

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF BROWARD COUNTY

Held @ 6600 W. Commercial Blvd., Lauderdale, FL 33319
and by Zoom Webinar with public access by computer or phone

February 16, 2023

9:30 A.M.

Minutes

Members in Physical Attendance:

Broward County Commissioner Beam Furr; Governor Appointee David H. Kenton (*Chair*); DCF Community Development Administrator Dawn Liberta; Health Department Director Paula Thaqi; Governor Appointee Jeffrey S. Wood; School Board Member Allen Zeman

Council Members Absent:

Judge Michael Davis; Governor Appointee Cathy Donnelly; Governor Appointee Tom Powers

Counsel Present:

Garry Johnson, Esq.

Staff in Attendance:

Cindy Arenberg Seltzer; Monti Larsen; Andrew Leone; Amy Jacques; Sharetta Remikie; Sue Gallagher; Michelle Hamilton; Laura Ganci; Kathleen Campbell; Lisa Bayne; Marissa Aquino; Kyle Jones; Angie Buchter; Keyonia Lawson; Tracy Graham; Jennifer Fletcher; Florence Ukpai; Erin Byrne; Trish Dowell; Lynn Kalmes; Madeline Jones; Clarice Horton; Michelle Hagues; Cynthia Reynoso; Melissa Soza; Jocelin Eubanks; Diane Choi; Silke Angulo; Nelson Giraldo; Andria Dewson; Carl Dasse; Kandyss Torrence; Jill Denis-Lay; Shira Fowlkes; Travis Johnson; Ivy Pierre; Betty Dominguez; Shaquoia Wilson; S. Lorenzo Benaine; Colleen Carpenter; Alexandra Lemoine; Yolanda Meadows; Shawanda Spencer; Marissa Greif-Hackett; Roxanne Smith; Alexia Bridges; Jimmy Jean; Marlando Christie; Johnsingh Jeyasingh; Diego Alvarez; Valencia McConnico-Bell; Latora Steel; Meg Wallace; Nicolette Picardi

Guests in Attendance:

See Attachment 1

Agenda:

I. Call to Order

Dr. Kenton called the meeting to order at 9:33 A.M.

II. Roll Call

The roll was called and a quorum was established.

III. Chair's Report

a) Moment to Arrive

Council Members took a moment to allow the body and mind to settle and focus before considering the meeting agenda items.

A moment of silence was held for the recent victims of gun violence.

b) Chair's Comments

As the newly elected Chair, Dr. Kenton thanked the Council for the opportunity and conveyed the personal significance this position has for him by sharing his story of being born to a teen mom and then raised in Broward by his grandmother and how he and his family benefited from programs developed by the CSC.

Dr. Kenton highlighted his attendance at ArtLit 2023, which was held February 4th at the South Regional/Broward College Library and of which CSC was a sponsor. He attended with his family and enjoyed the wonderful performances and activities. He encouraged Members to attend community events whenever they are able to do so.

Dr. Kenton noted that February is Black History Month and encouraged everyone to celebrate and acknowledge it in any way that makes sense to them individually.

c) Council Minutes

ACTION: Ms. Liberta made a motion to approve the January 19, 2023, Council meeting minutes, as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Furr and passed with no opposing votes.

d) TRIM Hearing Date

Dr. Kenton pointed out that due to a conflict with Broward County's first TRIM Hearing on September 7th, the Council needed to reschedule its first TRIM Hearing from September 7th to September 11th at 5:01pm.

ACTION: Dr. Thaqi made a motion to approve rescheduling the first TRIM Hearing date to September 11, 2023, as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Furr and passed with no opposing votes.

IV. President's Report

a) Good of the Order

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer shared a meaningful story of impact, highlighting how Mr. Samuel Metayer, BSO Community Justice Program Counselor in the CSC-funded New DAY program, went above and beyond to locate a juvenile for a missed court hearing and offer much needed services to the family. She cited it as an example of the commitment exhibited by CSC providers, for whom their work in the community is a passion, not just a job.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer congratulated Ms. Karen Swartzbaugh Ghezzi, CSC's first Chief Programs Officer and former Chair of the Children's Services Board, on receiving a proclamation from the Broward County Commission, initiated by County Commissioner and CSC Council Member Beam Furr, recognizing her service and drawing attention to her commitment and work for children and families throughout Broward County. She added that Ms. Swartzbaugh Ghezzi had an incredibly distinguished career and was an unsung hero who spent 40 years serving children and families.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer highlighted the activities at Eagles' Haven to honor the families and victims on the 5th year commemoration of the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. The afternoon featured wellness activities that reflected upon each of the 17 victims, as well as a moving Dove release ceremony. She explained that CSC funds JAFCO to provide services at the health and wellness center.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer and Mr. Andrew Leone will be two of 30 honored as a Neighborhood Hero by Neighbors 4 Neighbors during their 30th Anniversary event on April 13th at the Carousel Club at Gulf Stream Park.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer introduced Nicholas Hessing as CSC's Government Affairs Manager. She also announced that Kenneth King will officially start as the Director of Public Affairs and Organizational Development (PAOD) on March 20th, but that he will be in attendance at the March 16th Council meeting.

