

Children's Services Council of Broward County

Program Planning Committee Meeting

October 6, 2025 @ 9:30 AM

Loc: Children's Services Council of Broward County & Zoom Access
6600 West Commercial Blvd., Lauderhill, FL 33319 -- Training Room 2

AGENDA

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| I. | Call Meeting to Order | | Christine Thompson,
<i>Committee Chair</i> |
| II. | Roll Call | | Amy Jacques,
<i>Special Assistant to the
President/CEO</i> |
| III. | Approve PPC Minutes from August 2025 | (Tab 1) | Christine Thompson,
<i>Committee Chair</i> |
| IV. | Recommend to the Full Council Approval of
Leverage Funding for Helping Advance and
Nurture the Development of Youth (HANDY) to
Provide Physical Healthcare Navigation Services
to Homeless Youth, Transition to Independence
Youth in Foster Care, and At-Risk Youth and
Families; and to add new Objective 913 to the
Goals with Words, "Provide Healthcare Navigation
Services to Promote Physical Well-Being" | (Tab 2) | Maria Juarez, <i>Chief
Program Officer</i> |
| V. | Recommend to the Full Council Approval of
OIC of South Florida's Youth Employment
Leverage Funding Request | (Tab 3) | Maria Juarez, <i>Chief
Program Officer</i> |
| VI. | Recommend to the Full Council Approval of a
Pilot Initiative to Allow Advance Payments to the
Legal Aid Services of Broward for the Homeless
Prevention Contract | (Tab 4) | Maria Juarez, <i>Chief
Program Officer</i> |
| VII. | Recommend to the Full Council Approval of
Leverage Funding for Hispanic Unity of Florida
to Provide Services Aimed at Addressing Food
Insecurity and Promoting Nutrition Literacy in
Low-and Moderate-Income Communities | (Tab 5) | Sharetta Remikie, <i>Chief
Public Affairs Officer</i> |
| VIII. | Public Comment/Council General Comments | | Christine Thompson,
<i>Committee Chair</i> |
| IX. | Adjourn | | |

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF BROWARD COUNTY
Program Planning Committee (PPC) Meeting

Location: Children's Services Council of Broward County (with Zoom access)
6600 W. Commercial Blvd., Lauderhill, FL 33319

August 11, 2025 @ 10:00 a.m.
Minutes

Committee Members in Attendance:

Governor Appointee Christine Thompson (*Committee Chair*), Governor Appointee Julia Musella

Committee Members Attending Virtually:

Governor Appointee Alyssa Foganholi, Broward County Commissioner Nan Rich

Committee Members Absent:

Governor Appointee Jeffrey Wood

Staff in Attendance:

Cindy Arenberg Seltzer (*President/CEO*), David Kenton, Sharetta Remikie, Lisa Bayne, Dion Smith, Kimberly A. Goulbourne, Ken King, Marissa Greif-Hackett, Amy Jacques, Julie-Ann Waweru, Felina Rosales-Furer, Alicia Williams, Kathleen Campbell, Melissa Soza, Jill Denis-Lay, Erin Byrne, Maddy Jones, Kim Reid

Guests in Attendance:

Christina Louis (private), Harrison Grandwilliams (Broward County Commission), Micah Robbins (Speak Life), Erika Rosberg (Speak Life), Rebecca Burd (Speak Life), Daniel Burd (Speak Life)

Agenda:

I. Call to Order

PPC Committee Chair Christine Thompson called the meeting to order at 10:06 A.M.

II. Roll Call

A roll call was conducted and a quorum was established with the physical presence of Committee Members Christine Thompson and Julia Musella.

III. Joint PPC/Finance Committee Minutes from June 11, 2025

ACTION: Senator Rich made a motion to approve the CSC Joint PPC/Finance meeting minutes from June 11, 2025, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Musella and passed with no opposing votes.

