

## **CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF BROWARD COUNTY**

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

August 21, 2025

9:30 A.M.

### **Minutes**

#### **Council Members in Physical Attendance:**

School Superintendent Howard Hepburn, School Board Member Debra Hixon, Governor Appointee Julia Musella, DCF Child Protection Director Robert Shea, Health Department Director Paula Thaqi, Governor Appointee Christine Thompson (*Vice Chair*), Judge Francis Viamontes

#### **Council Members Virtual:**

Governor Appointee Alyssa Foganholi

#### **Council Members Absent:**

Broward County Commissioner Nan Rich, Governor Appointee Jeffrey S. Wood (*Chair*)

#### **Counsel Present:**

Garry Johnson, Esq.

#### **Staff in Attendance:**

Cindy Arenberg Seltzer (President/CEO), David Kenton, Sharetta Remikie, Maria Juarez, Sue Gallagher, Michelle Hamilton, Dion Smith, Lisa Bayne, Marlando Christie, Ken King, Marissa Greif-Hackett, Kathleen Campbell, Carl Dasse, Amy Jacques, Angie Buchter, Marissa Aquino, Tracy Graham, Andria Dewson, Johnsingh Jeyasingh, Jimmy Jean, Akil Edwards, Liza Khan, Keyonia Lawson, Latora Steel, Radoika Pilarte, Michelle Hagues-Fullwood, Trisha Dowell, Erin Byrne, Yolanda Meadows, Fern Phillip, Maya Berryhill-Porter, Valencia McConnico-Bell, Kim Reid, Shantigra Williams, Tabitha Bush, Jennifer Wennberg, Ashley Cole, Felina Rosales-Furer, Pooja Yajnik, Shira Fowlkes, Astrid Cantos, Lynn Kalmes, Brooke Sherman, Karen Franceschini, Leslie Saca, Dianne Choi, Florence Ukpai, Jheanelle Henry, TaiQuay Bogle, Rhonda Morrison, Trisha Hines, Melissa Soza, Julie Toscano, Cristina Castellanos, Shaquoia Wilson, Natalie Gomes, Horace Summers, Jill Denis-Lay, Demetria Rawls, Jennifer Fletcher, Kandyss Torrence, Arturo Parham, S. Lorenzo Benaine, Madeline Jones, Shawanda Spencer, Deidre-Ann Burrell, Nicholas Hessing, Betty Dominguez, Cynthia Reynoso, Jonathan Corado, Julie-Ann Waweru, Kyle Jones, Cecil Arbiza-Rivera, Nancy Adjohan, Roxanne Smith, Ileana Blanco, Alexandra Lemoine, Janine DeLeon, Diego Alvarez, Nicolette Picardi, Priscilla Cole, Carlos Campos, Ivy Pierre, Fabiola Lagardere, Youseline Jean Baptiste, A. Brooks, Mina Razavi

**Guests in Attendance:**

See Attachment 1

**Agenda:**

I. Call to Order

Mr. Wood 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) June 2025 Council Minutes

**ACTION: Dr. Thaqi made a motion to approve the Council meeting minutes from June 18, 2025, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hixon and passed with no opposing votes.**

b) TRIM Hearing Reminders

Members were reminded of the importance of a quorum for the upcoming TRIM Hearings on September 3<sup>rd</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, at 5:01pm, at the CSC office. It was previously known that Mr. Shea would miss September 3<sup>rd</sup> due to the DCF Summit. Dr. Hepburn and Ms. Hixon noted they would also be absent due to the Special School Board meeting on the District Educational Facilities Plan. No other conflicts were reported, so a quorum was anticipated.

IV. President's Report

a) Moment of Silence for Cara Malave (Chief Program Officer at FLITE Center)

b) Good of the Order

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer highlighted this year's TIL (Transition to Independent Living) graduation ceremony at Broward College, which featured 91 graduates: 14 middle school, 48 high school, 12 GED, 9 certifications, 5 Associate's Degrees, and 3 Bachelor's Degrees. She noted that in Broward County, being in foster care does not have to be a pathway to homelessness.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer announced the name change of the Children's Strategic Plan to Broward Partnerships for Kids (BPK).

