

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

October 16, 2025

9:30 A.M.

Minutes

Council Members in Physical Attendance:

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 (*Vice Chair*)

Council Members Virtual:

Governor Appointee Julia Musella, Governor Appointee Jeffrey S. Wood (*Chair*)

Council Members Absent:

Governor Appointee Alyssa Foganholi, Judge Francis Viamontes

Counsel Present:

Garry Johnson, Esq.

Staff in Attendance:

Cindy Arenberg Seltzer (President/CEO), David Kenton, Maria Juarez, Sue Gallagher, Michelle Hamilton, Dion Smith, Lisa Bayne, Marlando Christie, Ken King, Marissa Greif-Hackett, Carl Dasse, Kathleen Campbell, Carl Dasse, Kimberly Adams Goulbourne, Amy Jacques, Angie Buchter, Tracy Graham, Andria Dewson, Nelson Giraldo, Johnsingh Jeyasingh, Jimmy Jean, Akil Edwards, Liza Khan, Keyonia Lawson, Michelle Hagues-Fullwood, Trisha Dowell, Yolanda Meadows, Shantigra Williams, Jennifer Wennberg, Ashley Cole, Felina Rosales-Furer, Pooja Yajnik, Shira Fowlkes, Brooke Sherman, Leslie Saca, Dianne Choi, Jheanelle Henry, TaiQuay Bogle, Melissa Soza, Julie Toscano, Shaquoia Wilson, Natalie Gomes, Jill Denis-Lay, Demetria Rawls, Jennifer Fletcher, Kandyss Torrence, Arturo Parham, Shawanda Spencer, Deidre-Ann Burrell, Cynthia Reynoso, Julie-Ann Waweru, Kyle Jones, Roxanne Smith, Ileana Blanco, Nicolette Picardi, Camila Mathieson, Maddy Jones, Maryanne Rodriguez, Amber Gross, Meg Wallace, Priscilla Cole, Astrid Cantos, Clarice Horton, Danielle Brooks, Erin Byrne, Jeffery Glover, Youseline Jean Baptiste; Florence Ukpai, S. Lorenzo Benaine, Erica Ansley, Horace Summers, Kim Reid, Janine DeLeon, Travis Johnson, Marissa Aquino, Gabi Tabib, Latora Steel, Betty Dominguez, Ivy Pierre, Alexia Bridges, Carlos Campos, Fabiola LG, Diego Alvarez, Jessica Rincon

Guests in Attendance:

See Attachment 1

Agenda:

I. Call to Order

Vice Chair Christine Thompson called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M.

II. Roll Call

The roll was called, and an exact 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) Council Minutes September 18, 2025

c) TRIM Minutes September 18, 2025

d) Cancel December 2025 Monthly Council Meeting

e) 2026 Meeting Schedule

ACTION: Dr. Thaqi made a motion to approve the action items under the Chair's Report, which included approval of the Council meeting minutes from September 18, 2025; approval of the Final Trim Hearing minutes from September 18, 2025; approval of the cancellation of the December monthly meeting; and approval of the proposed monthly meeting dates for 2026, all as presented. The motion was seconded by Senator Rich and passed with no opposing votes.

f) November Annual Report Photo

Dr. Thompson asked Members to arrive 30 minutes early, at 9:00 A.M., for the November 20 Council meeting in order to take a group photo for the Annual Report.

IV. President's Report

a) Good of the Order

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer highlighted Choose Peace Week activities as part of the anti-bullying campaign Choose Peace-Stop Violence, an initiative among the CSC, the school district, and the United Way. Members viewed a promotional video featuring Dr. Hepburn, Ms. Arenberg Seltzer, and Ms. Kathleen Cannon (President and CEO of United Way Broward) speaking to the importance of this