IV. Speak Life End Bullying Leverage Request

Mr. Dion Smith, Director of Program Services, briefly highlighted the leverage funding request, as presented in the meeting information packet. He noted that there has been an increase in bullying (cyber, verbal, and physical) in both middle schools and high schools. As such, Broward County Public Schools partnered with Speak Life End Bullying to pilot an initiative in 10 middle and high schools. The pilot received strong positive feedback and interest from additional schools. If approved, CSC's funding would start October 1.

Senator Rich expressed support for the initiative, but sought clarification concerning the ongoing community partnership with Choose Peace Stop Violence and the reason behind eliminating that specific language from the Goal Objective. Ms. Arenberg Seltzer explained that the partnership with Choose Peace Stop Violence remains strong and that the revised CSC goal objective language allows for additional anti-bullying initiatives to be supported. She noted that staff will make that clearer in the information going to the full Council.

Senator Rich also asked about how teachers will be trained. Mr. Daniel Burd, with Speak Life End Bullying, explained that there is an online training video on how to utilize the program. In addition, schools may request a training Zoom call, ask questions through an online portal, and request one-on-one training.

Mr. Burd invited Council members to join Speak Life End Bullying on August 28, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm, at the Lauderhill Performing Arts Center, for a private screening for the Boys and Girls Clubs. He explained that it will give insight into what the program would look like in the schools.

ACTION: Ms. Musella made a motion to recommend to the full Council approval to update Service Goal 11, Objective 111, in Goals with Words and remove the words "through support of the Choose Peace initiative," and recommend to the full Council approval of 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 Senator Rich and passed with no opposing votes.

V. Deferred Contract Renewals for FY 25/26

Mr. Smith, Ms. Lisa Bayne (Director of Program Services), and Ms. Kimberly A. Goulbourne (Director of Public Affairs & Organizational Development) highlighted the contract renewals, as presented in the meeting packet. Ms. Arenberg Seltzer explained that this is a follow-up to those deferred at the May Budget Retreat. These will be presented to the full Council at the upcoming meetings in August. Those rest will be brought for resolution in September.

ACTION: Ms. Musella made a motion to recommend to the full Council approval of the renewal recommendations for FY 25/26, as presented. The motion was seconded by Senator Rich and passed with no opposing votes.

VI. Children's Home Society Supervised Visitation Contract Renewal for FY 25/26

Ms. Bayne briefly highlighted the renewal of Children's Home Society's Supervised Visitation Contract. Ms. Arenberg Seltzer commended Ms. Maria Juarez (CSC Chief Program Officer), the Family Court division, Family Chair Person Judge Lauren M. Alperstein, and The Jim Moran Foundation for collaborating so well to address the need.

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

VII. JAFCO Eagles' Haven Community Wellness Center Contract Renewal for FY 25/26

Ms. Bayne briefly highlighted the renewal of the Eagles' Haven Community Wellness Center Contract, which included an increase in funding to address the hole left by the state cut to their part of the funding collaborative.

ACTION: Ms. Musella made a motion to recommend to the full Council approval of the JAFCO Eagles' Haven Community Wellness Center Contract renewal for FY 25/26, as presented. The motion was seconded by Senator Rich and passed with no opposing votes.

VIII. Public & Members' Comments

There were no additional comments.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 A.M.

For Program Planning Committee Meeting, October 6, 2025

System Goal	1.1 Improve the coordination of provision of children's services.
Objective:	913 Provide Healthcare Navigation Services to promote physical well-being.
Issue:	Support Helping Advance and Nurture the Development of Youth (HANDY) Physical Healthcare Navigation Program Leverage Funding Request.
Action:	<p>1) Recommend to the Full Council Approval of Leverage Funding for Helping Advance and Nurture the Development of Youth (HANDY) to provide physical healthcare navigation services to homeless youth, transition to independence (TIL) youth, and at-risk youth and families.</p> <p>2) Recommend to the Full Council to approve the addition of a new Objective 913 to the Goals with Words, "Provide Healthcare Navigation Services to promote physical well-being."</p>
Budget Impact:	\$112,500 of \$7,073,086 Available in Unallocated for FY 25/26.

