

**MINUTES**  
Children's Health Foundation  
4:00 p.m., Thursday, May 11, 2023  
CHF Conference Room

**ATTENDEES:** Chad Dayton, Jeanetta Dobson, Amy Douglas, Hossein Farzaneh, Robert Hefner V, Britton Hobbs, Sue Homsey, Randy Kamp, Chay Kramer, Kathy McCracken, Drew Neville, Ross Plourde, Julia Walter.

**ATTENDEES ON ZOOM:** Danny Hilliard, Naureen Hubbard, Rachel Klein.

**UNABLE TO ATTEND:** Laurie Givens, Joe Lewallen, Thurman Lynch, Jenny Love Meyer, Chris Meyer, Justin Naifeh, Susan Porter, Leslie Rainbolt, MD, Marisa Records, Lisa Talley, Paula Thomas, Chad Vice, Al Warren, Trent Tipple, MD.

**GUESTS:** Jennifer Beckett, Dr. Ken Copeland, Dr. Mo Gessouroun, Dr. Robert Katz, Dr. Amy Middleman, Dr. Peter Vitiello.

**STAFF:** Linzy Farrant (Zoom), Jeremiah Lane, and Ann Waller.

**OPENING THE MEETING - ROSS PLOURDE**

Ross opened the meeting and asked the board for a motion on the February 2023 minutes. Randy Kamp moved to approve, motion was seconded by Sue Homsey and carried.

Drew and Jeremiah reported on the Neville Classic Golf Tournament (June 26). Jeremiah stated that all the teams were sold out and there are still sponsorships available. We expect to exceed our \$500,000 goal which will complete the cancer initiative and also include a \$150,000 gift to the Brandon Weeden Pediatric Cardiac Surgery Research Program directed by chair holder, Dr. Harold Burkhart.

There are 21 celebrities/pros and two miracle kids that are playing. The Miracle kids are Ethan Evans and Gavin Kuykendall, the heart and cancer patients, they received a master look-a-like invite and are excited to play. The last company that signed up saw us on social media, they are from Texas. "Play Yellow" through the CMN national office reached out and asked if CHF would be a part of "Play Yellow." It allows CHF to tell the Jack Nicklaus story and the connections. CHF will be able to take a foursome to play in the 2023 Invitational in Florida and meet Jack and Barbara Nicklaus.

Drew extended his appreciation to Jeanetta and Everett Dobson for providing the Oak Tree National Course to CHF for this inaugural tournament ensuring great success! He also reported that Jack and Barbara Nicklaus along with their son, Steve, have been invited to attend our event.

Ross reported on the history of how Drew has been instrumental in arranging this tournament and asked everyone to raise a glass for Drew Neville, who has been on our board since 1987!

Jennifer Beckett and her mother, Candy Reece created a needle point belt and Jennifer attended today's meeting to thank Drew and make the presentation. The belt boasts the Neville Classic Logo, a heart for Susan, the CHF logo, the OU Law Logo among other notable logos.

Drew stated that CHF is very near and dear to his heart and thanked all for being so committed to the cause.

Dr. Mo Gessouroun retired last year, and today is his first CHF board meeting to attend since then. He was surprised with a presentation of a collage photo frame of events he participated in while Chairman, a Native American Friendship Blanket from the Chickasaw Nation, and an Oklahoma Plaque inscribed with "Thank you for your Commitment to Children". And lastly a gift card for Mo and Cindy to enjoy a nice dinner out! Mo spoke about his experience and thanked everyone; Ross proposed a toast.

Dr. Amy Middleman, CMRI Kasterke/Griggs/McLaughlin Chair in Adolescent Medicine will retire in June. Dr. Katz recognized Amy for her amazing work, he's very sorry to see her leave and spoke of some of her accomplishments and he wishes her the best. Dr. Gessouroun joined in the accolades for Amy.

Dr. Ken Copeland addressed the board. He was thrilled when Kathy asked if he could toast Amy, thanked Katz, Gessouroun and board members. Copeland went on to say he spent 17 years in Oklahoma thanks to CHF. Copeland called Terry Stull to let him know he would be toasting Amy at the meeting and asked what he should say. Stull said there is a story that Amy loves to hear, he spoke about how they tried to recruit her. Ken went on to speak of Adolescent Medicine and that it's a tough field for Pediatricians and for children. Before Dr. Middleman the children had nowhere to go and spoke of some issues the children were going through. Amy was on the top of the target list. She has done incredible work in Oklahoma, and he asked everyone to join him toasting her. Kathy presented Amy with a piece of Rustic Cuff Jewelry, a gift card, and a butterfly plaque; Kathy thanked her for all she had done.

