



**Finance & Operations Committee Meeting
Transcript**

May 7, 2020

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THE CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FINANCE AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

The Children's Trust Board of Directors
Finance and Operations Committee Meeting was held on
May 7, 2020, commencing at 9:31 a.m., at 3150
Southwest 3rd Avenue, United Way, Ryder Conference
Room, Miami, Florida 33129. The meeting was called
to order by Steve Hope, Chair.

- COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
- Steve Hope, Chair
 - Mark Trowbridge, Vice Chair
 - Dr. Magaly C. Abrahante
 - Matthew Arsenault
 - Constance Collins
 - Rep. Juan Fernandez-Barquin
 - Gilda Ferradaz
 - Nelson Hincapie
 - Javier Reyes
 - Hon. Isaac Salver
 - Tiombe Bisa Kendrick-Dunn
 - Kenneth Hoffman

1 STAFF MEMBERS:

2 Dane Minott

3 Donovan Lee-Sin

4 Imran Ali

5 James Haj

6 Joanna Revelo

7 Juliette Fabien

8 Lisanne Gage

9 Lori (Katherine) Hanson

10 Maria Paula

11 Muriel Jeanty

12 Rachel Spector

13 Sheryl Borg

14 Stephanie Sylvestre

15 Susan Marian

16 Vivianne Bohorques

17 Wendy Duncombe

18 William Kirtland

19 Ximena Nunez

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1 PROCEEDINGS

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3 (Recording of the meeting began at 9:31 a.m.)

4 MS. NUNEZ: Good morning.

5 MR. HOPE: All right. So, I hope you and the
6 family are doing well and staying safe. I know we
7 have a new finance committee member, so I want to take
8 this opportunity to welcome our new finance committee
9 member. I'm not sure if he's on.

10 MS. JEANTY: No, he's not there yet.

11 MR. HAJ: I don't see him on.

12 MR. HOPE: Okay. That's -- for those of you who
13 may not have seen the communication that was sent out,
14 it's Representative Juan Fernandez-Barquin,
15 Representative for District 119.

16 So, I was going to give him the opportunity to
17 say a few words, but seeing that he's not on yet, when
18 he comes on I will do so.

19 So, first I want to take this opportunity to
20 commend management and staff for having the foresight
21 in -- for those of you who for the past, I guess few
22 months, saw our investment in technology in which the
23 staff created that technology platform that enabled
24 the organization to respond quickly to some of the
25 environmental changes caused by Covid-19.

1 There are a lot of articles that are written
2 right now that sort of talks about organization
3 agility in terms of looking at how quickly
4 organization can respond to changes as they take place
5 in the environment, and I think the trust's ability to
6 do so is directly as a result of management and team
7 investing in that technological structure.

8 So, I just want to commend staff for at least
9 having that foresight that has made the streamlining
10 of moving from a sort of brick and mortar environment
11 to a virtual environment quite easy.

12 One of the things that I wanted to just ask staff
13 about is that we have -- that there are a lot of CVOs
14 who lack the resources to quickly respond to some of
15 these changes, and I guess it's my hope that the trust
16 will invest in helping some of these smaller CVOs
17 adjust to the changes.

18 Their technological needs for example, like
19 laptop software, communication tools, that even prior
20 to Covid-19, these organizations did not have the
21 resources to make those types of adjustments.

22 So obviously, I think at this point in time for
23 some of them the struggle would be a lot more
24 difficult because of that demand to move to a virtual
25 platform. So hopefully, later on in the discussion if

1 maybe staff could kind of give some indication as to
2 if and what we're doing to provide some help to these
3 organizations.

4 In addition, a lot of these organizations who may
5 not have developed their program to operate in a
6 virtual environment. If staff maybe can just give
7 some insight as to what it looks like and if there's
8 any type of investment that we would need to make in
9 order to try to help them shift to that virtual
10 environment. With that being said, are there any public
11 comment?

12 MS. JEANTY: No, I didn't get any public comment.

13 MR. HOPE: I'm sorry?

14 MS. JEANTY: No, no public comment.

15 MR. HOPE: Okay. Thank you.

16 MR. SALVER: Just getting back to your opening
17 remarks about the platform that we're using for our
18 wonderful meeting here, so you're trying to tell me
19 that our great staff invented Zoom?

20 MR. HOPE: No, no, no. It -- not that they
21 invented Zoom, but I think it's not just Zoom in terms
22 of the whole operation of the agency. I think
23 Stephanie had explained in the past how they had set
24 up the technological infrastructure that staff for
25 example can work in a virtual environment.

1 So, some organizations did not develop their
2 infrastructure prior to Covid to allow them that
3 ability to access information and work in a virtual
4 environment in a manner that was smooth and efficient.

5 So, this was just commenting on what we had done
6 prior to. There's no just one communication tool that
7 we use, but I'm talking about our entire technological
8 infrastructure.

9 MR. SALVER: Right. No, I was being a little bit
10 sarcastic. But you're talking about our providers and
11 how they are handling what they need to get done
12 through help from the Children's Trust I presume,
13 right?

14 MR. HOPE: Right, yes. So, some of what -- for
15 example, if you look at the way a lot of our programs
16 was structured, it was more designed for face to face
17 interactions and given what's happening, a lot of
18 programs had to move to a virtual platform. So for
19 example, in my organization where you have --

20 MR. SALVER: What was that?

21 MR. HOPE: -- who would have met with clients on
22 a face to face basis, we at the time did not have
23 teletherapy. We had to quickly adjust and adapt and
24 get staff on board. Get clients familiar with the
25 thing -- the application in order to interact with

1 therapists.

2 So I'm just saying some of our programs, the way
3 they're designed right now has to change and adapt in
4 order for our providers to provide those services and
5 the question is, what does that look like for, let's
6 say, an afterschool program that was not designed to
7 be a virtual program.

8 MR. SALVER: Got you. Yeah, I'm just glad that
9 we finally -- and Leigh and Shanika can testify to
10 this, that I've been begging for this type of meeting
11 for how many years -- how many years, Leigh?

12 MS. GRAVES: It's been a while, but we just want
13 to clarify that the only reason we're able to do this
14 now is because the Governor has issued executive
15 orders that authorize it.

16 MR. SALVER: Right. You should have asked me to
17 ask the Governor a long time ago. Anyway, thanks very
18 much and thanks to staff. I, you know, I'm, you know,
19 don't let my crazy -- I mean, I've been locked up for
20 60 days, so anything that comes out of my mouth cannot
21 and will not be held against me.

22 But no, I love what you're doing and I absolutely
23 love seeing all you guys. So, it's good to be here
24 even if it's just virtually.

25 MR. HOPE: Okay. So, approval of the minutes. I

1 hope the Committee has had an opportunity to take a
2 look at the minutes and if I can have a motion?

3 MR. SALVER: I'll move it.

4 MR. HOPE: Can I get a second, please?

5 MS. FERRADAZ: I'll second, Ferradaz.

6 MR. HOPE: All in favor?

7 ALL: Aye.

8 MR. HOPE: I forgot to ask, we have a quorum,
9 right?

10 MS. JEANTY: Yes, we do.

11 MR. HOPE: Okay. Good. All right, so I'll turn
12 over now to Mr. James Haj is working CEO with a
13 background of his office. Mr. Haj?

14 MR. SALVER: Steve, before you go on I think it
15 might be a good idea to just take -- I don't know what
16 the protocol is here for the committee, but I think we
17 should just take attendance verbally, like, call the
18 name of the committee member and say here or not here?
19 I mean, just for -- to have a record in case someone
20 doesn't see us and just is listening to us?

21 MR. HOPE: Okay. Muriel, can you assist, please?

22 MR. SALVER: Unmute, unmute.

23 MS. JEANTY: Steve Hope?

24 MR. HOPE: Present.

25 MS. JEANTY: Make a role call? So, I'm going to

1 call all the board members one by one. Steve Hope?

2 MR. HOPE: Somehow I --

3 MS. JEANTY: Can you hear me?

4 MR. HOPE: Let me get back to --

5 MR. REYES: I can hear you, Steve.

6 MR. HOPE: You can?

7 MR. REYES: I can.

8 MS. JEANTY: Yes.

9 MR. HOPE: Somehow I -- okay.

10 MS. JEANTY: Okay. So, I'm going again. Steve
11 Hope?

12 MR. HOPE: Present.

13 MS. JEANTY: Mark Trowbridge?

14 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Here.

15 MS. JEANTY: Magaly Abrahante?

16 MS. ABRAHANTE: Present.

17 MS. JEANTY: Matthew Arsenault?

18 MS. JEANTY: Arsenault present.

19 MS. JEANTY: Representative Juan Fernandez-
20 Barquin?

21 REPRESENTATIVE BARQUIN: (No response.)

22 MS. JEANTY: Constance Collins?

23 MS. COLLINGS: Here.

24 MS. JEANTY: Gilda Ferradaz?

25 MS. FERRADAZ: Here.

1 MS. JEANTY: Maurice Kemp?

2 MR. KEMP: (No response.)

3 MS. JEANTY: Nelson Hincapie?

4 MR. HINCAPIE: (No response.)

5 MS. JEANTY: Javier Reyes?

6 MR. REYES: Here.

7 MS. JEANTY: Isaac Salver?

8 MR. SALVER: Here.

9 MS. JEANTY: Yeah, and Kenny's here. Ken
10 Hoffman.

11 MR. HOFFMAN: Yes, here.

12 MS. JEANTY: Okay. So, we're good. So, one,
13 two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight out of 11.
14 We are quorum.

15 MR. HOPE: Thank you, ma'am. Mr. Haj, the floor
16 is yours, sir.

17 MR. HAJ: Thank you. Muriel, can you put up the
18 slide? The five-year slide?

19 MS. JEANTY: Ask Vivianne?

20 MR. HAJ: Okay. I don't know if you can all see
21 that, but this is the same slide that's come before
22 you for the past three years. You know in '17, when
23 we started in the beginning of '17, the finance
24 committee wanted to have a thoughtful draw down of the
25 fund balance and how do we support our programs

1 throughout the five-year cycle.

2 So, we had -- we -- through the five-year cycle,
3 we actually put out more money than we were taking in
4 and using the fund balance to help support programs
5 for this community.

6 I think this plan, and I want to commend the
7 finance committee and staff who's worked on it because
8 this plan has been doing exactly what we wanted it to
9 do.

10 It also built in flexibility because you can't
11 predict the future. You didn't know about the Covid-
12 19, you don't know what else is coming down the pike,
13 so it built flexibility to go either way.