Background: Youth in Broward County, particularly those in foster care or experiencing homelessness, face systemic barriers to accessing physical healthcare. Despite progress in accessing behavioral and mental health services, a gap remains in the need for accessible, youth-centered medical services and support to help them navigate and stay connected to services.

This issue is particularly prevalent in Zip codes 33311, 33313, 33309, and 33319, communities marked by high poverty, housing instability, and limited availability of essential service providers. According to the 2021 Broward Health Community Need Assessment:

- ZIP code 33311 has the highest hospitalization rates for preventable chronic conditions, including congestive heart failure, asthma, diabetes, AIDS, and sickle cell disease, and the second highest for hypertension.

- Nearly 14% of Broward residents are uninsured, with higher rates in low-income ZIP codes, creating substantial barriers to care.
- The area is designated by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as both a Health Professional Shortage Area and a Medically Underserved Population.
- The 33311 population is predominantly Black and African American, a group disproportionately affected by infant mortality, preventable illness, and reduced life expectancy.
- The ZIP code also ranks highest on Prevention Quality Indicators in the county, indicating a high level of avoidable hospitalizations tied to lack of timely outpatient care.

Even when care is available, many youth delay or forgo it due to a lack of awareness, transportation, trust, or system navigation support. Without dedicated coordination, they are often left to manage complex health systems alone, resulting in missed diagnoses, preventable crises, and long-term health challenges.

In response, HANDY launched the OnMed Care Station, a secure, HIPAA-compliant telehealth unit offering no-barrier access to licensed nurses and nurse practitioners. By removing the requirement for insurance, a major barrier to care for uninsured and underinsured families and youth will be eliminated.

Current Status: HANDY is working towards closing the gap in youth-centered physical healthcare by enhancing its OnMed telehealth initiative through the addition of a Care/Benefit Navigator and is seeking leverage funding from the Children's Services Council of Broward County to support one (1) full-time Care/Benefit Navigator to serve 100 youth. The funding will also support transportation for the youth to appointments, staff training, space and utilities, consultant and administrative costs. The leverage funds account for approximately 20% of the total project budget of \$750,000, with the remaining 80% covered by the contributions from the Lennar Foundation, Moss Foundation, and Perlman Family Foundation. The overall project would serve 550 youth and caregivers.

The Care/Benefit Navigator would coordinate with external partners to schedule appointments at HANDY's facility, administer digital screenings for Social Determinants of Health (SDOH), provide in-person support during telehealth visits, refer to needed services and ensure linkages are successful, provide healthcare benefits navigation and support, and conduct follow-up with those referred for outside care to promote continuity and improve health outcomes.

To further expand this continuum, HANDY plans to introduce on-site medical providers to establish an in-person clinic, offering a consistent medical home for those transitioning from telehealth to comprehensive care. This initiative fills a gap in physical health services and promotes integrated, whole-person care through coordinated referrals and collaboration across systems.

The additional 450 youth and caregivers to be served will receive a health check from OnMed, HANDY's partnering clinical provider. The OnMed health visit will consist of full vitals and intake by a Certified Nursing Assistant, and then a visit with a Registered Nurse or a Nurse Practitioner. A referral and/or prescription is provided as needed.

If awarded, CSC funding would support this program from January 1, 2026, through September 30, 2026. The requested amount of \$112,500 is a 9-month prorated amount. The performance measures for this leverage contract are being developed.

As discussed during the February 2025 Council meeting roundtable, the outlook for local, state, and federal funding is uncertain. Thus, while this leverage request meets the CSC leverage policy requirements, which would make it eligible for five years of CSC funding subject to performance, utilization, and ongoing leverage, at this time, staff is recommending a one-year commitment. This can be extended if conditions change.

