

## **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

June 18, 2025

9:30 A.M.

### **Minutes**

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

Governor Appointee Alyssa Foganholi, School Superintendent Howard Hepburn, School Board Member Debra Hixon, Broward County Commissioner Nan Rich, DCF Child Protection Director Robert Shea, Health Department Director Paula Thaqi, Governor Appointee Christine Thompson, Governor Appointee Jeffrey S. Wood (*Chair*)

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

Governor Appointee Julia Musella, Judge Francis Viamontes

#### **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, Kimberly Goulbourne, Amy Jacques, Angie Buchter, Marissa Aquino, Tracy Graham, Andria Dewson, Johnsingh Jeyasingh, Meg Wallace, Nelson Giraldo, Jimmy Jean, Akil Edwards, Liza Khan, Camila Mathieson, Keyonia Lawson, Latora Steel, Radoika Pilarte, Michelle Hagues-Fullwood, Trisha Dowell, Erin Byrne, Yolanda Meadows, Fern Phillip, Gaby Carbonell, Maya Berryhill-Porter, Valencia McConnico-Bell, Gabi Tabib, Kim Reid, Shantigra Williams, Amber Gross, Zoë Lewis, Tabitha Bush, Jennifer Wennberg, Travis Johnson, 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, Jocelin Eubanks, Madeline Jones, Shawanda Spencer, Deidre-Ann Burrell, Erica Ansley, Nicholas Hessing

#### **Guests in Attendance:**

See Attachment 1

## **Agenda:**

### **I. Call to Order**

Mr. Wood called the meeting to order at 9:32 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 their bodies and minds to settle and focus before considering the meeting agenda items.

#### **b) May 2025 Council Minutes**

**ACTION: Dr. Thompson made a motion to approve the Council meeting minutes from May 15, 2025, as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Thaqi and passed with no opposing votes.**

#### **c) Cancellation of July Meeting**

Mr. Wood noted that if the July meeting is canceled, the next CSC monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, August 21.

### **IV. President's Report**

#### **a) Good of the Order**

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer pointed out that CSC's recent Safe Sleep Public Service Announcement (PSA) was running before the meeting started, and CareerSource Broward's new Worlds of Work (WOW) video will run at the end of the meeting.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer highlighted the recent Day in K event for incoming Kindergartners at the Museum of Discovery and Science. There were more than 2,000 attendees participating in hands-on activities mirroring a typical day in Kindergarten and encouraging reading. CSC was an event sponsor and was able to collaborate with the School Board, the Early Learning Coalition (ELC), and the Museum of Discovery and Science.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer highlighted another recent CSC-sponsored event with the School Board, the HEART Sr. Send-Off, which honors graduating Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) high school students who are currently navigating the challenges of homelessness. This year, more than

300 students were honored. In partnership with the Broward Education Foundation (BEF), CSC sponsored packages of bedding and supplies.

The Broward County Baker Act Alternative Youth Transportation Plan, which was recently launched with two schools and nine receiving facilities, has transported four children by ambulance to local Baker Act facilities. CSC is funding the evaluation of the Plan.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer shared that underutilized School Health Program funds were used to purchase supplies for school health rooms, with an acknowledgement of CSC funding by use of CSC's logo on the supplies. The School Health Program is a partnership of CSC, the Health Department, and BCPS.

CSC was a proud sponsor of United Way's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual South Florida Behavioral Health Conference on "The Power of Prevention." CSC was recognized at the Conference, receiving a plaque that read, "With deepest appreciation to the Children's Services Council of Broward County for your unwavering support and commitment as a longstanding sponsor of the South Florida Behavioral Health Conference. Your continued partnership has played a vital role in the success and growth of this event, advancing mental health education, collaboration, and community impact year after year."

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer shared that she had recently been named Co-Chair of the Talent Supply & Education Pillar within the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance's Six Pillars economic development plan.

b) Financial Disclosure Process/Deadline

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer reminded Members of their responsibility to submit financial disclosure forms and of the approaching July 1<sup>st</sup> deadline to do so. She explained that it is now an easy electronic process that allows you to just update information from the year before. She noted that there is a grace period until September 1, when fines begin to be issued.

c) Legislative Update

Mr. Nicholas Hessing, Governmental Affairs Manager, gave the legislative update, highlighting several pieces of legislation of interest to Members that have been signed into law by the Governor. He also briefly highlighted items of interest in the final state budget, noting that this year marks the first time since 2011 that the budget has decreased from the previous year.

V. Joint Finance/Program Planning Committee (PPC) Meeting Report

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

- a) Broward Behavioral Health Coalition (BBHC) Care Coordination Team for Juvenile Justice-Involved Youth.