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer highlighted BPK's Fathers, Men, and Boys Action Committee's three-part workshop series, "Financial Foundations: Building Mental

Equity.” Approximately 20 Broward residents deepened their understanding of critical financial areas, including financial wellness, education, the psychology of finance, and other topics related to financial independence.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer highlighted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Koze Sou Sante Mantal Symposium held at the Pompano Cultural Arts Center. Approximately 120 participants gained access to vital resources designed to support mental health and family well-being in the Haitian community. The day’s highlight was a panel discussion featuring mental health and social services leaders who explored “What Asking for Help Looks Like,” breaking stigma, and promoting healing. The Symposium was a collaboration between the United Way of Broward County’s Commission on Behavioral Health & Drug Prevention and the Children’s Services Council of Broward County.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer highlighted the Black Philanthropy Month Reception, which was held during Black Philanthropy Month to highlight and engage Black Philanthropists within the community and connect local non-profits positioned for funding opportunities. It sought to raise awareness and education around investment in Black Communities and highlight specific Black-owned business leaders who have benefited from local investment and funding. One of CSC’s Capacity Building grantees discussed how CSC’s investment assisted their organization’s operations. Co-collaborators of the event were the Children’s Services Council of Broward County, the Community Foundation of Broward, and the Urban League of Broward County.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer highlighted the Bridge2Life FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) Beta-Testing reception that was held at Broward College. More than 900 students and their families attended and completed the FAFSA application before its official release to the public on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Bridge2Life, Broward County’s Local College Access Network, hosted the event in partnership with Broward County Public Schools (BCPS), the Helios Foundation, and Broward College. Dr. Hepburn and Ms. Hixon noted that it was a great collaboration and a great opportunity for Broward County students, as Broward was selected out of only a couple in the country.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer highlighted the added literacy component of a Summer Book Mobile Tour to the Back-to-School campaign this year. CSC’s Public Affairs Team drove the CSC car over 3,000 miles and distributed 10,000 books to students to combat the “summer slide.”

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer highlighted the recent launch of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Just Care Initiative, which included more than 15 co-researchers and staff from the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance and the Children’s Services Council of Broward County.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer highlighted the recent Humanitarian Expo, which was held at the Lauderhill Performing Arts Center and brought together community leaders, service providers, and residents to address critical issues such as health disparities, homelessness, youth services, and food insecurity. This was CSC's second year of being invited to participate. CSC staff, Ms. Kandyss Torrence (*Training Manager*), Ms. Kim Reid (*Programs Manager*), and Ms. Tabitha Bush (*Sr. Programs Manager*), participated in panel discussions.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer announced that Dr. David Kenton (*Chief Operating Officer*) has been accepted into the current class of the Leadership Broward program.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer highlighted the recent taping of Future First: Focus on Broward's Children, which featured the CSC Leadership Team highlighting the important work happening at CSC and showcasing the impact of CSC funding.

c) Projected Ad Valorem Revenue and Tax Collector Fees

**ACTION: Ms. Hixon made a motion to approve amending the Budget to reflect 95% of projected Ad Valorem revenue, approve the Budget Amendment to establish an appropriation for Tax Collector fees as a non-operating expense for FY 25/26, and approve utilizing an additional \$1.3 million from Fund Balance to balance the Budget, all as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Thaqi and passed with no opposing votes.**

V. Program Planning Committee (PPC) Meeting Report

Dr. Thompson briefly highlighted the recent PPC Committee meeting and recommendations.

a) Service Goal 11, Objective 111 Updates and Speak Life End Bullying Leverage Funding Request

Ms. Juarez noted that if approved, she will work with BCPS to identify the 20 schools.

Dr. Thaqi inquired about any planned evaluation of the program, if approved, and the possibility of continuing and expanding the program if it were proven effective. Ms. Arenberg Seltzer responded in the affirmative, stating that it could come to the Council in May at the Budget Retreat.

Mr. Dan Burd, Speak Life End Bullying, briefly highlighted the initiative and thanked CSC for the partnership, noting that staff have been responsive and intelligent in the process, leading to an experience that has been remarkably different from others they have had around the country.

**ACTION: Dr. Thaqi made a motion to approve updating Service Goal 11, Objective 111 by removing the words “through support of the Choose Peace initiative” to allow for additional anti-bullying initiatives to be supported and to approve leverage funding for Speak Life End Bullying to provide innovative anti-bullying education opportunities to middle and high school students, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hixon and passed with no opposing votes.**

b) FY 25/26 Renewal Recommendations

**ACTION: Dr. Thaqi made a motion to approve the renewal recommendations for FY 25/26, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hixon and passed with no opposing votes**

c) Children’s Home Society Supervised Visitation Contract Renewal

**ACTION: Ms. Hixon made a motion to approve renewal of the Children’s Home Society Supervised Visitation Contract for FY 25/26 and accept leverage funds and related expenditures from The Jim Moran Foundation to expand program services, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Musella and passed with no opposing votes.**

d) Eagles’ Haven Community Wellness Center Contract Renewal

**ACTION: Dr. Thaqi made a motion to approve the JAFCO Eagles’ Haven Community Wellness Center Contract renewal for FY 25/26, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hixon and passed with no opposing votes.**

Mr. Matt Levin, JAFCO CEO, stated that they are changing the lives of kids and families who are still dealing with the echoes of this tragedy every single day. He invited Council members to visit Eagles’ Haven.