Recommended Action: 1) Recommend to the Full Council Approval of Leverage Funding for Helping Advance and Nurture the Development of Youth (HANDY) to provide physical healthcare navigation services to homeless youth, transition to independence (TIL) youth, and at-risk youth and families.

2) Recommend to the Full Council to approve the addition of a new Objective 913 to the Goals with Words, "Provide Healthcare Navigation Services to promote physical well-being."

TAB 3

For Program Planning Committee Meeting, October 6, 2025

Service Goal	3.1 Reduce risk factors associated with delinquency, teen pregnancy, substance abuse, school dropout, and other risky behaviors.
Objective:	034 Provide youth employment opportunities and job readiness training to economically disadvantaged youth ages 16-18 to promote employability skills and economic stability.
Issue:	The OIC of South Florida (OICSFL) submitted a Youth Employment Leverage Funding Request for year-round and summer STEAM Workforce Pathways Program to provide skills training and paid internships for STEAM-specific work experience opportunities to economically disadvantaged youth.
Action:	Recommend to the Full Council Approval of the OIC of South Florida (OICSFL) Leverage Request.
Budget Impact:	\$392,113 of \$7,465,199 Available in Unallocated for FY 25/26.

Background: Since 2006, CSC has funded employment programs for economically disadvantaged high school-aged youth and youth transitioning out of the child welfare system. The Council funds Career Source and Junior Achievement (JA) to provide summer employment opportunities to underserved youth, funds youth internship programs through contracts with HOMES, Inc., and the Museum of Discovery and Science (MODS), and a pre-apprenticeship program through JA. Furthermore, the Council also funds supported youth employment programs for youth with special needs ages 16-21 under the Supported Training and Employment Program (STEP) section of the Positive Youth Employment RFP.

Since July 2022, OIC of South Florida (OICSFL) has been a key sub-awardee in the U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) Workforce Pathways for Youth (WPY) initiative in partnership with the national office – OIC of America (OICA). This initiative delivered critical STEAM-focused workforce programming to underrepresented Broward youth ages 14–21. In early 2025, OICA reapplied for continuation of this funding with sub-awards designated for four national affiliates, including OICSFL. However, due to

federal budget reductions, the WPY funding cycle was terminated nationwide, creating a funding gap in OICSFL's ability to continue to provide high-impact year-round STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) career readiness and paid internship programming for the underserved youth.

Current Status: OIC of South Florida (OICSFL) submitted a leverage request to CSC to sustain the STEAM Workforce Pathways youth internship Program, which is delivered to 100 youth annually during after-school, weekends, and summer. This program provides career exploration and job skills training in the field of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) and includes industry-specific job shadowing, soft skills development, and industry certifications. The program offers certification in Microsoft Essentials Professional, and My 10YearPlan, industry-recognized credentials from Florida Ready to Work (FRtW), and digital badges in Coding, Digital Media, Videography, and Filmography programs. Based on previous experience, OIC anticipates that 80% of the 100 youth or 80 youth will participate in additional STEAM Career Development Programming with a 2-week Summer Leadership Academy and 6 weeks of paid internship. In order to be eligible for this opportunity, youth must successfully participate in the afterschool portion of the program and be able to commit to the additional responsibilities outlined above.

The STEAM Pathways Program currently serves students from 4 schools (Hallandale High School, Deerfield High School, Lauderhill 6-12, and Dave Thomas Education Center) across Broward County. To meet eligibility for the program, the youth must be High School youth ages 14-18 at the time of enrollment, a Broward County Resident, economically disadvantaged, and may not yet have a clear educational or career pathway. This includes students whose academic performance or financial limitations may limit their access to traditional STEM/STEAM enrichment opportunities, as well as those who have not previously been exposed to hands-on workforce development experiences.

