1. Welcome

a. Welcome and Introductions

- First Board member(s) spotlight!

Highlight of Rachel Tripp

b. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 10:16a.m.

c. Attendance

Attendance

Members

Present: Stephanie Cooper, Mallory Rusch, Anatolij Gelimson, Jennifer Shotwell, Tiffany Patton, Raquel Cooper, Amy Blansit, Jason Stoff, Katheryne Staeger-Wilson, Randall Wollenberg, Deitra Colquitt, Rachel Tripp, Kimberly Henderson, Karen Englert

Absent: Marqueia Watson, Izzy Litwack, Pamela Neal, Pierre Yancy

Guests

Present: Gwen Smith, Christine Woody, Jerika White

d. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Jennifer, second by Tiffany. No further conversation, motion carries.

2. 2025 Legislative Priority Presentations

Christine Woody, FSPM- Older Adult Hunger in Missouri

Gwen Smith, CJPM- DOC Oversight

Jerika White, CJPM- Clean Slate

Christine provided an overview of two grants addressing senior hunger. The grants will allow for education for seniors and food access. Challenges include missing out on resources available for them including SNAP, senior food boxes, senior farmers market and TFAP programs. Christine is working with community groups to bring awareness of eligibility of programs, enrollment and education. Christine is asking board members to check the QR code for an action item engagement regarding DSS and the change from annual recertification to three-year certification. Christine would like for board members to help make connections with senior organizations or to make comments to DSS.

Jerika is focused on independent oversight in corrections meaning a third party provides oversight with DOC, which would include unbiased opinions and addressing the various issues that are occurring. State oversight is non-existent and has raised issues of safety, mental health, basic needs, high number of deaths (under the age of 75). Lots of lawsuits from employee claims regarding lack of pay, sexual harassment, discrimination, etc. that the state has had to pay out. Better oversight would address these types of issues. HB774 and HB603 would establish a DOC Ombudsman program. HB729 is also supporting similar activities. Next steps will include oversight working group and activities for these issues.

Gwen provided a broad overview of Clean Slate legislation and the benefits. SB19 has a hearing next week. Opposition is coming from state court administrators.

3. Board Committee Reports

a. Governance Committee

- Check in on FY25 Board Goals
- Review & approve updates to Employee Handbook (updates listed in 5.18.24 ED Report)
- Brainstorming Agenda for April Board Retreat

Karen will be taking over as committee chair for the governance committee. She has reached out to members of the committee for the first meeting of the year. She is currently reviewing the documentation that was transferred to her. The focus for the year looks to be the in-person strategic planning session and upcoming priorities.
Mallory would like for the board to approve the employee handbook since it has been delayed for so long. To allow for the handbook to be reviewed by Raquel and others, an online vote could be permitted. Katheryne asked that handicap be taken out of the policies. Mallory gave an explanation as to why the legal firm is still using the language. A request from members to review the handbook and provide handbook will need to be to Mallory by January 31. Afterwards Mallory will have answers to board by February 7 and Stephanie will send out the official vote for the board.

Board retreat agenda
Retreat will be held in Jefferson City. Will be looking at new location for the meeting and Karen will reach out to Boys & Girls Club. A suggestion was made to review resource development for the board, Mallory has offered to have an outside source provide training to the board members if requested. The governance committee/executive committee will be working on the agenda prior to sending out the draft to the entire board.

Mallory will send out handbook and deadlines for review by the board.
Assigned to: Mallory Rusch
Due: 02/03/2025

Stephanie will send out the electronic vote for handbook once reviews are complete.
Assigned to: Stephanie Cooper
Due: 02/14/2025

b. Finance Committee

- Approve October & November 2024 Financial Statements

Randall reported that there were clean financials and there were no concerns at this time. It does show a loss but it is due to a timing issues when grants are received. The December financials will reflect the grant deposits in December statements. There should be a profit for the year. A motion was made by Stephanie to accept the October and November financial statements, seconded by Jennifer. No further questions, motion carries.

c. Resource Development

Upcoming Opportunities:

- Mid-Session Donor Briefing (Bring a friend!)
- Brunch Award Nominations & Review Committee

Giving Tuesday goal was met by raising over $3000, successful event. Just released the nominations form for the advocacy awards. This year's event will be in Kansas City and will recognize the advocates on the western side of the state. Would like to see individuals from the Springfield area receive nominations. Also assembling the awards review committee. If any board member would like to participate, please connect with Mallory. Katheryne, Deitra, Rachel and Kimberly have agreed to participate. Also holding a mid-session donor brief on March 5th during the lunch hour.

4. Executive Director Report

Staff are now turning their focus to legislative session, and it has been challenging. Several testimonies were given during the week including state takeover of St. Louis police, along with a few housing bills providing protections for low-income renters. Mallory has sent out a policy priority sheet to the board members and breaks those priorities down by coalition. Upcoming for board members is the week of action on February 3-5, via online learning. Day of Action is Tuesday, February 25 is an in-person event at the capitol. In December, received about $300K in new grants which will be reflected in next month's financial statements.
Tiffany moved to go into closed session at 11:58am, Katheryn seconded, motion carries. Topic of discussion is staffing positions. A motion to go out of closed session was made by Karen, second by Jason, motion carries.

5. Closing

a. Action Items

Mallory will send out links that were in chat to board members in separate email.
Assigned to: Mallory Rusch
Due: 02/07/2025

b. Next Meeting Dates

- April 5th 10AM-5PM (In person retreat in Jeff City)
- June 7th 10AM-1PM

6. Adjournment

A motion was made by Jennifer to adjourn the meeting, Karen seconds motion, no further discussion, motion carries.