

## Governance Committee

February 6, 2023

Present: CW Tillman, Angela Thanyachareon, Donna Gilles, Colleen Miller, Cameron Lynch, Heidi Campbell, Harry Gewanter

Absent: Sierrah Chavis, Diana Crosswhite Board Member advocate:

The board missed the intended concept discussed in governance committee meetings. Board members stated that it felt like a hall monitor type position or policing the board. We should work on softening the wording. We should use more supportive caring language. Heidi and Sierrah will work on this.

Board members who are not on the governance committee were invited to this meeting for further discussion but no one attended.

What does attendance mean? Can you attend a meeting and not participate? Is this participation? Is the board culture welcoming in order to have full board participation? How can we make the board member feel more comfortable to share in meetings? This is more of a good reason to have a board advocate who can reach out to the board member and ask what can the board do to welcome more participation at meetings. Does the board member need more time to communicate? Can board member communicate via email or chat? Are they shy or have a processing disorder? How can we make the environment more inclusive? On the other hand, these are board expectations. Full participation is required. This is why we need a board advocate so that they can provide balance between why they are not participating and what is full board participation.

One Board member's concern was the following: Why have a board advocate when an officer could do this? An advocate is looking at the person and behind the scenes. An advocate would be speaking on behalf of the board member. The officer would be more policing. Speaking to board members about absences and consequences.

Board Assessment:

How can we help board members better understand finance? There is a deficit with board members understanding audit reports and financial reports. We should do more trainings for board members. We will have two new board members take the assessment to see where we are as a board. The questions will not be changed this year.

Fundraising and board retention:

Being on the board this is an expectation. Should we have a grandfather clause in the new job description? We must revise board job description to include fundraising.

We have provided enough alternatives to fundraising. This is not asking too much. It met all the objections to fundraising but still there is rejection to fundraising.

Fundraising has a bad connotation and maybe we should have another word. What meets the definition of fundraising?

Perhaps we can have training again from the mother organization.

Currently fundraising is a not mandatory: Give your Time, treasure, and talents which includes money as fundraising. Maybe we can call it "support" instead of "fundraising".

100% giving is non-negotiable. Whether a \$1 per year or \$1000 year. There should be no push back. Help promote or do something else. All the things on the list should be considered fundraising.

If some board members have a conflict as a fundraiser b/c they are fundraising for another organization, then we need to help them figure out other ways to support the organization. How do we get around this conflict? How can this be navigated?