The STEAM Workforce Pathways program is unique in Broward County because it goes beyond traditional after-school enrichment by integrating long-term educational and career planning with real-life workforce training. Students gain access to STEAM training, paid work experiences and internships, diverse industry speakers, and targeted academic support, ensuring they not only explore STEAM fields but also build the skills, confidence, and professional networks necessary for success. By bridging academic learning with workforce readiness, the program creates a comprehensive pipeline that prepares underrepresented youth for both postsecondary education and meaningful careers in the growing STEAM economy.

OICSFL has secured \$150,000 from the Community Foundation of Broward, \$40,000 from the Losick Family Foundation, \$20,000 from the Annette Urso Rickel Foundation, \$10,000 from the P.L. Dodge Foundation, and \$8,000 from the FL DOC and has requested \$392,113 from CSC to support the STEAM Workforce Pathways program. The funding requested from CSC will support program implementation and youth wages for after-school, weekend, and summer internships, staffing, and costs associated with youth obtaining various certifications and credentials associated with the STEAM-specific essential skills that align with employer needs.

If awarded CSC funding, the contract would be from January 1, 2026, through September 30, 2026. The performance measures for this leverage proposal are being developed.

As previously discussed during the February 2025 Council meeting roundtable, the outlook for local, state, and federal funding is uncertain. Thus, while this leverage request meets the CSC leverage policy requirements, which would make it eligible for five years of CSC funding subject to performance, utilization, and ongoing leverage, at this time, staff is recommending a one-term commitment. This can be extended if conditions change.

Recommended Action: Recommend to the Full Council Approval of the OIC of South Florida (OICSFL) Leverage Request.

TAB 4

For Program Planning Committee Meeting, October 6, 2025

Service Goal	2.2 Children live in financially stable environments.
Objective:	027 Assist families to achieve financial stability through promoting EITC, workforce development, providing financial coaching, basic needs and supports for the homeless continuum of care.
Issue:	Support Timely Rental Payment for Families with Children at Risk of Eviction.
Action:	Recommend to the Full Council Approval of a Pilot Initiative to Allow Advance Payments to the Legal Aid Services of Broward for the Homeless Prevention Contract.
Budget Impact:	None

Background: The initial term of the Legal Aid Services (LAS) Homeless Prevention contract concluded on September 30, 2025. One of the primary challenges faced by the provider has been the lack of readily accessible funds to make timely housing payments on behalf of clients at risk of eviction. Legal Aid's process includes assessing eligible clients and issuing letters of commitment to landlords and/or banks, guaranteeing payment within 3 to 6 days. However, due to the high volume of requests, the substantial cost per case, and limited cash flow, the provider has been unable to meet the overall level of need.

Current Status: To help address this cash flow issue, CSC staff have explored the possibility of advance payments. Although CSC has historically reimbursed providers only after services are delivered—or after emergency flex funds are paid and invoiced—this advanced payment pilot provides an opportunity for another permissible method. In fact, other Children's Services Councils, such as Palm Beach, Miami Children's Trust, and Alachua County, have successfully implemented advanced payment models.

If approved by the Council, the advance payment option would allow Legal Aid Service (LAS) to submit an advance funding request to the Children's Services Council for up to

10% of the annual allocation of the Homeless Prevention contract, but only after the execution of a signed agreement. In FY 25/26, LAS's Homeless Prevention contract was allocated \$500,000; therefore, the maximum advance they would be allowed is \$50,000. This pilot will accommodate advance payment only related to emergency Flex Funds distribution for housing assistance. All advances may be repaid at any point during the contracted budget period, but must be repaid or offset against reimbursements by August 31st, which is a month prior to the end of the contracted budget period. Any funds not offset by August 31 will be deducted from the September reimbursement request. If for any reason the amount billed in September is insufficient, CSC will bill Legal Aid for the balance.