year's theme, Speak Life End Bullying. Other peace activities that took place in the schools, CSC, and the community include a peace poster contest, Chalk4 Peace, Choose Peace gratitude letters, peace gardens, peace tree kindness cards, peace pledges, pinwheels for peace, and a peace proclamation from the City of Tamarac that recognized October as National Bullying Prevention Month. The City also launched its #TamaracBeKind Campaign, encouraging residents, schools, and businesses to engage in everyday acts of kindness.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer shared proclamations from the City of Tamarac and the City of West Park recognizing Celebrate Babies Week 2025. She noted that many of our local agencies and cities are celebrating the babies of our communities to bring awareness to infant mental and physical health. She also noted that the Maternal and Child Health Committees that include the Florida Association of Infant Mental Health Broward Chapter, under the Broward Partnerships for Kids, led this initiative locally.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer highlighted the recent Read for the Record author activities in Broward to kick off Jumpstart's campaign for their 20th anniversary of Read for the Record. The annual event will be held in February this year, instead of October, to coincide with their anniversary. The author activities included a special reading at the Broward Estates Early Learning & Resource Center with Superintendent Hepburn and Marcus Bridgewater, author of this year's book, *See Marcus Grow*; the Conference on Children's Literature, where Mr. Bridgewater shared his journey to becoming an author and the lessons he learned along the way; and the unveiling of a Little Free Library as part of the anniversary celebration. Ms. Arenberg Seltzer drew Members' attention to a signed copy of this year's book at the dais for them.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer shared that she presented Dunkin' with the 2025 Transition Services Training Site of the Year Award at Arc Broward's 3rd Annual InspHired Awards, which was held during National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The event recognized employers who champion inclusive hiring and individuals with special abilities who have worked hard to achieve their employment dreams. More than 20 young people across four Dunkin' locations have gained hands-on experience, built confidence, and developed the workplace skills they need to succeed.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer and Mr. Dion Smith (Director of Program Services), both former recipients of Community-Based Connections' Green Blazer Award, attended this year's awards gala and celebration, which honored exceptional healthcare leaders Tim Curtin (Memorial Healthcare System), Rosalyn Frazier (Broward Community & Family Health Centers), Kathy Salerno (Broward Health), and Ken Walters (Community Care Plan).

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer recently participated in Tomorrow's Rainbow's Pony Jail 'N Bale Inmate Lockup, where VIP community members were "rounded up" on site and confined alongside miniature horses until they raised their "bale." Tomorrow's Rainbow provides services to children and teens healing from grief and trauma.

Ms. Kathleen Campbell (Director of Finance) was recently spotlighted in the Florida Government Finance Officers Association's October newsletter.

Ms. Kandyss Torrence (Training & Community Building Manager) will receive the Heritage and Distinguished Service Award on October 25th from the Friends of the African American Research Library and Cultural Center.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer shared that the installation of the new front door has been completed.

b) Broward County Early Learning Study and Roadmap

Ms. Kathy Koch, Broward Workshop Board Member and Co-Chair of the Education Committee, explained the importance of the business community taking a leadership role in early childcare and in ensuring that children read on grade level by 3rd grade, which gives them the best chance of graduating and achieving economic security. She thanked the Council for their partnership in this effort.

ACTION: Ms. Hixon made a motion to approve match funding to the Broward Workshop Early Learning Fund at the Community Foundation of Broward in support of the Broward County Early Learning Study and Roadmap, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Shea and passed with no opposing votes.

V. Program Planning Committee (PPC) Report

PPC Chair Christine Thompson, Ms. Juarez (CPO), and Ms. Arenberg Seltzer highlighted the recent Committee meeting. Dr. Thompson noted that Members discussed the multiple funding requests instead of making recommendations, as a physical quorum was not present at the meeting.

a) HANDY Leverage Funding Request

Mr. Kirk Brown, CEO of HANDY, introduced his staff in the room and thanked the Council for considering their leverage request, which he described as an effort by his team to ensure more care is provided to the homeless population, TIL youth, and families at risk.

Senator Rich shared that she had previously toured HANDY's OnMed Care Station and found it very impressive. She stated that she was excited to support it and encouraged her fellow Members to also visit it.