14 Our goal was to increase the use of the fund
15 balance and to limit the millage rate adjustments for
16 the taxpayers and it also allowed the trust to reach
17 the fund balance goal by year -- between the year
18 three and five and we're on goal to do that.

19 It also included a mid-year supplement. We had
20 \$6,000,000 built in because we went from a three-year
21 cycle to a five-year cycle. We had \$6,000,000 built
22 in mid-year to support community needs and this has
23 also has gone to support the pandemic that we had
24 extra funds to respond to that.

25 And then if you're just looking specifically, the

1 highlighted at the very top that says current cycle,
2 the 2021, I talked about the additional six million.
3 four million was approved last board meeting. The
4 board -- the executive -- yeah, last board meeting it
5 was ratified. The executive committee had passed it.

6 It's an additional \$4,000,000 in tiered payment
7 in scholarships to help our disadvantaged children and
8 parents of families between 150 percent and 300
9 percent of the poverty level.

10 You're going to also see our programs today.
11 There's about 1.2 million between a couple of other
12 initiatives that we're going to add funds to to help
13 support parents.

14 It's not exact -- it's not now that need the
15 help, it's going to be also in the next couple of
16 months as they start -- as we start getting out of it.
17 How are we going to provide the support the families
18 need?

19 We are proffering. There is -- the CEO needs to
20 build -- bring a budget recommendation down the road.
21 We're discussing it now. We'll start bringing it back
22 -- for those of you who are new -- we are in May.
23 We'll discuss it now.

24 In June, we will be the -- build it -- in June we
25 will bring the budget trim documents to you. The

1 finance committee will see it. You'll see it again in
2 July. The board votes on it in July and then it goes
3 to trim.

4 So we want to start having this discussion now
5 but we are looking at a roll back rate for this year.
6 We continue to use our fund balance to support the
7 programs.

8 And also, we have -- and we'll get into that as
9 we look at the monthly financial statements that we
10 have seen. What we wanted was an increase in revenues
11 -- increase in expenditures, that we are getting
12 better expenditures from our programs. We're tracking
13 it much better.

14 And with that, I just want to tee it over to
15 Bill. If Bill has anything to fill in the gaps before
16 we open up discussion on this chart.

17 MR. KIRTLAND: Okay, Jim. Jim always takes all
18 of the best talking points and then it's my pleasure
19 to try to fill in any of the other, you know, comments
20 to support the budget that we're showing today.

21 This is an exercise as Jim said that we've been
22 going through the past few years when the initiative
23 was generated that we really wanted to address the
24 growing fund balance issue.

25 And that growing fund balance issue was a product

1 of a quite healthy and growing property market over
2 the term of about -- ever since, I guess the crash of
3 2008, we saw exponentially growing property values.

4 That makes for a very interesting scenario
5 heading into the next few years of the cycle -- of our
6 remaining years of our cycle. As now, we ponder the
7 results and the effect of whatever the -- this
8 pandemic might have on our property market.

9 Yesterday I had a very interesting conference
10 call with the other two CFOs. Both the Broward and
11 West Palm Beach CFEs, and this is the question that
12 we're all pondering.

13 The trust, however, finds themselves or
14 ourselves, in a situation where we planned to be this
15 flexible and that's in -- that's as a product of
16 having a fund balance and being, you know, careful and
17 lean with our spending.

18 So we in the short term do not find ourselves
19 pivoting in a significant way to what we might think
20 was going to be an issue with any of the outcomes of
21 the pandemic on the commercial and residential
22 property values.

23 We went into this planning process and I know
24 we've -- and we started developing this model a couple
25 of months ago already planning on utilizing a roll

1 back rate next year. This was as a result of a little
2 bit of a shortage on where we wanted to have our fund
3 balance down to at the end of last year.

4 We had a little bit of a first year of a five-
5 year funding cycle programmatic shortage in spending.
6 As Jim eluded to, we've been monitoring the spending
7 of within our programs at the halfway mark -- at the
8 six month mark this year.

9 We're already seeing improved expenditures in our
10 programs to the tune of about \$7,000,000 and I guess
11 I'm already sort of jumping to the monthly financials
12 that we'll present later.

13 But that's something we wanted to see happen
14 before we built out the rest of this projection. And
15 we're seeing that come to fruition now. And so, we --
16 the CFOs at the other -- the CFEs are saying Bill, you
17 know, be happy that you're in the position that you're
18 in. You're the beneficiary of having a fund balance.

19 Remember that that fund balance was vital to your
20 organization during a time like this because, you
21 know, periodically we've had issues like this come up
22 whether it was the property market crash in 2008 and
23 now a pandemic.

24 We have had the benefit of looking at our fund
25 balance and it helping us deal with the times where we

1 might need to put out additional funding while we keep
2 the millage rate low. So, this is a proposal for the
3 second year of -- within the first three years of our
4 funding cycle to institute the rollback rate.

5 It might not be the last time we use it either
6 according to the projection that we built out now.
7 However, there will be a lot of question marks going
8 forward as far as again, what does this mean for the
9 Miami-Dade County property values.

10 So, one question might be should we expect
11 significantly less property and valuation for the year
12 2021 which is the budget that we'll be presenting next
13 month in July and then eventually in trim.

14 And early feedback from the Miami-Dade County
15 Appraiser's Office and the Budgeting Office is that
16 our tax roll that will generate our property value or
17 our Ad valorem tax revenues will be generated as of
18 December 31st, 2019 property values which are
19 unaffected yet by some of the effects that this might
20 all have on Miami-Dade County Property values.

21 However, there is chances for property
22 homeowners, commercial, residences to maybe appeal the
23 value of their properties if they significantly change
24 during the course of the year, but a historical look
25 back amongst when this has happened in the past has

1 indicated that those don't have a very significant
2 effect on the amount of Ad valorem tax revenue that
3 we'll collect.

4 There is a little bit of concern on collections
5 if people are suffering economically or if it's severe
6 enough, will people choose to pay or default on
7 property taxes, and again, historically if that
8 doesn't show to be a significant effect on the amount
9 of Ad valorem tax revenues that we'll collect.

10 So in short, what I'm saying is I think our 2021
11 year, our projection of what we'll have in revenue is
12 sustainable and we know that we'll be within, you
13 know, a reasonable arm's length of what we've
14 predicted. And actually, the expenditures probably
15 still remain a difficult thing to predict.

16 We have seen an increase in our program
17 expenditures compared to year one within the current
18 that we're in. However, we are -- we will be rolling
19 out six million additional dollars. This year has
20 provided a little bit of a hiccup in developing
21 reliable, historical data.

22 I was hoping to look at year one expenditures and
23 year two expenditures of our plan and start building
24 sort of an understanding of the trend but this dynamic
25 of how our program expenditures will sustain

1 themselves through the summer period will be a new
2 challenge in understanding our program spending
3 throughout the cycle.

4 So, these are all things to consider going
5 forward. I think we do have a challenge in year 2122
6 and 2223 if property values begin to dip or slow. But
7 again, our -- an integral part of our design in this
8 whole plan is that we are in a very flexible position.

9 We still do have a fund balance and even though
10 we're planning to achieve and arrive at our goal fund
11 balance by the end of our -- of next year, our third
12 year of the five-year plan. We still have built in
13 some fund balance reserves to help us, you know,
14 sustain during that time if things are to get any
15 worse.

16 Again, so as I look a little bit closer at the
17 summary model here as you can see, we're still
18 striving to keep our management expenses relatively
19 low. The ratio of our programmatic spending with an
20 additional six million compared to the management
21 expenses at 10.7 million is again a record low at the
22 proportional relationship at 6.223 percent.

23 And as Jim mentioned, that \$6,000,000 has almost
24 been -- mostly earmarked in our early childhood
25 development and I know that's been, you know,

1 developed by board strategy in the past and right now
2 we're discussing and already have an idea for the
3 remaining \$2,000,000 and how we're going to allocate
4 that out to our remaining programs and how that will
5 be spent and those decisions will be coming to the
6 board in the coming months.

7 I think I'm just going to pause and maybe open up
8 for discussion. I'm pretty sure I probably had a few
9 more talking points, but I think I went through the
10 majority of what needs to be considered.

11 I know that in talking to board members that
12 there might be some other suggested scenarios or
13 concerns going forward, but again I just want to
14 emphasize that we do have a position that with the
15 millage rate that we are adopting, we have the options
16 to raise or lower millage rates, but we're not stuck
17 into a single strategy where we had been in years
18 past.

19 If you look at our ten-year trend before we went
20 into this five-year cycle, we commonly implemented or
21 adopted the half millage rate in our strategies
22 historically were heavily reliant on generating the
23 revenues that millage rates could produce.

24 So, being that we don't fully utilize the half
25 millage rate, we can tinker with our millage rate to

1 make sure that we position the organization just right
2 each year to make sure that we start leveling out our
3 revenues because we don't yet produce enough revenue
4 to support our expenditures.

5 There will be a time in the future where we need
6 to make sure that the millage rate is bringing in
7 enough revenue to sustain the current expenditure
8 commitment that we as an organization have ourselves
9 at which is budgeted around \$170,000,000.

10 We expect spending -- this model presents itself
11 as we expect spending to be below the budgeted amount
12 just because of issues like contract utilization and
13 so forth, but we're striving to eventually, as we
14 enter in the last two years and the end of the funding
15 cycle, position ourselves so that we can release more
16 money if we're in the position to do so as we head
17 into the new cycle, expand programs, but also sustain
18 the usages of our fund balance. So, I'll just pause
19 there.

20 MR. HAJ: Bill, Bill.

21 MR. KIRTLAND: I think we're still looking at the
22 chart. Maybe -- yes, go ahead.

23 MR. HAJ: Before we open up for questions, can
24 you go through the other two tabs? Vivianne, can you
25 go to the second tab?

1 MR. KIRTLAND: Graph one, yeah. This is just a
2 visual basically. What I was saying is I've only got
3 the numbers up for the first two years that we've been
4 implementing this plan. 1819 was the first year of
5 this funding cycle as you can see. We had a
6 projection of hopefully getting our fund balance down
7 to \$43,000,000 in which we ended up at \$56,000,000.

8 Last -- in the current year that we're in, we did
9 implement a slight increase to the millage rate which
10 generated a tax increase which has sort of sustained
11 the differential or usage of the fund balance.

12 When we implemented or adopted that millage rate,
13 we did not quite have a full understanding of how the
14 program expenditures would -- if they would be fully
15 utilized or how the model would -- or how many
16 expenditures we would actually see from our newly
17 contracted programs since it was the first year of the
18 funding cycle.