VI. Chief Program Officer (CPO) Report

Be Strong International’s declination of renewal of funding for their Family Strengthening Program

**ACTION: Dr. Thaqi made a motion to approve the reallocation of deferred funding for Be Strong International’s Family Strengthening Program to unallocated, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hixon and passed with no opposing votes.**

VII. Chief Innovation Officer (CIO) Report

Dr. Gallagher briefly highlighted the items under the CIO Report.

- a) Extension of Community Foundation of Broward and A Little Help Never Hurt Contracts

**ACTION: Ms. Hixon made a motion to approve the extension of the agreement with the Community Foundation of Broward to March 31, 2026, and approve A Little Help Never Hurt Contract extension through March 31, 2026, both as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Thaqi and passed with no opposing votes.**

- b) Promise Neighborhood 2024 Ad Hoc Annual Performance Report

Dr. Gallagher highlighted the five Promise Neighborhood pipelines and activities from last year. She pointed out that both this Report and the P3 Report speak to CSC's national footprint and that the work continues.

- c) National P3 Evaluation Report

Dr. Gallagher pointed out that CSC is in the What Works section of the Evaluation Report and that these results stem from work the Council approved in 2016, with CSC participating in the Pilot from 2016 to 2018. She stated that the Pilot showed the success of the BOSS Coaches, which were then included in CSC's Positive Youth Development (PYD) programs as Success Coaches. Dr. Thaqi stated that this is a great return on investment and that she hopes CSC is investing as much as possible.

#### VIII. Chief Public Affairs Officer (CPAO) Report

Dr. Remikie briefly highlighted the items under the CPAO Report.

- a) Capacity Building Grants Awards

**ACTION: Ms. Hixon made a motion to approve Capacity Building Grants for Non-Profit Organizations awards and approve funding for the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) to provide coaching, consulting, technical assistance, and strategic thinking training, as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hepburn and passed with no opposing votes.**

Ms. Ana Valladares, CEO of Mujeres Latinas Empowering Women, spoke to the importance of the Capacity Building Committee and the capacity grants. She noted that her organization is wrapping up a two-year capacity grant cycle that has proven extremely beneficial by strengthening their foundation, creating new systems, empowering both staff and the Board to grow as leaders, and enabling stronger programs and greater opportunities for women, girls, and families. She expressed her deepest gratitude for the capacity grant and gratefulness for the strategic planner, whose guidance and partnership helped them accomplish their goals and envision sustainable growth for the future. She thanked the Council for

these vital grants and Roxanne Smith (*Sr. Training Manager*) for her unwavering support.

b) Public Awareness Media Plan

**ACTION: Ms. Hixon made a motion to approve the FY 25/26 Public Awareness Media Purchase Plan, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Musella and passed with no opposing votes.**

c) JumpStart Books

**ACTION: Ms. Hixon made a motion to approve purchasing books based on the quote from JumpStart for Broward: Read for the Record 2026 and accept funds from ELC and related expenditures for \$15,750 (3,500 books), as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hepburn and passed with no opposing votes.**

d) 2025/2026 Family Resource Guide

Dr. Remikie announced that the 25/26 Family Resource Guides are now available. Members each had a copy at the dais. She pointed out that the information is available in English, Haitian Creole, and Spanish. If Members desire additional copies, they should contact Ken King.