Ms. Maria Juarez, CSC's Chief Program Officer, provided information related to additional outcomes that were requested by Committee members. Ms. Juarez noted that 99% remained with family while the program was in place, and 95% of youth referred to the program are accepted into the program. She also noted that anecdotally, the length of stay is less with this program than without the program, but that is not being officially tracked. She explained that if this item is approved today, it will be added to the outcome measures and tracked.

**ACTION: Dr. Thaqui made a motion to approve funding for BBHC CCT for Juvenile Justice-involved youth, as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Thompson and passed with no opposing votes.**

- b) Budget Retreat Follow-Up

Dr. Thaqui briefly highlighted the various items requested by Members at the May Budget Retreat for staff follow-up. Staff research and recommendations were presented in the meeting packet and discussed at the Committee meeting. Council Members thanked staff for the follow-up and for providing additional information to address their specific questions.

- c) FY 25/26 Proposed Budget & Millage Rate

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer highlighted the Joint Committee review and discussion of the FY 25/26 draft budget and proposed millage rate, noting that the millage rate that is approved by the Council today will be the rate listed in the mailing to taxpayers. She explained that after that information is mailed, the millage rate can only be reduced. If it were to be increased, it would have to go through a complicated, onerous, and expensive process.

She pointed out that all the wish list items could be accommodated in the proposed program budget, including the Council-approved 3% Cost-Of-Living-Adjustment (COLA) for funded provider staff. She proudly stated that CSC's general administration rate remains under 4%.

She then outlined the four millage rate options considered by the Joint Committee, looking at different scenarios and related budget impact of adjusting the millage rate to the roll back rate, a flat rate, a partially reduced rate, or a fully reduced rate. Members also looked at the impact of each

scenario on homeowners. Ms. Arenberg Seltzer explained that for the average homeowner with an assessed value of \$435,000 and a \$50,000 Homestead exemption, a flat CSC millage rate would cost the homeowner \$173. If the CSC millage rate were to be reduced, the savings would be \$11 for the rollback rate and \$7 for a partially-reduced rate. If the millage rate were to be raised fully to the cap, it would be an additional \$20.

The Joint Committee recommended keeping the millage rate flat at the current rate of 0.4500 and using approximately \$22,750,000 of fund balance for the proposed budget. Ms. Arenberg Seltzer pointed out that the numbers may change slightly and will be adjusted after the final property tax numbers are released on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**ACTION: Senator Rich made a motion to approve the draft FY 25/26 Budget, the tentative Millage Rate of 0.4500, and authorize staff to adjust the Budget based on the Property Appraiser's final report and submit the necessary forms to the appropriate officials, as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Thompson and passed with no opposing votes.**

VI. Chief Program Officer (CPO) Report

Fiscal Sponsor Fees for Various Agencies for FY 25/26

Ms. Juarez briefly highlighted the proposed fiscal sponsor fees.

**ACTION: Dr. Thaqi made a motion to approve fiscal sponsor fees to various agencies for FY 25/26, as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Thompson and passed with no opposing votes.**

VII. Chief Innovation Officer (CIO) Report

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

a) BBHC & Carisk Data Sharing Agreement Renewal

**ACTION: Dr. Thaqi made a motion to approve the BBHC & Carisk Data Sharing Agreement Renewal, as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Thompson and passed with no opposing votes.**

b) Results of Bridge 2 Life (B2L) Survey of Youth Content Creators

Dr. Gallagher referred Members to the meeting packet for the origin and evolving backbone support of B2L, a Children Strategic Plan Committee. This committee has sought to support young people transitioning to post-secondary opportunities. One of its key innovations has been the onboarding of youth content creators. She shared information from a survey of those

content creators, including that two-thirds found that the most effective way to reach young people is through conversation, that human connection is key to starting FAFSA applications, and that technology is really important in making initial connections and assisting students with scholarship opportunities. As such, they requested training on digital platforms, such as LinkedIn, to take student engagement to the next level.

Miss Sanaa DesRoches, upcoming Freshman at the University of Florida and a content creator for B2L, stated that B2L has provided her the opportunity to secure not only her own future but the future of her peers. She highlighted how B2L has helped her and her peers discover their future, secure financial and scholarship assistance, un-complicate the FAFSA process, and create a network of like-minded individuals. She especially appreciated how B2L creates time and space for youth leadership.

Miss Chloe Walker, content creator with B2L, highlighted the importance of B2L's peer-to-peer support and being able to talk to someone who understands the current climate and resources. She stated that she has learned so much about FAFSA, scholarships, and college readiness from B2L events and assignments, and has been able to combine that information into something creative, as well as translate it into conversations with her peers.