- b) OIC of South Florida (OICSFL) Youth Employment Leverage Funding Request
- c) Pilot Initiative to Allow Advance Payments to the Legal Aid Services of Broward for the Homeless Prevention Contract
- d) Hispanic Unity of Florida (HUF) Leverage Funding Request

Mr. Felipe Pinon, Hispanic Unity of Florida, thanked the Council for considering their leverage funding request. He stated that they empower families to become self-sufficient every day through vocational training, job placement, and assisting small business owners to grow their businesses. However, he noted that that's not the story of everyone, especially for thousands of clients who come because they cannot meet their basic needs, such as putting food on the table. He expressed hope that the Council will approve their request.

ACTION: Ms. Hixon made a motion to approve all action items under the PPC Report, which include approval of the leverage funding for HANDY to provide physical healthcare navigation services to homeless youth, transition to independence (TIL) youth, and at-risk youth and families, and to approve the addition of a new Objective 913 to the Goals with Words, "Provide Healthcare Navigation Services to promote physical well-being;" approval of the OICSFL Leverage Request, and to approve editing Objective 034 to the Goals with Words, "Provide youth employment opportunities and job readiness training to economically disadvantaged youth ages 14-18 to promote employability skills and economic stability;" approval of a pilot initiative to allow advance payments to the Legal Aid Services of Broward for the Homeless Prevention Contract; and approval of leverage funding for the Hispanic Unity of Florida's Comprando Rico y Sano Program to provide services aimed at addressing food insecurity and promoting nutrition literacy in low-and moderate-income communities, all as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Shea and passed with no opposing votes.

VI. Chief Program Officer Report

Adjustments to MOST Monitor Consultants' Allocations for FY 25/26

ACTION: Dr. Thaqi made a motion to approve adjustments to MOST Monitor Consultants' allocations for FY 25/26, as presented. The motion was seconded by Senator Rich and passed with no opposing votes.

VII. Chief Innovation Officer Report

Broward Partnerships for Kids (BPK) -- formerly Children's Strategic Plan

Dr. Gallagher commended Diane Choi (Assistant Director of Planning), Rhonda Morrison (Strategy Manager), Demetria Rawls (Strategy Manager – Special Needs), Marlando Christie (Director of Management Information Services), and Ken King (Director of Public Affairs & Organizational Development – Communications & Public Affairs) for their work with the BPK chairs to develop the new branded logo and the new highly functional website to support the work of the committees. She briefly touched upon some of the new website technology that helps improve programs, services, and community conditions for children and families in Broward.

VIII. Chief Public Affairs Officer (CPAO) Report

Mr. Ken King, on behalf of Dr. Remikie, briefly highlighted the items under the CPAO Report.

- a) Back-to-School Extravaganza FY 24/25
- b) Public Awareness Collateral Plan FY 25/26
- c) CPR Trainer Cadre

ACTION: Dr. Thaqi made a motion to approve all action items under the CPAO Report, which include acceptance of revenue and reconciliation of expenditures for the Back-to-School Extravaganza FY 24/25, approval of the Public Awareness Collateral Plan for FY 25/26, and approval of the four vendors that have met the qualifications to join the CSC Trainer Cadre to deliver CPR training, all as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hixon and passed with no opposing votes.

- d) Media/Communications/Outreach Impact Report

Mr. King highlighted the Biannual Media, Communication, and Community Engagement Report, noting that community outreach had increased from April to September, with CSC participating in 51 more events. He noted that this increase is the direct result of the addition of two dedicated outreach specialists, as well as the commitment of the whole team.

IX. Chief Operating Officer (COO) Report

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

- a) Budget Carryforward

- b) Disposal of Fully Depreciated Fixed Assets and Non-Capitalized Items for FY 24/25
- c) Managed Fund Monthly Statements
- d) CSC Purchases

ACTION: Dr. Thaqi made a motion to approve all action items under the COO Report, which include approval of the Budget Carry-Forward for selected POs and initiatives, approval of the disposal of fully depreciated fixed assets and non-capitalized items for FY 24-25, acceptance of the monthly statements for the Managed Fund from PFM and US Bank, and approval of the CSC monthly purchases, all as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hixon and passed with no opposing votes.