b) Gubernatorial Appointees Update

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer shared that on January 25th the County sent 16 names to the Governor from which he is supposed to select for his five appointments to the Council. The names of Council Members David Kenton and Jeffrey Wood, who were the only two current Gubernatorial appointees who applied, were included in the list. The letter from the County to the Governor was included in the meeting information packet.

V. Chief Program Officer (CPO) Report

Mr. Dion Smith, Director of Program Services, highlighted the items under the CPO Report.

a) Family Supports RFP Raters

Ms. Liberta requested to be a rater, specifically for the Supervised Visitation Program.

ACTION: Commissioner Furr made a motion to approve the source experts for the Family Supports 2023 RFP Rating Committees, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Liberta and passed with no opposing votes.

b) FLITE Center HOPE Court Leverage Contract Extension

Ms. Liberta requested data and information on how the 12 youth in the first cohort fared in the program. Ms. Arenberg Seltzer promised to follow up with that information.

ACTION: Dr. Zeman made a motion to approve the FLITE HOPE Court, with KID, Inc., as Fiscal Sponsor, four-month leverage Contract extension with additional funding, as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Furr and passed with no opposing votes.

VI. Chief Innovation Officer (CIO) Report

Dr. Gallagher highlighted the items under her Report.

a) DJJ Data-Sharing Agreement

ACTION: Commissioner Furr made a motion to approve the Data Sharing Agreement with the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Liberta and passed with no opposing votes.

b) Youth Baker Act CPAR Project Update

Dr. Gallagher updated the Council on the Youth Baker Act Community Participatory Action Research (CPAR) Project, which launched at the end of January with a three-day workshop for parents, youth, and system professionals. She noted that the robust co-researching process is off to a great start as the co-researchers look for opportunities to change rules, regulations and policies to reduce the trauma of being Baker Acted and to improve care coordination for youth and their families discharged from Baker Act Receiving Facilities.

Dr. Zeman suggested that the research gained from the project would be helpful for school leaders. He offered his assistance in coordinating a presentation to school leaders. He also recommended additional research on multiple options of varying degrees that could be available to school personnel depending upon the situation.

Dr. Kenton noted that he serves on the behavioral intervention team at Broward College and would also like to collaborate on any piece related to post-secondary education.

c) APR Data Stories

Dr. Laura Ganci highlighted MOMS, MOST, and Youth FORCE data stories from the Annual Performance Report.

Dr. Zeman requested talking points on the work of the CSC be sent periodically to Council Members to share as they are out and about in the community.

VII. Chief Equity & Community Engagement Officer (CECEO)

Mr. Andrew Leone, Director of Communications and Community Engagement, highlighted the items under the CECEO Report.

a) Back-to-School Extravaganza (BTSE) Vendors

Dr. Thaqi raised the need for additional uniforms and undergarments, suggesting that 2 uniforms and one pack of underwear per student be provided at the Back-to School Extravaganza. Discussion ensued.

ACTION: Dr. Thaqi made a motion to approve the vendors for the 2023 BTSE as presented, with the addition of a TBD vendor for underwear and additional funds up to \$150,000 to provide for 2 uniforms and one pack of underwear per student. The motion was seconded by Dr. Zeman and passed with no opposing votes.

b) 2023 Legislative Platform

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer drew Members' attention to the legislative priorities in the information packet and gave an update on legislation (SB 698 and HB 731) that would impact the current millage rate process for CSC and Broward County government, specifically the requirement that any millage rate increase or increase in revenue from the previous year would require voter approval via a referendum at the general election. She requested it be added to the legislative agenda.

ACTION: Commissioner Furr made a motion to approve the Florida Alliance of Children's Councils & Trusts (FACCT) 2023 Legislative Priorities, as presented, with the addition of SB698/HB731. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wood and passed with no opposing votes.