IX. Chief Operating Officer (COO) Report

Dr. Kenton briefly highlighted the items under the COO Report.

a) Fiscal Sponsor Fees

**ACTION: Dr. Thaqi made a motion to approve \$23,796 in Fiscal Sponsor fees for Thrive and Success Community Outreach for FY 25/26 and return \$25,000 in Fiscal Sponsor fees to Unallocated in Goal 1 for FY 25/26, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hixon and passed with no opposing votes.**

b) Financial Reporting Software Services

**ACTION: Dr. Thaqi made a motion to approve the selection and contract award to IGM Technology Corp Gravity Software, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hixon and passed with no opposing votes.**

c) Interim Financial Statements

**ACTION: Ms. Musella made a motion to approve the Interim Financial Statements for the period ending July 31, 2025, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hixon and passed with no opposing votes.**

d) Managed Fund Monthly Statements

**ACTION: Dr. Thaqi made a motion to accept the monthly statements for the Managed Fund from PFM and US Bank for July 31, 2025, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hixon and passed with no opposing votes.**

e) CSC Purchases

**ACTION: Dr. Thaqi made a motion to approve the Purchases for August 2025 and FY 2025/2026, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hixon and passed with no opposing votes.**

X. Broward Reads Coalition Meeting Report

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer referred Members to the meeting minutes in the information packet and highlighted a few items.

XI. Special Needs Advisory Coalition (SNAC) Meeting Report

Ms. Hixon highlighted the recent SNAC meeting and referred Members to the meeting minutes in the packet for information on safety and drowning prevention for children with special needs, information on Step Up for Student Scholarships for children with disabilities, and the redesign of SNAC to improve the governance structure. She announced that Nikki Chiwara is the new SNAC Chair and Shawn Preston is the Co-Chair. The next SNAC meeting is scheduled for September 19 at 9:00 am at the CSC Office.

XII. Funders Forum Report

Ms. Juarez briefly highlighted the recent meeting of the Funders Forum and referred Members to the minutes in the meeting information packet.

XIII. Public Comment

There were none.

XIV. Council Members' Roundtable

CSC staff led a Roundtable on the upcoming Maximizing Out-of-School Time (MOST) Request For Proposals (RFP).

Ms. Liza Khan (Sr. Programs Manager) noted that the current MOST contracts sunset in August of 2026, and programs awarded funding through the new RFP will launch at the start of the 26-27 school year. She pointed out that the upcoming MOST RFP will contain four different procurements: MOST Inclusion, MOST Special Needs, CATCH Kids Club, and Inclusion Supports. She explained that CSC's MOST



initiatives are dedicated to ensuring children have safe, enriching, and supportive experiences beyond the regular school day.

MOST Inclusion offers year-round or summer-only programming for elementary-aged children of all abilities. It supports Goal 7, which is to improve the availability and quality of out-of-school time programs to promote school success of children living in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. The desired outcome is that economically disadvantaged children in Broward County will have safe, supervised, fun, and productive out-of-school time experiences. In FY 24-25, funding for MOST Inclusion programs was about \$22.1 million, which represents 16.7% of CSC's total budget.

MOST Special Needs provides year-round and summer-only programming to children and youth with disabilities. It supports Goal 10, which aims to strengthen the continuum of support services for children with special, physical, developmental, and behavioral health needs. The desired outcome is that families with children with developmental, physical, or behavioral health conditions have access to support services and safe, supervised, and productive out-of-school time experiences that maximize life outcomes. In FY 24-25, the funding for MOST Special Needs was approximately \$13.5 million, which represents 10% of CSC's total budget.

MOST provides afterschool and/or summer programs, provides safe and positive environments, provides the most inclusive and least restrictive environment where all children can be successful, enhances academic achievement, supports social and physical development, and strengthens children's relationships with adults and peers. MOST program requirements include homework assistance & supplemental academic activities, physical fitness with CATCH Kids Club, Reading Explorers, nutritious snack with nutrition education, character development education with PATHS, music therapy (special needs programs only), family engagement activities, and prosocial and enrichment activities. Supplemental activities include STEAM activities, arts and crafts, and literacy activities.

Program enhancements for the upcoming RFP focus on strengthening the pro-social enrichment activities, as well as the physical fitness component. Providers will now have the flexibility to propose their activities, ensuring offerings are fun, engaging, and tailored to the unique needs and interest of the populations they serve. Four activities will still be required in the school year, and one activity per week in the summer. Activity options could include various sports, career exploration, cultural history/events, cooking, dance, yoga, and music.

CATCH, or another structured fitness curriculum, will be required at least three times a week. On the other days, providers would have a choice of free or structured play. CATCH is a research-based curriculum that promotes healthy eating habits and active lifestyles. It is designed to get children moving while keeping activities inclusive, using non-elimination games so every individual can fully participate.