X. Special Needs Advisory Coalition (SNAC) Meeting Report

Ms. Hixon briefly highlighted the recent meeting of the SNAC, referring Members to the minutes in the information packet and noting that 50 people from 20 different organizations were in attendance. She shared that Alicia-Ann Samuel was elected as the new Co-Chair. SNAC meetings are held quarterly, from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. at the CSC Office. The next meeting is scheduled for January 16.

XI. Broward Reads Coalition Meeting Report

Senator Rich briefly highlighted the recent meeting of the Broward Reads Coalition, referring Members to the minutes in the information packet.

XII. Funders Forum Meeting Report

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

XIII. Public Comment

Ms. Roslyn Woods, Delta Education & Life Development Foundation and Broward County Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and Ms. Veronia Boyd, Delta Education & Life Development Foundation and the Lauderhill Civic Design Team, thanked the Council for its partnership and the grant they received. Ms. Boyd is the Chair of Read America, where the grant funds were used. They were able to support more than 2,233 students, distributing 6,600 books to students in their program, along with backpacks and hygiene materials. Ms. Boyd shared that the children enjoyed meeting children's authors and choosing their own books. They presented the Council with a plaque to show their appreciation.

Dr. Gallagher pointed out that the grant funding was through CSC's Asset Based Community Development initiative.

XIV. Council Members' Roundtable

CSC staff led a Roundtable on the New Diversion Alternatives for Youth (New DAY) Request for Proposals (RFP) that is scheduled to be released next year.

Ms. Erin Byrne (Assistant Director of Program Services) highlighted the program area, providing background and history. She stated that these programs provide a meaningful alternative for young people who have come in contact with law enforcement. In lieu of formal prosecution, youth are given the opportunity, through participation in these programs, to learn from their mistakes, build resilience, and complete various requirements to resolve their cases.

Ms. Byrne noted that these programs fall under Council Goal 3, which is to reduce the recidivism rate of low-risk juvenile offenders who are at low risk to re-offend and prevent the escalation of crime. The desired outcome is that youth are free from involvement in delinquent acts, violence, and other problem behaviors that have serious long-term consequences. The desired population consists of juveniles up to and including the age of 17 at the time of the alleged offense, who reside in Broward County, have allegedly committed criminal offenses within the jurisdiction of Broward County, and meet specific eligibility criteria for diversion or civil citation. Referral sources include the State Attorney's Office and the Broward County Office of Justice Services.

She explained that CSC began funding these programs in 2003, in collaboration with the State Attorney's Office, due to high youth arrest rates. Initial funding was around \$2 million, but since then, the Council has doubled that to \$4,125,906.

Mr. Jeff Glover (Programs Manager) provided an overview of the programmatic services, outlining five psychoeducational programs, three therapeutic programs, and two psychoeducational & therapeutic programs. He explained that New DAY is a very structured program that youth must participate in and successfully complete to have their legal case dismissed. He briefly highlighted the New DAY program components: biopsychosocial assessment, case management services, individual/family counseling, restorative justice conferencing, community service & civic service learning, youth group services, caregiver support services, and family building retreats. He also outlined the New DAY staff training, which includes required trainings in restorative justice conferencing, trauma-informed care/ACES, motivational interviewing, and youth mental health first aid, as well as additional required trainings for program supervisors and clinical staff. He noted that staff are also exploring new trainings, such as working with youth with special needs.