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

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

- a) Recommendations for the Capacity Building Network Trainer Cadre and Program Performance Consultants

**ACTION: Ms. Hixon made a motion to approve the recommendations for the Capacity Building Network Trainer Cadre and Program Performance Consultants, as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Thompson and passed with no opposing votes.**

- b) FY 25/26 Capacity Building Grant for Nonprofit Organizations Request For Applications (RFA) Raters

Dr. Remikie acknowledged that Mr. Wood and Ms. Musella had previously volunteered to be raters and inquired as to the interest of any additional Council members. No other interest was expressed.

**ACTION: Dr. Thaqi made a motion to approve the raters for the FY 25/26 Capacity Building Grant for Nonprofit Organizations RFA, as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Thompson and passed with no opposing votes.**

IX. Chief Operating Officer (COO) Report

- a) Budget Amendments and Interim Financial Statements
- b) Managed Fund Monthly Statements
- c) CSC Purchases

Dr. Kenton briefly highlighted the items under the COO Report. Senator Rich departed the meeting.

**ACTION: Dr. Thaqi made a motion to approve the Budget Amendments and Interim Financial Statements for the period ending May 31, 2025; accept monthly statements for the Managed Fund from PFM and US Bank for May 31, 2025; and approve the CSC monthly Purchases, 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, noting that there are lots of literacy activities during the summer. She encouraged Members to check them out and participate where they can.

XI. Agency Capacity Building Committee Meeting Report

Mr. Wood highlighted the recent meeting of the Agency Capacity Building Committee and referred Members to the meeting minutes in the information packet.

Ms. Foganholi departed the meeting.

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

Mr. Ken King (CSC Director of Public Affairs and Organizational Development) and representatives from The M Network led a roundtable on the upcoming CSC public survey. Mr. King explained that the survey is seeking insight into branding, messaging, and how best to deliver information, services, and resources to Broward County residents. It will also gauge how the community consumes information and receives campaigns.

Mr. Thom Mozloom, The M Network, highlighted the structure and timeline for the opinion survey and a series of focus groups in the months of August and September, with a report delivered to the Council in October.

Drs. Sue Gallagher (CSC Chief Innovation Officer) and Carl Dasse (Director of Community Research & Partnering) led a roundtable on the upcoming proposed Research & Evaluation Community Impact Study Request for Qualifications (RFQ).

Dr. Gallagher highlighted the inaugural Children's Strategic Plan, which was adopted by the Council to inform its goals and objectives, and the reporting back to the community every five years on the progress being made on the key indicators. She noted that those Youth Summits are not just looking back on what has been accomplished and improved, but are also looking ahead to what still needs to be worked on and improved.

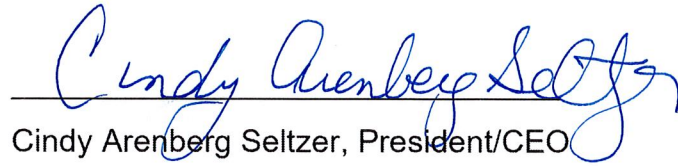
She pointed out that CSC's upcoming 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary presents an opportunity to validate, analyze, and explore what CSC's value and contributions have been to improve outcomes for children and families, as well as the continuum of care. And most importantly, it will look at what do we do for the next 25 years. Conversations have begun to shape an impact study to understand and demonstrate the value of 25 years of CSC's leadership, advocacy, and resources by analyzing the development of a quality continuum of care, outcomes for children and families in Broward County, and the local economic impact. It will also look at what CSC can do differently to better support Broward's children and families and the continuum of care for the next 25 years.

Dr. Dasse highlighted the proposed CSC Community Impact Study RFQ. Council members supported the idea and consensus was gained to move forward. Dr. Thaqi noted that it is always worthwhile when you have a culture of continuous quality improvement.



XV. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:59 am.

  
Cindy Arenberg Seltzer, President/CEO

MEETING ATTENDEES (\*denotes speaker)

Name	Organization
Chloe Walker	Bridge 2 Life
Joanne Correia-Kent	Smith Community Mental Health
Donna Lavalley	Smith Community Mental Health
Traci Schweitzer	Department of Children and Families
Colleen Lockwood	Bridge 2 Life
Alison Rodriguez	YMCA of South Florida
Christy Gillis	Department of Children and Families
Tron Lippett	Bridge 2 Life
Jenna Longworth	Bridge 2 Life South Florida
Progress Thomas	A Brick A Day Foundation
Juliana Gerena	Gerena & Associates
Monica King	Broward Healthy Start
Sanaa DesRoches	Bridge 2 Life
Harrison Grandwilliams	Broward County Commission
Kirk Brown	HANDY
Thom Mozloom	M Network
Grace Ramos	M Network