



## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

January 29, 2026, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

ONLINE

**Present:** Board Chair Jason Griffin, Tammy Bernier, Rev. Dr. Steve Bland, Angela Dudley, Aisha Farooqi, Bill Hardiman, Chris Hawkins, Amy Tattrie Loepp, Earl Major, Mark McDaniel, Robert O'Meara, Randy Richardville, Alisande Shrewsbury, Kristin Totten, Parrish Underwood, Michael Keller Zehnder

**Absent:** Director Elizabeth Hertel, Chandra Madafferri, Rev. Cindy Rudolph

**CTM Staff:** Executive Director Suzanne Greenberg, Heidi Coggins, Lori Kroll, Alan Stokes

### Guests from

**Treasury & MDHHS:** Lewis Brody, Senior Manager for Treasury Lan Chen, Interim Senior Deputy Director for Children's Services Administration Tim Click, Matt Deaton, Holly Force, Semone James Howes, Jazmyn Nimke, Blake Opie, Paige Putans, Krasimir Yankov

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**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Jason Griffin at 1:04 p.m.

### Board Chair Update: Jason Griffin

- a. Jason Griffin thanked everyone for the quick shift to a virtual meeting to ensure everyone is safe. There will be NO votes during this meeting.
- b. Our new Board members each introduced themselves and their connection to CTM over the years or their passion for children and youth.
- c. Gratitude was expressed for each of the outgoing Board members and they each shared their gratitude for being part of this important work.
- d. Tim Click, Interim Senior Deputy Director for Children's Services Administration (CSA), introduced himself including his 32 years of working in every aspect of child welfare. He is looking forward to continuing collaboration with Children Trust Michigan. CTM is part of CSA within the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.
- e. Representatives from the Treasury Department gave their annual report on the state of the Trust Fund. Please see the attached PDF of their presentation.
- f. Legislative update – Our four bills have passed through the House. They are now on the Senate floor. Jason Griffin is in communication with the floor leader. We expect them to be passed and sent to the Governor soon.
- g. Future of committees – Jason Griffin will be reaching out to each Board member to maximize each member's expertise and experience. Board committees will be changing to include Public Awareness and Stakeholder Education (combined), Executive, Program, Finance and possibly Auction.
- h. Board evaluation summary and discussion – We had 100% participation of Board members for the evaluation. A summary of the data was sent out in the packet. One suggestion that was elevated was more education to the Board of our programs. We will be discussing that in today's meeting and in the future.

**Remember Your Why** – Jason Griffin shared a compelling reason why he is part of this mission that combines his love for advocacy and his desire to help people. Those with a voice have the responsibility to speak up for the voiceless. He first was introduced to the Auction 20 years ago and has been engaged ever since, not only participating in the Auction but on gift committees, serving as the Auction co-chair and speaking to our Prevention Partners. He is eager to have 100%

Board participation at the Auction.

**Executive Director's Report:** Suzanne Greenberg

- a. **2025 accomplishments** - Suzanne Greenberg reviewed highlights. See attached report. She acknowledged the transition of our team over the last few months with 4 staff leaving due to funding restraints. The Board viewed a new [video](#) that CTM had produced to highlight the impact of HOPE (Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences). There is also a [longer video](#) with more testimonies from our Prevention Partners. Both are found on our youtube channel. Links have been added.
- b. **Prevention Program overview** - Heidi Coggins introduced both [HOPE](#) and [Strengthening Families](#) – frameworks that are the foundation for all we do at CTM. She highlighted some of the work that our Prevention Partners do like body safety training, parenting supports, Period of Purple crying education (abusive head trauma prevention), digital safety, welcome baby bags, and community events. We are also partnering with Fight Child Abuse. See attached update for more information.
- c. **Child Abuse Prevention awareness** – Suzanne Greenberg updated the Board on plans to have a year long approach to child abuse prevention awareness. There are also changes in our focus for Child Abuse Prevention month in April. We will be inviting Board members to record a message about why this topic is important to them. More details to follow. Wear Blue Day is April 10-see attached flyer. There will be no rally this year and plans are in the works for a potential family day or possible legislative day next year.
- d. **Auction update** – Sponsorships continue to pour in as we already raised close to \$200,000. Any unique gift items from your area are welcome.
- e. **Financial Report** – Financial Analyst Alan Stokes
  1. Alan Stokes reported that we finished FY 2025 with \$1.7 million in reserves thanks to a \$500,000 turn around. Instead of using over \$300,000 in reserves as budgeted, we added over \$200,000 to increase reserves from sources such as sorority fundraisers at Michigan universities, being beneficiary of a court settlement and a planned gift.
  2. The FY 26 financial report for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of October-December 2025 now has a new feature of direct expenses for working 1:1 with prevention partners separated from indirect expenses of CTM's operators.
  3. The proposed FY 26 budget changes will be using CTM reserves to fund a training and education coordinator and increased technical assistance. CTM's FRCs will also be receiving \$1.25 million in federal dollars from the Rural Transformation Grant as pass through to fund these eight rural Family Resource Centers. If the pending legislation is signed into law the final budget option would be to pull an extra \$400,000 (about 6.5% instead of 5%) from our investments at Treasury to fund two urban Family Resource Centers and adding an analyst position on the CTM team to coordinate Family Resource Centers. These will be voted on at the next opportunity to do so.

**Committee Reports:**

- a. Suzanne Greenberg and Heidi Coggins explained the changes in the standards for our Prevention Partners. Feedback is needed regarding the cost-sharing change.
- b. Jason Griffin requested that a one pager be sent out to inform the Board and call for any concerns to be expressed within a few days. A vote will be taken on a date in March or April.
- c. The program standards with the fidelity checklist will also be sent out.

**Adjourn Meeting:** An informal motion to adjourn was made by Bill Hardiman and seconded by Rev. Dr. Steve Bland. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

**Submitted by Lori Kroll. Minutes to be formally approved at the next board meeting.**