VIII. Chief Operating Officer (COO) Report

Ms. Larsen highlighted the items under the COO Report.

a) Budget Amendments & Interim Financial Statements

b) Monthly Statements for the Managed Fund

c) Monthly/Annual Purchases

ACTION: Commissioner Furr made a motion to approve the Budget Amendments and Interim Financial Statements for period ending January 31, 2023; accept monthly statements for the

Managed Fund from PFM and US Bank for January 2023; and approve the CSC monthly/annual purchases, all as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wood and passed with no opposing votes.

IX. Special Needs Advisory Coalition (SNAC) Report

Ms. Liberta highlighted the recent meeting of the SNAC on February 2nd, noting that she, Mr. Wood, and Ms. Donnelly all attended. The meeting minutes were included in the information packet.

X. Broward Reads Coalition Report

Commissioner Furr highlighted the recent meeting of the Broward Reads Coalition. The meeting minutes were included in the information packet.

XI. Funders Forum Report

Mr. Dion Smith, Director of Program Services, highlighted the recent meeting of the Funders Forum on February 3rd. The meeting minutes were included in the information packet.

XII. Public Comment

There were none.

XIII. Council Members' Roundtable

Mr. Andrew Leone, Director of Communications & Community Engagement, and Ms. Kimberlee Reid, Programs Manager, gave an overview of CSC's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) initiative and the upcoming Request for Proposals (RFP).

Ms. Reid outlined the Goal of the initiative, Service Goal 2.2, which states that children live in financially stable environments, and Objective 027, which is to assist families to achieve financial stability through promoting EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit), workforce development, providing financial coaching, basic needs and supports for the homeless continuum of care. She explained that VITA supports free tax preparation services for low-to moderate-income individuals, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and limited English speakers through various partner organizations. Filers may be eligible for tax credits, such as EITC, providing reimbursements or lower federal taxes owed, and the Child Tax Credit (CTC), a tax break for qualifying children.

She briefly highlighted the upcoming RFP, which would provide up to \$400,000 per year for four years to procure volunteer tax assistance services; recruitment,

training, and placement of IRS certified volunteers; VITA services to Spanish, Creole, and other non-English speaking populations; marketing and public information around VITA/EITC/CTC before and during tax season; and referrals to financial literacy and debt management education, as well as saving opportunities.

Mr. Leone summarized the history of CSC's VITA services, which began in 2002 as a means of lifting children and families out of poverty. CSC managed most aspects of the program's early implementation, including procuring and maintaining technical equipment, managing individual contracts with community partners, funding and implement marketing campaigns, supporting the maintenance of a mobile unit, and leading EITC Awareness events. Over time, CSC's funding shifted from outreach to increasing VITA sites numbers and capacity, including referrals to safety net services such as Food Stamps, KidCare, WIC, and financial literacy.

Mr. Leone summarized the impact of VITA & EITC activities over the years, noting that since inception of outreach in 2002, EITC returns in Broward have increased by over \$600 million, with CSC-funded services accounting for over \$62 million. After the first year of the public awareness campaign, Broward families benefitted from an additional \$30 million in tax rebates. Ms. Reid noted that for Tax Year 2021, 2,558 households were served, yielding 2,899 completed tax returns, bringing back \$4.4 million to the community (\$3.4 million in claimed refunds and \$1 million in savings on tax preparation fees).

The Council said farewell to Mr. Leone, who retires February 28th. Ms. Arenberg Seltzer thanked him for 15 years of service that has advanced CSC's work in so many ways and on so many levels, including the professionalization of CSC's television show, as well as his commitment to hunger, literacy, and community outreach. Council members thanked him for his dedication and noted that his extensive institutional knowledge will be missed.

XIV. Adjournment

ACTION: The meeting adjourned at 11:59 A.M. with a motion from Ms. Liberta and a second from Commissioner Furr.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beam Furr", written over a horizontal line.

Beam Furr, Secretary

ATTACHMENT 1

MEETING ATTENDEES (*denotes speaker)

Name	Organization
Grace Ramos	The M Network
Kirk Brown	HANDY
Alison Bregman-Rodriguez	YMCA of South Florida
Lisa Clements	YMCA of South Florida
Idelma Quintana	Broward County
Mark Reyes	Urban League of Broward County
Megan Turetsky	Broward County Public Schools
Cathea Comiskey	Ann Storck Center