19 So in year two, we're projecting that we're going
20 to end at 40. -- 40,000,000 or 40-and-a-half million
21 fund balance where is the original projection would
22 have had us at about \$30,000,000 at this point. But
23 in the original model, we did not adopt as we are
24 suggesting in this strategy, a roll back rate near
25 three, where as we will be suggesting the adoption of

1 a roll back year -- roll back rate year three which
2 you can see really narrows the gap in the -- by the
3 end of the 2021 projection of where our expected fund
4 balance will be compared to the original projection
5 that we have -- we presented years ago.

6 So, as you can see in the remaining two to three
7 years of the funding cycle and heading into the next
8 funding cycle, we see a nice balance between what our
9 target fund balance is which is that sort of level
10 gray line and our originally projected fund balance
11 which is in blue, and what our new projection of the
12 fund balance is in orange.

13 I'm going to proceed to graph two which is just a
14 slightly different way of looking at the same thing
15 going along with the same color scheme as in the
16 previous chart.

17 In the blue, what I'm trying to represent is the
18 relationship between the projected and the target fund
19 balance along side of what our programmatic spending
20 is or our overall budget is.

21 So, in the blue you can see our originally
22 projected fund balance and then what our revised
23 projected fund balance is in orange compared to the
24 gray of the target fund balance.

25 So, in the early years you see that the bar chart

1 -- the bar charts are significantly above our target
2 fund balance and then a little bit of our original
3 projection is ahead of where we are in actuality while
4 our programmatic and operational budget increases
5 throughout the year.

6 So, by the 2324 cycle and really even the 2021 by
7 the end of next year, the budget that we would be
8 bringing in our official schedules in June and July,
9 we're going to have a relatively close and even
10 relationship between the original projection, our new
11 projection, and our target fund balance.

12 Again, a lot of what we built here within this
13 projection is still very young. I would call it -- we
14 need to have the actual assessments of the actual
15 property value assessment which we received that first
16 assessment from the Miami-Dade County Property
17 Appraiser's Office in June.

18 So right now the projection is based on a model
19 of communication I've had with Miami-Dade County
20 budgeting office where they think property values
21 would grow.

22 In years past, some of the projections they've
23 given me prior to the appraisal's office, those
24 projections have been pretty reliable and accurate and
25 I still think that that projection will be accurate

1 for next year that we'll be presenting for the 2021.

2 However, I do think that there will need to be a
3 revised projection by those offices for the 21-22
4 fiscal year and the 22-23 fiscal year being that these
5 property market values might be severely affected by
6 the pandemic.

7 MR. ARSENAULT: Will and Jim, can I ask a
8 question? I guess -- great presentation and I
9 understand the risk on the revenue side. I guess,
10 what's your approach with, you know, if there are
11 concerns with significant unemployment, you know, a
12 significant downturn of the economy on kind of the
13 demand for services side in the near term in the
14 current cycle?

15 I guess just -- I mean, to help understand the
16 approach to how the trust would deal with a scenario
17 like that where we see kind of an overwhelming demand
18 of services from providers that might create a lot
19 more request for funding.

20 MR. HAJ: Matt, a good question. The first thing
21 that we're concentrating on now and I want -- it kind
22 of eludes to Steve's question which I was going to
23 address at the end is, what we're doing with our --
24 through our current initiatives.

25 Sometimes, you know, it's not going outside and

1 trying to find new initiatives, but how do we support
2 the community with our current initiatives out there?

3 So we surveyed, and Lori you can help me, we
4 surveyed a couple of weeks ago our providers, pretty
5 much it was a basic survey. Are you open? Are you
6 providing services?

7 There's another extensive survey going out
8 Friday, tomorrow, of really what the needs are. How
9 do we plan -- our biggest thing right now we're trying
10 to do is summer programming.

11 As industry starts opening up, and people have to
12 go in, there needs to be a place for kids to go. So,
13 we'll have a meeting with the school system set for
14 Monday. We're sending out a survey that's pretty
15 detailed about what their needs are.

16 How can they open? Can they open virtually? Do
17 they have enough equipment? And we're going to gather
18 that back and look at what are the needs of our
19 community. Some of the things that we've done, even
20 the extra 4,000,000 that the board added was to
21 provide -- there were 500 people on the wait list for
22 scholarships for early childcare, so we moved that.

23 So, our focus is within our initiatives, how do
24 we provide support and additional funding -- well, and
25 not lead with the funding, but what else can we do to

1 provide additional support if the funds are needed.

2 We have a network. We have an ecosystem. So, I
3 don't want to create a different ecosystem unless it's
4 needed. Let's continue working with our providers,
5 but if different needs exist, we do have certain pots
6 of money to help.

7 If the board -- if there's something that comes
8 up -- I think for right now, we do not know what's
9 coming forward. We need to be in position. We've
10 been meeting regularly with -- and I think as you're
11 aware, you helped get Baptist on a call.

12 We have about 20 community leaders that call in
13 every Friday to see who -- what other people are doing
14 because we don't want to reinvent something or be in a
15 space that somebody else has expertise.

16 So, we are working together with all the
17 community organizations, of how do we work
18 efficiently, effectively to identify the needs? To
19 help with needs with food, the unemployment. We are
20 speaking to the other organizations and trying to --
21 everyone do what they do best and support one another.

22 MR. ARSENAULT: Thank you.

23 MR. SALVER: I had a question. I'm unmuted. You
24 know, through the Chair, obviously this -- and this
25 question is for either Bill or James can chime in,

1 have you guys been in touch with the, you know, the
2 property appraiser's office in regard to appeals? And
3 I have a feeling that that's, you know, that's what's
4 going to begin the decline of the overall tax bases.
5 It's going to be the appeals. There's probably
6 going to be a lot of uncollectable real estate tax
7 levy's that are levied upon commercial properties
8 because commercial properties, you know, have taken at
9 least or will take at least a 16 to 20 percent cut in
10 their normal revenues and I know that one of the, you
11 know, one of the formulas that are applied to
12 commercial properties are, you know, either, you know,
13 current sales or, you know, current, relative value
14 according to current sales or, you know, some type of
15 cash flow analysis that also help to determine what
16 the value of the property is.

17 So, I mean, I foresee, you know, kind of a worse
18 case scenario where like just everybody's going to
19 contest the valuation of their properties. There's
20 going to be a lot of uncollectable tax bills and I
21 just want to get an idea of how we're, you know,
22 whether we're in dialog with the appraiser's office
23 because I think they're typical margin of error, their
24 hold back, is like around four percent of whatever the
25 tax generated is, and I'm, you know, what happens if

1 that four percent goes to 20 percent?

2 MR. HAJ: Yeah. Isaac, we actually -- Bill and I
3 chatted about this yesterday. That's our biggest
4 liability and that's our biggest fear. I think that's
5 where we're going to see the hit. I think like Bill
6 said in December they pulled the numbers for property
7 taxes, but it's going to be the ability to pay and
8 bring the revenue in.

9 I do think we're comfortable with our fund
10 balance to get us through a year. I don't know the
11 long-term impact but Bill, do you want to chime in on
12 some of the discussion we had yesterday?

13 MR. KIRTLAND: Well yes, and I think I eluded to
14 it a little bit earlier in the presentation about when
15 those appeals are going through, like, when do you
16 actually see the effectiveness of those appeals?

17 I don't know if maybe Isaac, you have a better
18 understanding historically of any year of when they
19 are a number of appeals made to the property
20 appraiser's office, the effectiveness of those
21 appeals.

22 I don't know if it rolls over into the subsequent
23 year or if we feel it in the current year more so, but
24 I guess in some of the lookback that the CFOs in the
25 Broward and the West Palm Beach CFCs and I have done

1 is that it doesn't -- I don't know if we've had an
2 issue like this that affects commercial.

3 So maybe narrowly and residential to a degree,
4 but I'm not so sure we would see a material affect of
5 that in the coming year that we're budgeting for or
6 the following year which we can adjust to if we start
7 seeing that come out.

8 But nobody at the property appraiser's office as
9 of yet is, you know, willing to sort of reforecast or,
10 you know, put their name on anything as to how much
11 this would affect the, you know, the Ad valorem tax
12 role that would be felt for next year's revenue.

13 MR. SALVER: Yeah, I think it used to be the
14 typical backlog could have been four quarters to six
15 quarters, so you would have had that buffer of time
16 for them to work out their case load.

17 I think that was decreased significantly. They
18 instituted some new policies. They made these quick
19 hearings and, you know, I think they, you know, I'm --
20 actually I'm not sure. I think Shanika and Leigh
21 might be better -- in a better position to speak about
22 that, but you know, I'm going presume --

23 MS. GRAVES: Let me chime in really quickly. So,
24 property values are assessed on January 1st of each
25 year. So, as far as this tax year the assessments

1 were done January 1st. The values -- so the tax
2 collections or the tax revenue for the 2021 year will
3 be based on this January 1st.

4 Typically, tax value drop based on any economic
5 slump is about a year to a year and a half after
6 whatever the issues were. And so, we probably won't
7 see any decline until maybe you may see a little for
8 the 21-22 year, but it may -- if there's a significant
9 decline, it will be the next year, 22 year.

10 As far as the value adjustment board hearings,
11 they have as you stated Issac, it's much better than
12 it was before. So, I think maybe two quarters at the
13 most what I saw a while ago. I used to do tax, but
14 I'm completely out of it but we can check with our
15 colleagues now to see if that is still the same.

16 What we can suggest is talking to our tax
17 colleagues, finding out what they think but I think
18 right now, because it's so early it will be a
19 difficult assessment for anyone to make until at least
20 after this fiscal year ends.

21 Yesterday, the Mayor mentioned -- or Tuesday, I'm
22 sorry -- the Mayor did mention that he suggested at
23 the Board of County Commissioner's meeting that he saw
24 that property values would decline substantially and
25 that was a concern for him.

1 So, I think the board is already trying to figure
2 out how they will proceed as far as the next budget
3 year and the subsequent ones to that.

4 MR. SALVER: Right. And you know, Bill and
5 James, you know, I'm kind of like a broken record when
6 it came to let's, you know, let's draw down that fund
7 reserve. Let's draw down that fund reserve.

8 Well, I think it's time to pivot, you know, let's
9 preserve our fund reserve, you know, like a squirrel
10 puts away acorns because, you know, we might have
11 rough seas ahead.