Amy spoke of how she wouldn't be here if it wasn't for CHF, she mentioned how Stull charmed her into a visit, she said his approach was if you come to visit and still turn us down, at least you will have good things to say about our programs. So, she agreed to visit. She had a panic attack on the way back home to Houston and wasn't expecting to like it here. She stated she hates to leave OKC and hopes the program can be built back with the new people involved. She explained some of the struggles that children go through in adolescent medicine and how her section has saved lives. She appreciates the support and thanks everyone.

Ross said a few words to Amy and thanked her.

### **FINANCE REPORT-RANDY KAMP**

Randy mentioned the financial statements were sent out, he addressed that there are fairly large bank balances. He stated we are in the process of working on the bank issues. Amy Douglas moved to approve the finance report, seconded by Britton Hobbs, and carried.

After discussion regarding new programs, Randy asked the board to approve the following motions:

#### **Motion 1:**

- FUND a \$60,000 match of the recent gift from Peggy and Nick Duncan to support the Friedreich's ataxia research of Dr. Sanjay Bidichandani, the CMRI Claire Gordan Duncan Chair (established in 2010 in honor of their late daughter Claire). Dr. Bidichandani needed

these funds to finish out his \$2 million plus NIH grant request, and funds from OU are not available. Moved by Randy Kamp, seconded by Amy Douglas, motion carried.

Comments: Amy Douglas spoke of how she supports this and told of a story of two siblings battling Friedreich's ataxia, a life-long debilitating disease. She is so impressed that we have Dr. Bidichandani participating in this important research. Dr. Vitiello said there is movement in this area, there has been an FDA approved drug to help some of the symptoms.

**Motion 2:**

- FUND a \$1 million match to establish an endowed chair in pediatric ophthalmology with the Dean McGee Eye Institute. Moved by Randy Kamp, seconded by Drew Neville, motion carried.

**Motion 3:**

- FUND a \$1 million match for funds raised by the OU Department of Urology. Moved by Randy Kamp, seconded by Amy Douglas, motion carried.

**Motion 4:**

Randy is excited about this motion because it's a chance to reach out to other areas.

- FUND \$100,000 to OSU Medicine for neonatology program. Moved by Randy Kamp, seconded by Britton Hobbs, motion carried.

**Motion 5:**

- FUND up to a \$500,000 match to establish a \$1 million fund in Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics in the Child Study Center to be named for retired chair holder, Dr. Barbara Bonner, for training of community professionals in child abuse and neglect. Moved by Randy Kamp, seconded by Amy Douglas, motion carried.

**Motion 6:**

- FUND \$1.6 million to \$2 million for 2023-24 bridge funding in the OU Department of Pediatrics. Moved by Randy Kamp, seconded by Britton Hobbs, motion carried.

**GOVERNANCE UPDATE-ROSS PLOURDE**

Announcement of two board member resignations, Jaena Poppe and Sean Trauschke both who have new business responsibilities taking time away from meeting attendance. Both Jaena and Sean assure us of continued support.

Jordan Mayes, CPA, VP - Controller at Express Employment International has been recommended for our board by Express Employment International – Director of Corporate Philanthropy, Jessica Gilmore. Ross will meet with Jordan in the next couple of weeks. Jordan is a CPA and would take on Jaena's vacancy on the board including serving on the finance committee.

**Motion:**

Randy Kamp moves to accept the board membership of Jordan Mayes, CPA. Motion seconded by Robert Hefner V, motion carried.

**DEVELOPMENT REPORT- BRITTON HOBBS**

DFAM is coming up August 12<sup>th</sup> at Embassy Suites in Norman, chaired for the second year in a row by Kyle Essmiller. The 12 celebrity dancers are spending the summer practicing, he asked for everyone to consider donating and attending DFAM. He mentioned the Starlight Ball of Nov. 18, Amy Douglas and Erin Sullivan are co-chairs. Please get involved!

