Shrewsbury
  - i. The committee has two objectives for FY 2021. They are:
    - 1. Continue gathering the applicable data from CTF's DS and LC grantees to enable CTF to prioritize the needs of Michigan's children, maximizing our efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect.
    - 2. Gather the applicable data and programs available statewide to enable CTF to prioritize the needs of Michigan's children, maximizing our efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect.
- c. Public Awareness: Suzanne Greenberg
  - 1. The M3 Group has a signed contract for the rebranding project. Please contact Suzanne with any questions.
- d. Resource Development: Tammy Bernier
  - i. The team is working with Michigan's Children to determine needs.
  - ii. The group requested of the board for any referrals to businesses or other resource entities willing to entertain the possibility of entering into a formal arrangement with CTF regarding goods, services and other items.
- e. Stakeholder Education: Shariff Hussein (chair) and Bill Hardiman (co-chair)
  - i. Shariff Hussein met with state Representative Donna Lasinski. She commended CTF for its work and expressed her support for the work accomplished by CTF.

**8. Public Comment. John Tuinstra**

- a. He shared that he is a retired teacher and now is a counselor, helping children. He wanted to attend to learn more about what CTF does.
- b. Amy Tattrie Loepp expressed appreciation for John's presence at the meeting.

**9. Adjourn:**

- a. Sharif Hussein inquired about when the board meetings might once more be in-person. Amy Tattrie Loepp is open to further discussion about this option. Consideration points include, location, having a hybrid virtual and in-person meeting, etc..
- b. **A motion to adjourn was made by Tammy Bernier and seconded by Rabbi Amy Bigman with the motion being passed unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.