12 So, you know, if that has any impact on what
13 you're doing here -- and by the way, the presentation
14 was wonderful. I mean, we're -- we are hitting the
15 targets that we are, you know, shooting for three
16 years ago. We're hitting them now and it's, you know,
17 you guys are doing a great job doing that, you know.

18 I think, you know, we need to be proactive in
19 this because this is the likes of which we've never
20 seen so, I'm not as crazy about spending down the
21 reserve as I would have been a year or two years ago.
22 Just putting that out there, but thanks.

23 MR. HOPE: Question. This is Steve. So, given
24 the discussion, I think the projection for next year
25 was to reduce the millage rate and given, you know,

1 what we're discussing right now, would it be more
2 conservative to retain the existing millage rate and
3 make some projections for future years as we get more
4 information on the economic environment in which we
5 operate?

6 MR. HOFFMAN: Steve, if I may? I think Isaac's
7 point is well taken, but I do also think before making
8 that decision, we should continue to investigate with
9 the first the question that was raised about the
10 effect of the counties projected effect of defaults.

11 I do think even if we were to adopt the budget
12 where we are, we're not committing to lowering the
13 fund back -- continuing to lowering the fund balance
14 for the following three years, but just to maintain
15 the funding that we have in place now with some leeway
16 and some excess funding available.

17 So, I think I don't necessarily agree that we
18 completely change the pivot, but I do think that we
19 need to be cautious as we head into the budget season
20 and make sure that we're getting the, you know, the
21 best facts which Bill is doing from both the county as
22 well as getting feedback from other CSEs and
23 governmental entities, particularly local governmental
24 entities about their own projections.

25 So you know, Bill, I would just continue to do

1 your diligence and not just rely on what the county's
2 doing but see if you can get input from other local
3 agencies on how their looking at their share of
4 revenues that will come down next year.

5 MR. HOPE: Bill, can you go back to the first
6 slide, please with the numbers?

7 MR. KIRTLAND: The summary slide?

8 MR. HOPE: Yeah.

9 Mr. KIRTLAND: Just one thing I wanted to point
10 out maybe, and I'm just stating the obvious is that
11 given the climate too, you know, we were sort of, I
12 don't know what the word pleased is the right thing --
13 the right word to use but, you know, we felt that this
14 was the year coming up where given the impact that,
15 you know, maybe this economic, you know, shutdown has
16 had on a lot of taxpayers on Miami-Dade County.

17 We were, you know, happy to be in a position
18 where our fund balance could continue to sustain our
19 funding and that we could announce to the public that
20 there was no tax increase in this year. We just
21 weren't sure, you know, if we developed another type
22 of model utilizing any rate above a rollback rate that
23 we had to announce tax increase. I don't know if
24 anybody can hear that -- get a tax increase, you know,
25 during this year. That that would also be a difficult

1 thing to convey to the public.

2 MR. HOPE: The point I was making is that would
3 it be more prudent to retain the 0.4680 for 2021
4 rather than to rollback to 0.4470. Given that on the
5 preliminary discussion that we have today, why we do
6 not have any specific facts that the future, yes we
7 will see a decline in property value.

8 So, the question is as we move forward into the
9 next fiscal year, do we retain the 0.4680 and then
10 make a decision in the subsequent years in terms of
11 the rollback based on the information we have?

12 MR. SALVER: Can I answer that, Steve?

13 MR. HOPE: Yes.

14 MR. SALVER: The optics of us changing anything
15 upwards will be perceived -- I know that we don't make
16 our decisions based on politics, but politically it
17 would not be an expedient thing to do. It would show
18 a lack of sensitivity to the property owners in my
19 opinion.

20 In a year, where we know for certain that
21 property values will decline. To what level, we don't
22 know but in a year such as this we're going through,
23 you know, physical, mental, and financial strife, for
24 us to present any change apart from sticking with the
25 rollback rate is bad politics and certainly bad policy

1 in my opinion.

2 MR. HOFFMAN: Steve, if I may and having gone
3 over this with Bill and Jim as well, putting aside the
4 political implications, that change would result in an
5 additional -- about, I think it's \$6,000,000. Five or
6 \$6,000,000.

7 And I think within, again within the confines of
8 what we're looking at even in this projection we
9 already have a \$2,000,000 that is not necessarily
10 allocated to anything particular. It's available for
11 allocation.

12 And again, from a fund balance perspective, we're
13 still above and working our way towards the -- what
14 the recommended fund balance is which should give us,
15 you know, a sufficient cushion if there was immediate
16 downturn.

17 But that -- I -- we think that that should be,
18 and again, Bill will get some more detail and
19 diligence on it. I think that should be far in excess
20 of what would happen even if the county collections
21 went down significantly because of default or
22 otherwise.

23 MR. KIRTLAND: Of course, there could also be
24 some discussion around what is our new target fund
25 balance. So, maybe the base line is something that we

1 want to discuss. We've always targeted a fund balance
2 based on best government practices and that we would
3 like to put two months in reserves, but maybe another
4 question is given this finding, does your fund balance
5 target change and how much you would like to have in
6 reserves. And then maybe that also affects how we
7 roll out this strategy in the coming years.

8 MR. ARSENAULT: This is Matt. I think the key
9 component -- a key component of that I recanted, this
10 is really intelligence and information gathering is
11 critical over the next few months and this is the
12 program expenditures, you know, and how trying to get
13 a clear picture of what that landscape will change
14 because, you know, some of the providers may not be
15 able to do things in the way they've done it before.

16 So, I'm guessing as part of the feedback of the
17 surveys that you're doing that we -- that we'll get
18 more clarity as to what is the demand, what is the
19 need for funding which might be just as critical.

20 It may be lower for all we know going forward
21 because of inability to provide some of the services
22 in the way they've done it before. So, I agree with
23 the idea of let's gather as much information as
24 possible in the time period over the next few months,
25 and it sounds like that's what you all are doing, so I

1 agree with that and am supportive of it.

2 MR. KIRTLAND: Matt, that's a great point and I
3 think you brought up earlier how maybe there needs to
4 be some consideration in future years about what kind
5 of demand will be out there for increase programmatic
6 expenditures, but I guess another, you know, risk on
7 the side of planning this model is that a significant
8 portion of our program expenditures have yet to been
9 realized even though we're ahead in our year to date
10 expenditures compared to last year. As of March 31st,
11 it's about \$7,000,000 ahead. It's still only around
12 \$55,000,000 at the halfway point, and we budget to,
13 you know, hopefully have somewhere around \$150,000,000
14 of expenditures, so for -- I think I'm thinking of the
15 program expenditures specifically.

16 But however, in a term of six months we're going
17 to see -- we traditionally or historically see, you
18 know, more than half of our expenditures come in.
19 Maybe around 70 percent of our expenditures.

20 So, for me there's still this large degree of
21 risk about the summer performance and if summer
22 performance is severely negatively hit by, you know,
23 program shut downs, we might still end up with some
24 fund balance reserves more than what we originally
25 anticipated going into this year because we never

1 foresaw, you know, any summer programs being affected
2 by all of this.

3 So, that's again maybe another talking point to
4 why the rollback rate is still maybe the best option
5 here because there's still the chance that we don't
6 quite hit those targets with the fund balance because
7 we're not fully sure how much of our summer program
8 spending we're going to see this year.

9 MR. HOPE: Question, so given that a number of
10 these programs such as the summer programs, the
11 afterschool programs, is designed for face to face
12 interaction and a number of providers may not be able
13 to accomplish this.

14 Has a decision been made in that given some of
15 the metrics you use to measure performance, will that
16 mean a reduction in expenditure in these areas and if
17 so, how will that maybe reduce the accumulative
18 expenditures reflected in the budget?

19 MR. HAJ: Steve, this is kind of part of our
20 survey about -- right now, we have people, and people
21 are creative. We have hybrids going on where some
22 people have people coming in and some are doing
23 virtual.

24 So, we're trying to figure out what the universe
25 is for summer. There are a lot of people doing some

1 very good virtual, but you don't want a kid in front
2 of a computer for eight hours as well.

3 So, we're trying to figure out how to do it. And
4 then also, you know, going back to expenditures is,
5 you're going to have, even if they reopen, you're
6 going to have ratios that are going to change, so
7 that's going to affect staffing numbers which is going
8 to affect the budget, physical space.

9 I mean, there's just so much that we're trying to
10 grab in this survey to provide some guidance and I
11 don't think there's a one size fits all. We're
12 probably going to have to work with individual
13 providers to see how they can operate, how we can
14 support them as we try to get through the summer
15 because I really do think as your low income workers
16 have to go back to work, where they don't have a
17 choice and haven't been told to come back. We need to
18 provide a place for those kids.

19 So -- and the survey's pretty comprehensive. We
20 should be getting it back. We've been working with
21 our providers. We have a crafts team that meets three
22 o'clock every day. All the providers questions we
23 answer. It gets elevated up to the exec level, and we
24 respond to everybody's needs every day.

25 So, that's been ongoing for two months.

1 So, we're being responsive to the providers, but
2 we don't know -- I don't have a clear path for summer
3 yet. Once we get the feedback from the surveys, I
4 will be reaching out and individually talking with
5 every single provider of how they're going to operate,
6 will they do it virtually, will they do it in-person,
7 are they following CDC guidelines, all the appropriate
8 things.

9 Tomorrow, we just ordered PPE equipment for our
10 health providers that we will be distributing, and now
11 we're looking -- getting an account to order more PPE
12 to help our providers just as startup when they open;
13 for kids and for the adults.

14 So, there's a lot of unknowns that we'll keep you
15 updated. I think the survey's going to help drive a
16 lot of our questions and we'll share the results of
17 the survey with the board.

18 MR. HOPE: Thank you.

19 MS. FERRADAZ: Jim, this is Gilda. Yesterday I
20 was in a call with Miami-Dade County Public Schools
21 and I asked them if they were going to be able keep
22 the children -- were they going to be able to keep
23 their devices over the summer thinking that that maybe
24 some of the summer programs the children would use the
25 school devices because they may not have their own

1 devices.

2 I don't know if your survey captures any needs --
3 any technology needs that providers or the
4 participants may have.

5 The school, they didn't know yet. When I asked
6 the question, they didn't know yet if they were going
7 to be able to keep those devices over the summer.

8 MR. HAJ: It is on the survey. I know Maggie's
9 on a call. I don't know if she has an answer or not.
10 My understanding was that seniors graduating have to
11 turn them back in, but the others did not, but I can -
12 - that -- we had a meeting, a high level meeting with
13 the school district scheduled this week, yesterday but
14 we had to reschedule for Monday.