He encouraged board members to host a dinner at their home or in a restaurant to introduce friends to CHF and meet one of our chair holders. He talked about the wonderful event hosted by Naureen Hubbard and Paula Thomas and thanked them for their time and efforts.

He then thanked Thurman Lynch for donating a suite at a Dodgers game for CHF grateful families. We look forward to a report on that at our next meeting.

Grant writing: Please let Britton or Kim Leslie know of any contacts you may have with corporate or family foundations who may be interested in support a CHF program. Or contact Kathy, Jeremiah or Linzy. We are always looking for connections.

Corporate Partner updates:

- COSTCO campaign through end of May.
- Walmart/SAM'S June 12<sup>th</sup>- July 9<sup>th</sup>.
- RE/MAX – if you know Re/Max agents, thank them for their big fundraising upcoming events
- Dutch Brothers Coffee one-day event \$38,000. They have 19 locations. Please buy a coffee or tea and thank them.

**SCIENTIFIC REPORT-ROBERT KATZ, MD AND DR. PETER VITIELLO, PhD**

Dr. Peter Vitiello reported the following new awards, recognitions, and other updates:

- Dr. Cathie Hunter, CMRI Paula Milburn Miller Chair (pediatric surgery), received an NIH award for ongoing work in her laboratory to understand a gut disease in preterm infants (necrotizing enterocolitis). The grant is a 5-year award for ~\$3M and is her first major independent NIH award - a big step in her career.
- Dr. Hala Chabaan (neonatology) received her first major independent NIH award for 5 years and ~\$2.2M to study development of necrotizing enterocolitis in preterm infants.

- Dr. Sanjay Bidichandani, CMRI Claire Gordon Duncan Chair (genetics), received a two-year, \$150K award from FARA to study genetic aspects of the neuromuscular degenerative pediatric disease, Friedreich's ataxia.
- Dr. Katelyn Romm (gen peds) received a one-year \$50K award from the American Cancer Society to study tobacco use in sexual minority-identifying young adults in Oklahoma.
- Dr. Nighat Mehdi, CMRI C.R. Anthony Centennial Chair (pulmonology), received several awards from the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation totaling ~\$365K for pediatric and adult cystic fibrosis clinical care and therapeutic programs.
- Jose Macias, PhD candidate in the lab of Dr. Kimble Frazer (hematology/oncology), received a research and travel award from the Stephenson Cancer Center.
- Dr. DK Sanghera, CMRI Dr. Geoffrey P. Altshuler Chair (genetics), received the Presidential Professorship and Dr. Sanjay Bidichandani, CMRI Claire Gordon Duncan Chair (genetics), received the Regents Teaching Award.
- Morgan Tackett, PhD candidate in the lab of Dr. Sanjay Bidichandani (genetics) and Kaleen Wagner, genetic counseling program, received Outstanding Research Awards during the GREAT Symposium.
- Dr. Peter Vitiello, CMRI Terrence L. Stull, MD Chair (neonatal-perinatal medicine), was appointed by the NIH as a standing member to the Environmental Determinants of Disease study section.
- Dr. Jolyn Fernandes (neonatal-perinatal medicine) received awards from the Society of Toxicology for best presentation and abstract during their annual meeting.
- The 17<sup>th</sup> annual Pediatric Research Day in January (Sponsored by CHF) had 79 presentations from trainees, including 10 from OU-Tulsa.
- Dr. Darrin Akins is the new Vice President for Research at the Health Sciences Center.

Dr. Vitiello is working on strategic partnerships with the Harold Hamm Diabetes Center to identify extramural funding for programmatic support in areas of pregnancy and newborn health & disease. This includes multiple faculty in endocrinology and neonatal-perinatal medicine. Health Sciences Center leadership will make a final determination if this team will represent the university to compete for the ~\$11M award from the NIH.

Dr. Robert Katz added that they had a successful residency match, and that CHF funding is supporting changes to the residency program in response to national requirements. On the clinical side, there is a plan to increase the number of beds in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) from 100 to 115. They have applied for a heart transplant program; it may take 3-6 months to be approved. He has interviewed for a Pediatric Hematology Liver Transplant faculty member. There are 23 days left before the new electronic medical record system, EPIC, goes live and he feels it will have an amazing impact on patient care – everyone is nervous and excited.

#### **ADJOURN- ROSS PLOURDE**

Meeting adjourned at 6:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Luton