Ms. Jessica Rincon (Assistant Director of Program Services) highlighted the MOST training requirements, which are designed to strengthen program quality and support the diverse needs of the community. These include, but are not limited to, supporting literacy, Youth Mental Health First Aid, behavior management, and training related to required program components. Trainings are provided directly through CSC's Training Cadre or through funded providers and programs at no cost. In addition, as a member of Florida Afterschool, all providers have free access to a wide range of trainings through their platform.

She also highlighted the Inclusion Supports program, which provides expertise in best practices to strengthen the community's capacity to deliver high-quality, inclusive programs for children with disabilities. Services include training, on-site coaching, and technical assistance provided directly to the MOST provider network, as well as support for agencies in developing and implementing inclusive practices. As an enhancement, resource navigation services will be introduced to assist families by providing a hands-on approach to service linkage and step-by-step guidance to navigate complex systems of care.

Mr. Travis Johnson (Assistant Director of Research & Planning) highlighted the performance measures, noting that all performance measures met or exceeded Council goals for MOST Inclusion and Special Needs. The CATCH program has exceeded Council goals for participant knowledge and provider satisfaction, and Inclusion Supports has exceeded all Council goals for coaching, goal achievement, and participant knowledge. He pointed out that the research and evaluation team has historically measured performance for MOST in the areas of safety, academic performance, social interaction, and project-based learning. He noted that the performance measures are anticipated to remain the same for the next iteration of programming.

Ms. Shira Fowlkes (Sr. Planning and Research Manager) highlighted the research in this area, which shows that physical activity is a key component of MOST programming due to its positive impact on overall well-being and academic achievement. Currently, MOST programs follow the CATCH curriculum, which is used to guide structured physical activity. However, internal curiosity and provider feedback led to the exploration of unstructured physical activity of play. Following the Let Us Play principles will ensure all children can participate in physical activity, whether it is structured or unstructured. Research also shows the benefits of utilizing teachers for homework help, which is why teachers provide homework assistance in MOST programs.

Dr. Thaqi requested a measurement of kids' enjoyment/feedback of the CATCH curriculum.

The MOST RFP is scheduled to be released in November of this year. Members will receive a draft in October for their five-day review.

XV. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:06 am with a motion from Ms. Hixon and a second from Mr. Shea.



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Nan Rich, Secretary

MEETING ATTENDEES (\*denotes speaker)

Name	Organization
Janick Hickman	Center for Hearing and Communication
Alison Rodriguez	YMCA of South Florida
Lisa Clements	YMCA of South Florida
Michelle Murrill	Arc Broward
Omar Lewis	UCO
Frandy Jean-Baptiste	OIC of South Florida
Lisa Yalkut	Memorial Healthcare System
Andres Rodriguez	YMCA
Teresa Spitler	YMCA of South Florida
Susan Feldman	YMCA of South Florida
Marie A. Wells	Marie A. Wells Arts and Education Center, Inc.
Janelle Floyd	Girls in Christ, Inc.
Katherine Leone	Center for Hearing and Communication
Gisele Domond	YMCA of South Florida
Dan Burd*	Speak Life End Bullying
Marques Brown	YMCA of South Florida
Hudelaine Deus	City of West Park
Shawn Preston	Arc Broward
Monique Spencer	City of Hollywood
Garland Jones	YMCA of South Florida
Valerie Cedant	City of Hollywood
Gary Chin	Sunshine After School Child Care, Inc.

Name	Organization
Donna Lavallo	Christina G. Smith Community Health Foundation, Inc.
Cammie Cacace	Memorial Healthcare System
Carol Aubrun	City of West Park
Christy Gilis	Department of Children and Families
Keisha Grey	Grey and Associates
Kadene Shaw	City of Hallandale Beach – Austin Hepburn Center
Ashley Wood	The Born on Purpose Project
Andy Fernandez	Firewall Centers
Catherine Lievano	Pembroke Pines Police Department
Tiffany Albury	University of Miami – Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center
KayTrina Allen	YMCA of South Florida
Yalyen Savignon	Volta Music Foundation
Erica Herman	Voices for Children of Broward County
Mary Kinirons	Heart Gallery of Broward
Josefa Benjamin	Born on Purpose Project
Michele Fernandez	Hispanic Unity of Florida
Jolene Mullins	South Florida Hunger Coalition
Erika Rosberg	Speak Life
Shannon Atwell	OIC of South Florida
Tonya Ricker	Arc Broward
Linda Rambert	City of Hollywood
Grace Ramos	The M Network
Christina L.	Private

Name	Organization
Micah Robbins	Speak Life
Matt Levin*	JAFCO
Ana Valladares*	Mujeres Latinas Empowering Women