15 So, these are a lot of things that we're talking
16 about. We also have 140 health clinics in schools, so
17 how can we use our health clinics getting ready for
18 school, and even when school opens, what will that
19 look like and what will our need be to service kids
20 and staff and everybody else in these schools. Our
21 clinic is going to be extremely important as we start
22 opening up the next year.

23 MS. FERRADAZ: we're still under that -- if we're
24 still under that order of no more than ten can be
25 together, right?

1 MR. HAJ: Yeah. One teacher, nine kids.

2 MS. FERRADAZ: Right. The total of ten, yeah.

3 MS. ABRAHANTE: On the issue of the devices, my
4 understanding is the same of parents that the seniors
5 will be returning their devices, but the other
6 students will be able to keep theirs.

7 MR. HAJ: Maggie, thank you. And then the other
8 concerns that we're talking about is that we have 60-
9 something programs in the parks, so we are talking to
10 the county, and then we have 63 or 64 programs within
11 schools. So, that's also part of the conversation
12 with the school system on Monday.

13 MS. ABRAHANTE: Correct.

14 MR. KIRTLAND: I'm guess I'm just going to
15 reiterate that this is really for presentation
16 purposes today. There's nothing to approve or, you
17 know, vote on but this is just sort of a preparation
18 step, you know, for when we do bring our schedules
19 next month for the one-year snapshot.

20 You know, we just think that this provides people
21 with, you know, oversight and understanding of where
22 we are in the grand scheme of things, so that's a one-
23 year snapshot makes more sense and, you know, provides
24 more clarity.

25 MR. SALVER: And Steve, wherever you are.

1 Quickly, The Representative Fernandez Barquin, I saw
2 him. He joined the group, so we might want to welcome
3 him to the group and, you know, he might have some
4 input on the, you know, the, you know, the question
5 of, you know, how values are going to change.

6 I know that me, as a local elected official, that
7 we have already begun, you know, we furloughed
8 clients, furloughed staff fairly early on because we
9 had a COVID-19, you know, we had a COVID-19 positive
10 employee that happened to have been in our community
11 center.

12 So it was at, you know, the day after that
13 episode was discovered, the public school across the
14 street from us closed and then all the public schools
15 closed immediately after that.

16 And as far as, you know, our local government
17 budget process is concerned, you know, we're budgeting
18 for the worse and that's why I mentioned what I
19 mentioned, so -- and that's going to include cutting
20 staff, you know.

21 Obviously, we're going to have to cut some
22 services, you know, we have a fairly decent size
23 reserve in our city so I don't think it's going to
24 affect the quality of life as much as it would in
25 cities that don't have, you know, that run a very,

1 very tight budget.

2 So, you know, I'd love to hear from the
3 representative here, you know, what is being spoken
4 about, you know, up in Tallahassee in his district if
5 that's okay, Steve.

6 REPRESENTATIVE FERNANDEZ-BARQUIN: Hello all. Can
7 you all hear me? Yeah?

8 MR. HAJ: Yes. Welcome, Representative.

9 REPRESENTATIVE FERNANDEZ-BARQUIN: Thank you.

10 Thank you, Jim. So basically, we anticipate -- we do
11 anticipate that there will be special session. I hope
12 that there isn't, but I do anticipate that there will
13 be a special session sometime in June since the fiscal
14 year for the state begins July 1.

15 And I have not gotten any concrete figures, any
16 hard-concrete numbers on the short falls in the sales
17 tax revenue. Once I do, I'll definitely inform all of
18 you at the next meeting, but from what I've been
19 hearing it's -- not that it's inevitable, but it's
20 probably flash likely that we will have a special
21 session.

22 But we're staying hopeful and as you all know,
23 the governor is slowly opening up the state, but
24 Miami-Dade County, Broward, and Palm Beach are in a
25 special division when it comes to that because more

1 than half of the COVID cases are here, and we're
2 opening much more slowly but we will see.

3 I think the next two to three weeks will be
4 critical to see what the economic projection will be
5 in the long run.

6 MR. HAJ: Thank you. Steve, I think you're on
7 mute.

8 MR. SALVER: Okay. Can we go on to the next
9 item?

10 MR. ALI: I think Steve is having some problems.
11 He just texted me so.

12 MR. SALVER: Okay who's the vice chair?

13 MR. SALVER: Okay. Who's the vice chair?

14 MR. HAJ: Mark, but he's off --

15 MR. SALVER: Mark is gone too? James, why don't
16 you just -- why don't you navigate us through the rest
17 of the meeting?

18 MR. HAJ: Isaac, take over your old spot. All
19 right.

20 MR. SALVER: They put -- you know, Ken Hoffman
21 put a thumbtack on my chair.

22 MR. HOFFMAN: Isaac, I think this is your General
23 Hague moment here.

24 MR. SALVER: I just -- you know, honestly, I just
25 can't stop looking at Nelson Hincapie's hair. I

1 remember at the last meeting it was getting big.

2 Soon, he's just going to be all hair.

3 MR. HAJ: Yeah.

4 MR. HINCAPIE: And I shaved my beard for you.

5 MR. SALVER: So, we'll trade. I'll give you some
6 beard and you'll give me some of that hair.

7 MR. HAJ: All right. So, we can go to Resolution
8 2019-A. Ken, do you want to take over or do you want
9 me to do it?

10 MR. HOFFMAN: I'm happy to read it. I'm ex-
11 officio here though.

12 MR. HAJ: Okay.

13 MR. HOFFMAN: I'll turn this over to Isaac as a
14 committee member.

15 MR. SALVER: You got it. Okay resolution,
16 resolution 2019A. Authorization to negotiate and
17 execute a contract renewal with Marcum LLP for
18 financial auditing service in the total amount not to
19 exceed \$27,750 for a term of 12 months commencing
20 August 1st, 2020 and ending July 31, 2021 with two
21 remaining 12-month renewals subject to annual
22 appropriations. And the backup for this resolution is
23 found on pages three and four. Okay. Do I hear a
24 motion?

25 MR. REYES: So moved, Reyes.

1 MR. SALVER: A second?

2 MR. HOPE: Steve Hope.

3 MR. HINCAPIE: Second, Hincapie.

4 MR. HOPE: My apologies, folks. My computer
5 crashed. I had to --

6 MR. SALVER: We have to revert. All right.

7 Well, Steve why don't you take it over? There's been
8 a motion and a second for discussion. We're moving
9 along.

10 MR. KIRTLAND: There was a coo in your reference.

11 MR. HOPE: I see that you started the process, I
12 would -- if you don't mind finishing it off, that's
13 fine.

14 MR. SALVER: No problem. Are there any -- I'm
15 just -- very, very quickly for the record. William,
16 what was the fee for last year's audit?

17 MR. KIRTLAND: I think our fee was, like, \$500
18 less than it was this year when they, you know made
19 the bid for the five-year audit. They had had a scale
20 of about \$500 per year, so I think it was \$26,500.

21 MR. SALVER: Okay. All right. Fine. It's --
22 well, it's not very material in the difference though.
23 This is in line with prior years. Are there any
24 questions or comments?

25 MS. GRAVES: I just want to interject. The

1 resolution stated it was 2019-A. It should be 2020-A.

2 MR. SALVER: Oh, yeah. That's a good catch.

3 Thank you. Yeah, okay. Okay, so it's 2020-A. Okay.

4 If there are no other questions, we'll take a vote.

5 Is Muriel -- Muriel, do you want to take a poll vote?

6 Put on your speaker. Unmute, unmute.

7 MS. JEANTY: If you want, Isaac but the other
8 board members are there? Roll call is Steve Hope?

9 MR. HOPE: Present. Yes.

10 MS. JEANTY: Mark Trowbridge? Mark?

11 MR. SALVER: He's absent.

12 MS. JEANTY: Oh, yeah. He was leaving early.

13 Magaly Abrahante?

14 MS. ABRAHANTE: Yes.

15 MS. JEANTY: Matthew Arsenault?

16 MR. ARSENAULT: Yes.

17 MS. JEANTY: Representative Juan Fernandez-
18 Barquin?

19 REPRESENTATIVE FERNANDEZ-BARQUIN: Yes.

20 MS. JEANTY: Welcome.

21 REPRESENTATIVE FERNANDEZ-BARQUIN: Thank you.

22 MS. JEANTY: Constance Collins?

23 MS. COLLINS: Yes.

24 MS. JEANTY: Gilda Ferradaz?

25 MS. FERRADAZ: Yes.

1 MS. JEANTY: Maurice Kemp?

2 MR. KEMP: (No response.)

3 MS. JEANTY: Nelson Hincapie?

4 MR. HINCAPIE: Yes.

5 MS. JEANTY: Javier Reyes?

6 MR. REYES: Yes.

7 MS. JEANTY: And Isaac Salver?

8 MR. SALVER: Yes.

9 MS. JEANTY: It's --

10 MR. SALVER: It sounded unanimous to me.

11 MS. JEANTY: It's eight out of ten; unanimous.

12 MR. SALVER: Okay. Thank you. Steve, you can

13 take over the final --

14 MR. HOPE: Thank you. I appreciate it. Okay.

15 I'll turn it over to the CEO for the monthly financial

16 statement discussion and the quarterly reporting and

17 goods and services. Mr. Haj, the floor is yours.

18 MR. HAJ: Thank you, sir. Bill, I'm going to

19 kick the monthly financials over to Bill. I think --

20 as we talked about earlier, we're very pleased with

21 the expenditures that -- we've seen increase

22 expenditures, and I'm not sure if we have the chart to

23 pull up. There we go. Okay.

24 Bill, do you want to highlight some of these

25 sections so --

1 MR. KIRTLAND: Right. I just -- I think I really
2 just want to jump to page -- it's really just the last
3 page of this report is what I'm going to key in on, on
4 the expenditure side. That's what I, you know,
5 primarily am looking at from a month to month
6 standpoint.

7 As you can see that our total expenditures if
8 we've -- alright. Let me look over here. Okay. And
9 that's where they're at. As you can see, our total
10 expenditures are about 55,700,000 compared to last
11 year's 46,146,000.

12 In my original presentation of the budget, I
13 don't think I meant to allude so much to this schedule
14 already, since -- so I've already referenced it, but I
15 think that whereas I'm pleased to see that the
16 expenditures are ahead of where they are last year,
17 you know, as we took a little bit more of a deep dive
18 into the analytics of why that is, and a lot of that
19 can have to do with invoice timeliness from our
20 providers.