Ms. Shira Fowlkes (Senior Planning & Research Manager) discussed the research, which shows that diversion programs are more effective and cost-efficient for youth, families, and the community than institutionalization. She stated that diversion programs result in reduced recidivism, an increased likelihood of success in education and employment, and savings of approximately \$214,000 per youth, per year for juvenile incarceration. For civil citations, which is a form of diversion, 61% of the 803 eligible youth in Broward County were issued a civil citation instead of being arrested between June 2024 and July 2025. Also, youth directly diverted via Florida's Pre-Arrest Civil Citation Programs, instead of Court-Adjudicated Diversion, are significantly less likely to reoffend. She stated that research also shows that 60-70% of youth in the juvenile justice system have behavioral health diagnoses in 2020, and that Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) increase the likelihood of behavioral health issues and delinquent behavior. Each type of ACE experience increases the risk of delinquency by 35%. Research also shows that child-rearing practices and a child's social and biological circumstances are influenced by their parents' childhood trauma. By age 26, children of parents with four or more ACEs are 28% likely to be arrested, compared to 18% of children of parents with no ACEs. In fact, negative parental caregiver circumstances were more prevalent risk factors for delinquency than a child's own maltreatment, according to a study.

Components that increase successful programming include community-based treatment that is based on multi-system collaboration, and parent and caregiver participation as a strong protective factor against initial delinquency or any recidivism.

Ms. Fowlkes shared that provider and stakeholder feedback, including feedback from the State Attorney's Office and the Broward Sheriff's Office, demonstrated concern over the increased number of youth with high-level behavioral health needs. After exploring multiple new models, CSC is considering the addition of Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) therapeutic model options. DBT is effective for individuals who have difficulty managing and regulating their emotions. She stated that staff's recommendations for high-need youth and their families will include the essentials of DBTA, which are emotional regulation, interpersonal effectiveness, mindfulness skills, and distress tolerance, as well as the concept of walking the middle path.

She also shared that Restorative Justice has proven positive results, including a reduction in recidivism rates, an increase in community and victim involvement and satisfaction, helping the offending youth take accountability for their actions, and allowing them to build empathy, manage conflict, and support emotional development. It was found that less than 1 in 10 completers of Restorative Justice commit a new offense within a year.

Ms. Ashley Cole (Assistant Director of Research & Evaluation) discussed performance measures. Performance measures have consistently met or exceeded Council goals in the past two fiscal years. Some of the measures of this program

include the percentage of youth who successfully complete the program, law violations that occur during program participation, an increase in youth resiliency, and law violations up to 12 months post-program participation. She stated that staff plan to continue using these measures in the upcoming RFP, along with the addition of a survey that looks at engagement in the Restorative Justice process.

XV. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:13 a.m. with a motion from Dr. Thaqi and a second from Ms. Hixon.

Nan H. Rich

Nan Rich, Secretary

MEETING ATTENDEES (*Denotes Speaker)

Name	Organization
Grace Ramos	The M Network
Lisa Clements	YMCA of South Florida
Shannon Atwell	OIC of South Florida, Inc.
Kirk Brown*	HANDY
Michele Fernandez	Hispanic Unity of Florida
Felipe Pinzon*	Hispanic Unity of Florida
Lauren Miller	OnMed/HANDY
Carolina Urrechaga	Hispanic Unity of Florida
Esther Garnier	HANDY, Inc.
Andree Garnier	HANDY, Inc.
Harrison Grandwilliams	Broward County Commission
Roslyn Woods*	Delta Education & Life Development Foundation Broward County Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
Veronica Boyd*	Delta Education & Life Development Foundation Lauderhill Civic Design Team
LaKena Crespo	COD
Rose Desmornes	Pembroke Pines Police Department
Angelika Schlanger	HANDY
Shawn Preston	Arc Broward
Kathy Koch*	Broward Workshop
Denissa Facey	Pembroke Pines Police Department
Arlene Connelly	OIC-SFL
Traci Schweitzer	Department of Children & Families
Catherine Lievano	Pembroke Pines Police Department

Name	Organization
Alison Rodriguez	YMCA of South Florida
Jessica Malagon	Pembroke Pines Police Department
Fallon Johnson	Urban League of Broward County
Gloria Moschella	Broward State Attorney
Mark Reyes	Urban League of Broward County