CSC staff recommends the implementation of the LAS advance payment pilot and requests Council approval of the following contract language to be added to the Scope of Work of the LAS contract:

- **Advance Payments:** The Provider may submit an advance payment request to the Programs Manager for up to 10% of the annual contract allocation only after executing a signed agreement and fully repaying any previously issued advances. Advance funds are to be used only for flex funds for housing assistance. All advances may be repaid at any point during the contracted budget period, but must be repaid or offset against reimbursements by August 31st, which is a month prior to the end of the contracted budget period. Any funds not offset by August 31 will be deducted from the September reimbursement request. If for any reason the amount billed in September is insufficient, CSC will bill the Provider for the balance.

Recommended Action: Recommend to the Full Council Approval of a Pilot Initiative to Allow Advance Payments to the Legal Aid Services of Broward for the Homeless Prevention Contract.

TAB 5

For Program Planning Committee October 6, 2025

Service Goal	2.2 Children live in financially stable environments.
Objective:	026 Promote food security for families.
Issue:	Support the Hispanic Unity of Florida Comprando Rico y Sano Program Leverage Funding Request
Action:	Recommend to the Full Council 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.
Budget Impact:	\$105,000 of \$6,960,586 Available in Unallocated for FY 25/26.

Background: Approximately one in five children in Broward County experiences food insecurity. To address this need, the Children's Services Council (CSC) has supported hunger relief initiatives since 2006. In June 2022, CSC strengthened its commitment through the release of the Food Insecurity Mitigation Request for Proposals (RFP), which funds programs designed to serve children and families across Broward County.

Hispanic Unity of Florida (HUF) launched the *Comprando Rico y Sano* (CRS) program in 2013 to reduce food insecurity and support families. The program has been sustained through grants from UnidosUS and the Citi Foundation. However, both funding sources will end this year (UnidosUS ended in June 2025, and Citi Foundation will end in December 2025), creating an urgent need for new support to maintain services.

Current Status: HUF has submitted a leverage request to CSC for continued support of CRS, which serves low- and moderate-income, predominantly Hispanic and immigrant families. CRS currently operates at two sites: HUF Headquarters in Hollywood (three days per week) and the Gulfstream Early Learning Center in Hallandale Beach (two days per week). Hours are 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, with evening sessions offered to better serve working families.

The program provides nutrition education, food distributions, assistance with SNAP applications, referrals to other public benefit programs such as WIC, Medicaid, Florida KidCare, and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA).

From January 2024 to July 2025, CRS assisted 9,455 individuals with SNAP applications. Of these, 7,284 were approved, representing 2,972 children and 4,312 adults. During the same period, 2,056 individuals attended nutrition education workshops and cooking demos, and more than 2,000 households were supported through 13 food distributions.

To date, HUF has secured \$35,000 in matching funds from the Ansin Foundation (\$25,000) and United Way of Broward County (\$10,000). With CSC's leverage support, HUF will:

1. Increase food security and expand access to fresh, nutritious foods through food distributions.
2. Deliver a series of nutrition-focused workshops to promote healthy eating and wellness.
3. Provide direct support with applications for public benefits to promote economic stability.

The program is managed by two staff members: the Associate Director of Economic Development (18% of salary supported by CSC) and the Income Support Coordinator (85% of salary supported by CSC).

If awarded, CSC funding would support CRS from November 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026. Without funding, thousands of families would lose critical access to food assistance, nutrition education, and support for public benefits.

As discussed during the February 2025 Council meeting roundtable, the outlook for local, state, and federal funding is uncertain. Thus, while this leverage request meets the CSC leverage policy requirements, which would make it eligible for five years of CSC funding subject to performance, utilization, and ongoing leverage, at this time, staff is recommending a one-year commitment. This can be extended if conditions change.

Please note that in FY 2026–27, HUF would be expected to apply through CSC's new Food Insecurity Mitigation RFP cycle to be considered for ongoing funding beginning in FY 2027/2028.

Recommended Action: Recommend to the Full Council 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