21 At this point last year, we had a few more
22 outstanding contracts that needed to be executed and
23 we still had in arrears, a number of invoices that
24 needed to be collected. So, when we look provider by
25 provider or contract by contract, we have more

1 invoices collected also, which might be in part why
2 that number is higher.

3 But as I stated, our total expenditures being at
4 \$55,000,000 at the halfway point this year and
5 obviously we're budgeting for much, much more
6 expenditures hoping to at least arrive around maybe a
7 \$150 mark -- \$150,000,000 mark, a majority of our
8 expenditures usually take place during the summer
9 months of reporting.

10 So as we've already stated, a big part of whether
11 or not we hit our targets is what is all of this, you
12 know, the pandemic effect going to do to our summer
13 programming because we transition from primarily
14 having after school, you know, program services move
15 into all day summer program services, which are
16 significantly more costly and things like field trips
17 that may not occur.

18 So, there will definitely be a close eye on how
19 we're moving through the summer and in a lot of risk
20 placed on some or programmatic expenditures to see if
21 we get to where we are intended to be and utilizing
22 our fund balance.

23 Hopefully, some of our responses to emergency
24 requests will offset a little bit of that. But I
25 don't think that we've had much more than something

1 around the sum of -- short of \$2,000,000 of additional
2 expenditures as a result of, you know, pandemic relief
3 thus far.

4 So, hopefully, if there is a shortage that will
5 curb the effect of any expenditures that are
6 unrealized, but again, a big part of you know, our
7 risk lies in the summertime.

8 MR. HAJ: All right. Any questions, Mr. Chair?
9 Anybody else from the committee?

10 MR. HOPE: No questions for me. Any question
11 from the floor?

12 MR. HAJ: All right. The last one on the COO
13 report was a quarterly reporting of goods and service
14 expenditures. So, this came up in reviewing the
15 procurement policy with our attorneys.

16 It was identified that goods and services are
17 listed on the CO authorization section. So, Vivianne,
18 can you pull up the procurement policy; that one page?

19 So, this -- what you're looking at is a section
20 of the procurement policy, and the highlighted is the
21 goods and services which is kind of tripping us up,
22 not really tripping us up, we just want to ask the
23 board for clarification.

24 So, to give it a little bit of hindsight,
25 especially to our new newer board members, the CO

1 reporting requirements and spending authority were
2 established for certain items by Resolution 2007-60,
3 and that was in the year 2007, and it was amended in
4 September 2018.

5 And as you recall, there was also \$1.2 million
6 annual threshold that has not changed. However, at
7 '18, the board approved waiving the hundred thousand
8 dollar per month threshold to give me greater
9 flexibility because summer programming for children
10 was where the greater needs were.

11 It was in the summer months that we had the
12 highest amount of requests for summer programming.
13 The procurement policy sets the CEOs authority to
14 spend below 25,000 in reporting requirements for
15 expenditures below 25,000 to the board.

16 The practice, since 2007, has been reporting
17 funding for all the after -- small, summer and after
18 school programs, sponsorships capacity building
19 opportunities, and that's what you see every quarter
20 when we bring it in front of you. That's what you're
21 seeing.

22 All the expenditures under CEO authority for
23 programming in the community. Goods and services have
24 not been included in this report historically.
25 However, expenditures are -- they do fall in line with

1 your -- the approved budget.

2 The board during the trim, approves our supply
3 lines and all the different lines, so these are spent
4 to the approved items. In addition, in 2009, the
5 finance committee directed the chair that anything
6 under 25K gets reported -- I'm sorry -- the finance
7 committee directed the CEO that anything under 25,000
8 get reported to the chair and the vice-chair of the --
9 and the chair of the finance committee, and we have
10 been doing that weekly ever since.

11 So, staff would just like to confirm and seek
12 your guidance of this committee in the intent of the
13 CEO spending authority and reporting requirements, so
14 if it's needed that we adjust the procurement policy
15 and adjust our procedures.

16 So, I kind of want to open up to the board to
17 hear the thoughts of the committee in terms of the
18 goods and services section. It has not been
19 historically reported back to the board, and if it
20 does get reported back to the board, that \$1.2 million
21 threshold, I suggest needs to change because that was
22 really never the intent of this section.

23 MR. SALVER: Let me chime in, if I could, Mr.
24 Chair because I'm pretty sure out of the out of the
25 members of this committee, I was actually there in

1 2007 when we passed this originally.

2 And, you know, I think there was well, you know,
3 in 2007 when we passed this, it had come to light by
4 the board of directors that the, you know, that the
5 executive director or the CEO was, you know, was
6 making some decisions without board approval and items
7 that involved programming.

8 And not all, you know, once the programming
9 decisions and investments were made by the CEO
10 unilaterally, the board was kind of up in arms and
11 they said, you know, what, we need some, you know, we
12 need some policy to apply to situations where the CEO
13 does spend money on, you know, on programming and
14 community events and things like that.

15 So that, you know that that's how this, you know,
16 I guess policy originated. And I think when the words
17 goods and services were put in there, the logic was
18 that the CEO should be allowed to, you know, buy a
19 file cabinet on the fly or maybe change some furniture
20 on the fly without going through the board or without
21 requesting board approval.

22 And that's why I said --that's why they said
23 okay, you know, you could spend money on that type of
24 stuff, but if you spend money on programmatic things
25 or events or similar things like that, then it would

1 require board approval, even if it is retroactive.

2 Now, from your comments, James, it sounds like
3 there's really not much you need to change here but
4 you're implying that the summer might be front loaded
5 with opportunities to spend more money rather than
6 wintertime or, you know, fall. Is that what the issue
7 is here?

8 MR. HAJ: No. That issue was taken care of in
9 '18. The board -- remember there was \$1.2 million was
10 allocated and there was a restriction of 100,000 per
11 month. So, we asked for flexibility, removed the
12 monthly restriction, and keep the overall. So, the
13 board approved that; that's fine. The real issue is
14 that term goods and services.

15 MR. HOPE: Yeah. We -- can we bring up the 2018
16 resolution?

17 MR. HOFFMAN: Yeah. If I may while we're doing
18 that because I have discussed this with Jim Isaac.
19 First of all, you're right. None of the rest of us
20 were there in 2007.

21 We did look back at that 2007 motion and the
22 resolution and it doesn't -- it talks about all the
23 things that Jim and our prior CEO has been reporting
24 regularly sponsorships, other small community
25 expenditures for training and things of that nature.

1 But the -- this policy that was -- that's been
2 sitting in front of us is not consistent with that
3 because it adds the words "goods and services" which
4 were never in the original resolution.

5 I think there are checks and balances on goods
6 and services, but what Jim was pointing out when he
7 and I discussed it, is that literally read since the
8 reporting requirement from the 2007 resolution was
9 baked in here and the words "goods and services" were
10 added, that this would technically cover all of the
11 goods and services procurements that get made within
12 the 1,200,000, which was never the original intention.

13 And also, again, that recording hasn't been done
14 that would presumably include some of the normal
15 purchases for, you know, office supplies and things
16 like that that are done on new CEOs under \$25,000
17 authority.

18 So I don't think it's not really a question of
19 changing the 2007 resolution, which seems to have been
20 spot on to put that in place, nor does it really
21 impact what we did in 2018 which was more to just take
22 out the 10,000 per calendar month and change it to
23 100,000 per calendar month and change it to a -- just
24 a yearly allocation so it didn't have to depend on a
25 limit on a particular month.

1 MS. FERRADAZ: Sorry. Can I ask a question? So,
2 these goods and services, would these be like
3 administrative things? Like, the furniture or a file
4 cabinet?

5 MR. HOFFMAN: My understanding as goods and
6 services is broadly defined in the procurement policy
7 and again, what the 2007 resolution had originally
8 addressed was other types of payments to either
9 existing or other providers, community organizations,
10 not for services and not for goods, but for either
11 sponsorships, training, services.

12 In fact, this -- what's in front of us, I've --
13 been pulled up on screen as the 2018. I think again
14 that the original resolution that Isaac refers to
15 would not have covered a purchase of goods, whether it
16 be an office desk, office supplies or otherwise. It
17 needs to make it out to be --

18 MS. FERRADAZ: So, the concern is that services
19 are being more broadly interpreted than originally
20 intended. Is that the problem?

21 MR. HOFFMAN: I -- again, I'm not sure where the
22 -- personally where the disconnect or the difference
23 between the language and the procurement policy and
24 the original resolution cropped up, but the original
25 resolution did not cover goods, purchase of goods.

1 And I'll just say what was pulled up on screen as
2 the December 2018, it might be helpful if you have it
3 available to pull up the 2007 resolution which is --
4 which was the basis for that reporting requirement
5 that's now baked into the procurement policy.

6 MS. FERRADAZ: But some of these goods, could
7 they already be included in things that would have
8 been in the approved budget, like administrative costs
9 and things like that?

10 MR. HOFFMAN: Correct. All of which would --

11 MS. FERRADAZ: So, they're already in the
12 approved budget? It's not something additional?

13 MR. HOFFMAN: All of which would have come under
14 the GNA line item and be spent within the GNA line
15 item. In accordance with the other elements of the
16 procurement policy which require, for example, for
17 over \$5,000 that several bids be obtained.

18 So, I don't -- I think there's an overlap here
19 that was not intended and -- or at least that's my
20 conclusion. And again, this was just from a review of
21 this with Jim after he raised the question.

22 MR. HOPE: This is Steve. The 2007 was specific
23 to funding requests for -- funding requests versus the
24 current resolution which takes into consideration
25 goods and services.

1 So, if staff had to report on goods and services,
2 it's like maybe running a report from your general
3 ledger of all transactions under 20 -- under 25,000.

4 In retrospect, I don't think this was the intent.
5 So, the original resolution which makes specific to
6 the only two funding requests, and my assumption is
7 that we want to sort of return to that definition as
8 it relates to 25,000; is that correct, Mr. Chair? I'm
9 sorry, Mr. CEO.

10 MR. HAJ: Yes, it is.

11 MR. HOPE: Okay.

12 MR. HOFFMAN: And one other point, and I did
13 discuss this with our CEO. The staff doesn't have an
14 objection because my question was, if this doesn't
15 appear within the -- to fall within the 1.2 million
16 CEO authority, then would there be an objection if
17 there was some, say quarterly or bi-annual reporting
18 of the things that fall on the \$25,000 below?

19 And I think again, that's not the issue. The
20 issue is that even under the procurement policy, it
21 would appear that the 1.2 million is limiting because
22 it would -- it might cover all goods and services,
23 including those that are already in the budget.

24 MR. HOPE: So, we would need a motion to make an
25 amendment.

1 MR. SALVER: Well, this is -- first of all,
2 Steve, let me stop you, please, if I can, Mr.
3 Chairman. I don't think we can make a motion or
4 anything like that because it wasn't really on the
5 agenda as, you know, any type of resolution or formal
6 action taken by the committee.

7 I think this is for discussion only. That's how
8 I looked at it. And I'm still, you know, I really
9 still need to wrap my mind around what the bottom-line
10 effect of this.

11 I think the way I've added it up in my mind right
12 now, is that we're trying to mitigate the effects of
13 goods and services purchased under the CEOs authority
14 in order to replenish the fund that is available to
15 the CEO back up to 1.2 million to be exclusively
16 allocated for programming or things other than goods
17 and services.

18 And that any of the CEOs, you know, requests for
19 funding for goods and services won't be carved out
20 from that original \$100,000 month or \$1.2 million a
21 year fund. Is that the goal, Jim?

22 MR. HOFFMAN: Can I answer? I mean, again, my
23 understanding is we're not trying to change anything
24 because the company, the CEO, Jim and prior has
25 consistently reported and taken the 1.2 million for

1 these things that were approved in the 2007
2 resolution, which is an addition to what was then the
3 CEOs authority to contract for professional services,
4 to add other things, including community sponsorships
5 as well to this to this allocation.

6 So, I think part of it's an interpretation which
7 is a real interpretation of what went into the
8 procurement policy. Again, not necessarily matching
9 the 2007 authority for the 1.2 million.

10 So I think if I understand correctly and Jim, you
11 can you can confirm this that -- what this was brought
12 up in the context of shouldn't you also be reporting
13 goods and services within the 2 million not that they
14 were brought in and shouldn't have been.

15 We've never been reporting goods, such as
16 purchases of supplies and the like as part of the 1.2
17 million.

18 MS. ABRAHANTE: I have a couple of comments that
19 I would like to share. Number one, I think it is that
20 what I'm looking at or the way I'm interpreting the
21 situation is we have a board approved resolution that
22 somehow got interpreted into a policy for procurement
23 and there's a disconnect because the procurement
24 policy includes language that was not contemplated on
25 the original resolution.

1 However, our practice has been in alignment with
2 the original resolution. So, it seems to me that the
3 action, whenever it's appropriate to take, would be to
4 amend the procurement policy to reflect what the
5 resolution indicated and to reflect what our practice
6 has been.

7 The other issue is that these amounts were set in
8 2007, and when you look at the economy and what a
9 dollar was worth from 2007 to now, it's a very low
10 amount of money that we're dealing with here.

11 So, to imagine that that would also include goods
12 and services it's really unrealistic because in 2007
13 we were given the authority to approve up to 25,000.
14 Every dollar back then is now worth almost two and a
15 half dollars. So, we're already operating under very
16 low thresholds.

17 So, my thinking is that what we need to do is
18 align the procurement policy to what the intent of
19 this process was in the resolution.

20 MS. GRAVES: If I may, I just have one
21 correction.

22 MR. HOPE: This is a question for --

23 MS. GRAVES: Dr. Abrahante, the intervening
24 resolution from 2018 also included goods and services,
25 and so between 2007 it didn't include it. The 2018

1 item did, and then the procurement policy is aligned
2 with that.

3 So, the committee and the, you know, can propose
4 and the board, you know, can consider to do everything
5 that, you know, you all have been talking about but as
6 it stands right now the policy and the reso are
7 consistent.

8 MR. HOFFMAN: Shanika, if I may? And we did have
9 the 2018 resolution on screen a moment ago. I agree
10 with you. My reading of that resolution is that it
11 refers to goods and services because again, I fully
12 believe unintentional -- unintentionally, it was baked
13 into.

14 If you look at the highlighted first paragraph
15 which I think, Vivianne, you need to scroll down. It
16 refers to goods and services because at that point, it
17 was already in the procurement policy in the manner as
18 it is now.

19 Not again, that may have been done deliberately
20 but from my review, at least with staff of the history
21 and different copies of the policy and the like, we
22 don't find that there was a deliberation to put goods
23 and services in. It was done in the context of
24 putting this authority potentially in the procurement
25 policy.

1 But I do agree with both Maggie and Isaac that
2 this -- that I think the appropriate action here is to
3 is, if the committee decides, is to direct the staff
4 to prepare an amendment not to actually entertain an
5 amendment at this point.

6 MR. KIRTLAND: I can confirm what Mr. Chairman,
7 you're saying about as a member of staff sort of
8 involved in writing the resolution or the language in
9 the amended resolution and in the updated procurement
10 policy. There's certainly a disconnect between some
11 of the language that's included there and the intent
12 of it.

13 Especially in reading words like "purchase," like
14 the words "purchasing," you know, sort of implies a,
15 you know, transactional nature, operating type of
16 items, and of goods and services.

17 I know maybe at the time the intent of staff,
18 which is maybe being misinterpreted now in both the
19 procurement policy and the resolution is that there
20 was some idea that the term goods could also be
21 attached to services.

22 For instance, I know in today's meeting, we've
23 discussed a little bit about I think upcoming
24 opportunities about purchasing things like the
25 personal protective equipment like PPE. That would be

1 the direct, maybe purchasing of goods that also has
2 its intent to benefit community services.

3 So I think the intent again, of that language was
4 that maybe we engage in certain provider relationships
5 that were service based, and some that would provide
6 relationships that were directly good based that
7 benefited those organizations but I don't think the
8 intent of goods where the transactional goods of the
9 Children's Trust operations itself.

10 MR. HOFFMAN: Steve, and one word. A just minor
11 point and then I will mute myself for the rest of this
12 discussion. I -- the 2018 resolution did not make any
13 substantive change in the types of things that were
14 allowed.

15 It was simply for the purpose of changing the
16 100,000 per month limit to a 1,200,000 per year. And
17 as I pointed out, it cited the existing policy which
18 seems to have been inconsistent with 2007 resolution
19 and never reconciled before that, and now I will --

20 MR. HAJ: Mr. Chair?

21 MR. HOPE: Any other discussion on the subject?

22 MR. HAJ: Mr. Chair, if I may. I think I've
23 heard the committee's kind of wishes. If you -- if
24 the authority moving forward is to come back to the
25 committee next month, with some language of, kind of

1 reverting back to '07 or clarifying this, we will work
2 with our attorneys to do so.

3 MR. HOPE: We would need a motion in staff to do
4 so.

5 MR. SALVER: Yeah, I'll make a motion to do that,
6 but I had a comment.

7 MR. HOPE: Okay, please do so. Go ahead, sir.

8 MR. SALVER: But -- go ahead. Well get -- do the
9 motion and -- is there a second for the --

10 MR. HINCAPIE: Second, Hincapie.

11 MR. SALVER: Okay.

12 MR. HOPE: And the motion would state the finance
13 committee has directed the CEO to draft a motion to
14 reflect changes to the purchasing, authorization of
15 the seal to exclude goods and services. Is that
16 consistent with what we want to achieve?

17 MR. ARSENAULT: I don't think that's -- I think
18 it's to clarify the procurement policy.

19 MR. REYES: Correct.

20 MR. ARSENAULT: We need to clarify the
21 procurement policy. So there may be different ways of
22 doing that, but that's the objective.

23 MR. REYES: Right.

24 MR. HINCAPIE: In going back to the original 2007
25 resolution. The intent of the original resolution.

1 MR. HOPE: Okay. So, let's see if we could
2 rephrase this. The motion is to request the CEO to
3 clarify the existing resolution reflecting the 2007
4 resolution authorization. Someone help me with the
5 verbiage here.

6 MS. GRAVES: Can we just say that the motion is
7 to direct the CEO or staff to clarify the CEOs
8 authority, his expenditure authority. And then we can
9 come back, and they'll have a motion.

10 They'll have whatever direction they want to
11 bring to the board because it could be within the
12 resolution directly with his expenditures, authority
13 or it could be something related to amending the
14 procurement policy. So, if you just have it broad
15 enough, it'll cover both.

16 MR. SALVER: Right.

17 MR. HOPE: Madam Attorney, do I get a first on
18 the motion?

19 MR. SALVER: Yeah, I'll move with what Shanika
20 said.

21 MR. HOPE: Can we have a second?

22 MR. REYES: I'll second it, Reyes.

23 MR. HOPE: All in favor?

24 ALL: Aye.

25 MR. HOPE: Isaac I think you had some --

1 MR. SALVER: Yeah. I just want to make a
2 comment. Even though this resolution in 2007 passed
3 pretty unanimously, I for one was never a fan of the
4 concept of the CEO kind of unilaterally having, you
5 know, what I would refer to as a slush fund for 1.2
6 million bucks. Just so you know.

7 And I encourage anybody that's going to do
8 research on this item to maybe listen. Not just --
9 don't look at the minutes, but listen to the tapes if
10 they exist of the discussions that led up to this
11 because this -- I remember the CEO at that time, you
12 know, this was almost like part of his benefit package
13 to, you know, to have, you know, control over a
14 certain pool of funds that basically he can expand on
15 without going through the normal approval processes,
16 you know, that we've worked so hard to put into place.

17 Just, you know, I'm just saying that for the
18 record because I -- even I trust, you know, I trust
19 and respect James and he knows it, and we've kind of
20 had conversations on this topic before. But, you
21 know, I was never a huge fan of taking \$1.2 million of
22 taxpayer money and putting it in control of one
23 person.

24 MR. HOPE: I think currently --

25 MR. SALVER: It's one of accountability. That's

1 why we came up with this resolution to have at least
2 accountability even though it's retroactive.

3 Just, you know, I'm just saying that so we, you
4 know, the rest of the committee and the new folks on
5 the committee, you know, don't go into this kind of
6 with blinders on that if we did something in the past
7 that it makes it correct or it makes it, you know, it
8 makes it correct or it makes it ethical or makes it
9 transparent because it doesn't.

10 We're going to talk about this piece of policy
11 and, you know, the CEOs ability to spend \$1.2 million
12 on -- I mean, we should recon -- we should consider it
13 and all aspects of it from soup to nuts.

14 MR. REYES: Just as a foil to that though, Isaac
15 I think considering the magnitude of the expenditures
16 and the difficulty of the approval process and the
17 amount that we're talking about, I don't think it's
18 unreasonable to have some flexibility considering how
19 things change, but that's just my position as a new
20 board member.

21 MR. HINCAPIE: I think -- can I make a comment?

22 MR. HOPE: Yes, sir.

23 MR. HINCAPIE: I think given the fact, you know,
24 of the nature of the people that we serve and the
25 issues in the community and everybody that we are

1 trying to, you know, help transform their lives we --

2 I think we -- the CEO needs to have some
3 flexibility to be able to move quickly and I think
4 that yes, there should be some reporting Isaac and we
5 should know what's being done, but there has to be
6 some flexibility and some ability for him to deploy
7 funding, where you know, some lives can be transformed
8 and, you know, very quickly.

9 So, I think that, you know, and given that we are
10 dealing with, you know, such -- some precedent times
11 and so many difficult issues.

12 I anticipate that there will be a lot of
13 depression, a lot of issues that will come up as a
14 result of all of this. And for us to put handcuffs on
15 somebody that we trust and a staff that we trust and a
16 leader that we've vetted, that we selected.

17 I think, you know, recording has to be done but
18 there has to be some flexibility for him to be able to
19 deploy the funding. How his staff believes that needs
20 to be deployed.

21 MR. HOPE: This is Steve. So, I think currently
22 we have a system in place in which the CEOs
23 expenditures under 25,000 is reported and is subject
24 to oversight in which we as the finance committee, and
25 board has the ability to request from the CEO

1 accountability for each line item expenditures should
2 we have any questions.

3 So, there is some oversight so that if there is
4 any perceived abuse of that authority given, we as the
5 finance committee have the ability to say provide
6 supporting documentations or explain the rationale for
7 the expenditure.

8 So, I think there is adequate control in place
9 right now. But in organizations I think, if you
10 create too much bureaucracy, it acts as an impediment
11 for -- sometimes for management to make decisions
12 quickly because they would have to go either to the
13 executive committee or board.

14 So, I am in support of, you know, continuing the
15 process with the existing oversight that exists. And
16 I open the floor again for anyone who may have any
17 views on this subject.

18 MR. SALVER: Steve, let me suggest -- we're going
19 to talk about this next month. Let -- or next
20 meeting. Let's -- now that all these, you know, first
21 of all, I don't disagree with anything that was said.
22 And I think -- let's talk about it next month because
23 it's getting late and I'm sure everybody else has
24 their 11 o'clock zoom meetings.

25 MR. HAJ: Yeah. Steve, if I may just close or

1 bring up some comments from my side, what Isaac
2 raised, the vast amount of money, the 1.2 million, we
3 don't normally get to 1.2 million. It's less than
4 that.

5 The second thing is, almost all of it goes to
6 programming for kids in the community. And what we do
7 -- normally do, and there are some exceptions about
8 where they're at, but they're usually in high need
9 neighborhoods without -- within two miles of -- there
10 is no trust services within two miles for after school
11 or summer programming.

12 That list of the programs that we fund, come back
13 to the board quarterly. And now there's a -- I don't
14 know what happened before 2016 but since I've been
15 here, now there's an application process that we --
16 that we've put into place, so people apply.

17 There's a group that vets them and looks at the
18 -- we also don't fund it 100 percent -- how much money
19 they're bringing in and we support these small
20 programs in the summer or parents need to put their
21 kids into summer program or after school and high need
22 areas.

23 So, I just -- the slush fund thing, I take a
24 little bit offense to because it's not a slush fund.
25 It's there to provide services to children and

1 families.

2 MR. SALVER: No. I -- yeah, that was that was a
3 bad choice of words. I take that back and James,
4 there -- it was a different world back in 2007. Take
5 my --

6 MR. HAJ: I realize that. That's why I want to
7 clarify. We have systems. Nothing even comes to me
8 without going through our communication systems where
9 now we have online applications and it's vetted and
10 there's a group of people who screen them.

11 So, there are processes in place for all this.
12 It's not that we just pull it out. I would never put
13 myself nor the board in that position, but we do want
14 to have the ability to flex and --.

15 You know, we have -- we're in a five-year cycle.
16 There are some communities and things that pop up that
17 we need to get into quickly that we don't -- can't
18 fund in a five-year cycle or RFP.

19 And these are very small contracts ten, \$12,000
20 \$15,000, but it all goes to kids and services. It has
21 nothing to do with friends or anything else. There's
22 a process in place to provide kids, not -- a safe
23 place, and I think it's going to be needed more now
24 than it was in the past.

25 MR. SALVER: Okay. So, then like Ken said, we

1 should bake that into the policy.

2 MR. HAJ: Okay. I mean, we have it. We -- I

3 believe its part of the policy.

4 MR. SALVER: All right.

5 MR. HAJ: But we'll bring it --

6 MR. SALVER: I've got to go. So, this was

7 wonderful.

8 MR. HOFFMAN: It's worth looking into what should

9 be in the revised policy if we were going to revise

10 it, so.

11 MR. HINCAPIE: We can't anticipate, you know, we

12 can't anticipate every emergency that's going to come

13 up and we're going -- we want to put everything in a

14 box and we want to be able to check that box and make

15 sure.

16 We're dealing with, I guess you guys are not on

17 the streets every day, but I deal with human

18 trafficking victims, with people who are homeless

19 right now. And for us to say to say no, this is the

20 only way where -- he'll be able to use the funding is

21 just not the intent of what we're trying to do.

22 You know, it's all children are our children, and

23 we should give Jim the tools that he needs to be able

24 to do what he does with the staff expertise.

25 So, you know, I'm just a little upset that we're

1 here trying to box things out and the emergencies that
2 come up in the real-life situations that these people
3 don't have a box sometimes. So, I -- go and do what
4 you need to do, Jim and, you know, bring us what you
5 come up with.

6 MR. HAJ: Thank you.

7 MR. HOPE: Do you have a discussion before we
8 close?

9 MS. ABRAHANTE: Yes, I would like to add -- this
10 is Maggie Abrahante -- that we got to keep in mind
11 that we're talking about .75 percent of the budget.
12 This is a very small amount that was determined 13
13 years ago, and the value of those dollars now is much
14 less.

15 So really, this is very, very small. A very
16 small amount to have some type of ability to meet
17 emergencies and special needs.

18 MR. HINCAPIE: Yeah. This was very easy for --
19 it's very easy for us to sit in the comfort of our
20 homes, close to the beach, and pass all of these, you
21 know, rules when people in the community are hurting
22 and needing support.

23 So, you know, I'm not going to support anything
24 that makes it more difficult for Jim to be able to
25 deploy his staff and community organizations to be

1 able to serve and transform the lives that need to be
2 transformed.

3 MR. ARSENAULT: This is Matt. I guess I would --
4 my recommendation to management as they go through
5 this is, you know, I think, you know, we've gotten
6 into that discussion with regard to intent and use of
7 funding.

8 Just to focus on -- I think what we just need is
9 clarity on the policy, you know? I think that's where
10 the issue is. So, if we have clarity, then that'll
11 make the CEOs job easier, management's job easier, the
12 board's job easier so that we just understand the
13 parameters of whatever authority has been granted so
14 that there's no potholes that anybody stepping into
15 about not following a policy.

16 So, I would probably just encourage management to
17 focus on just trying to make it as clear as possible
18 and then I think that'll help things -- help everyone
19 out in the future.

20 MR. HOPE: Thank you. Before we close it, I just
21 realized that our new finance committee member
22 Representative Fernandez is on, so I wanted to just
23 take the opportunity to welcome you, sir. And
24 hopefully at the next meeting, give you an opportunity
25 to say a little more and introduce yourself but you

1 can do so before we close.

2 REPRESENTATIVE FERNANDEZ-BARQUIN: Thank you,
3 sir. Well, I'm the state representative for West
4 Kendall for District 119. I apologize for getting on
5 the call late. I had some technical difficulties out
6 here. And, and yeah, just happy to be here and I'm a
7 practicing attorney. I'm on counsel to Genovese
8 Joplin & Battista Firm that concentrates in all sorts
9 of commercial litigation and commercial bankruptcy,
10 but I myself handle more real estate and probate
11 matters. So yeah, just happy to be here and thank you
12 so much, and I'm looking forward to serve.

13 MR. HOPE: Well, thanks for joining the Children
14 Trust family and welcome.

15 MR. HOFFMAN: Welcome to the board.

16 REPRESENTATIVE FERNANDEZ-BARQUIN: Thank you.

17 MS. KOBRINSKI: Mr. Chair?

18 MR. HOPE: Okay. If there's nothing else?

19 MS. KOBRINSKI: Can I say --

20 MR. HOPE: Yes, ma'am?

21 MS. KOBRINSKI: I just want to clarify for the
22 record, there were a lot of statements made about
23 emergency funding, and there is a separate section of
24 procurement policy for emergency funding. So, I would
25 advise that staff provide these for our members with a

1 copy of the full procurement policy so that they can
2 be fully informed about all the different avenues.

3 MR. HOFFMAN: I did want to point out, Nelson,
4 first of all, I agree wholeheartedly with you. But
5 as Leigh just pointed out, Jim has been acting under
6 the emergency authority for specific requests.

7 Most of the ones that in the past have been
8 coming through this 1.2 million are again, they're not
9 in the same nature as the emergency requests we've
10 been funding in the last couple months.

11 But I also do agree with the sentiment that the
12 system is working and if anything, we should codify
13 the existing system which, you know, includes whatever
14 systems that Jim already has in place to vet those
15 types of requests.

16 But the emergency funding has been -- staff is
17 being responsive to the requests that have come in for
18 that and we do appreciate the sentiment.

19 MR. HOPE: Thank you, sir. So, if there's no
20 further discussion, we need a motion.

21 MS. GRAVES: Mr. Chair, before you -- before we
22 close, I just want to circle back to an issue that was
23 brought up earlier about the bad pairings and I know
24 Isaac is off the meeting, but the -- all the bad
25 pairings for the 2019 tax year have been completed.

1 The value adjustment board will be needing to ratify
2 the recommendations by the end of this month.

3 MR. HOPE: Thank you for the update, ma'am. If
4 there is no other discussion, motion to adjourn.

5 MR. REYES: Motion to adjourn.

6 MR. HOPE: All in favor?

7 ALL: Aye.

8 MR. HOPE: Okay, folks. Have a wonderful and
9 safe day.

10 MR. ARSENAULT: Thank you all.

11 MS. BOHORQUES: Thank you all.

12 MR. HAJ: Thank you. Bye.

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14 (Whereupon, at 11:13 a.m., the meeting was
15 adjourned.)

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTION

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Signed this 22nd day of May, 2020.

Brenda Saliba, Transcriber

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