

Children's Services Council of Broward County Program Planning Committee Meeting

November 6, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

Loc: Children's Services Council of Broward County & Zoom Access
6600 West Commercial Blvd., Lauderdale, 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 October 2025 | (Tab 1) | Christine Thompson,
<i>Committee Chair</i> |
| IV. | Approve the Allocation of Funds to the Broward
County Collaborative Cross-Funder Emergency
Fund to Provide Emergency Support for Broward's
Children and Families Impacted by the Delay and
Reduction in SNAP Funding and Federal
Employees Not Receiving a Salary | (Tab 2) | Cindy Arenberg Seltzer,
<i>President/CEO</i>
Sharetta Remikie,
<i>Chief Public Affairs Officer</i> |
| V. | Public Comment/Council General Comments | | Christine Thompson,
<i>Committee Chair</i> |
| VI. | 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

October 6, 2025 @ 9:30 a.m.
Minutes

Committee Members in Attendance:

Governor Appointee Christine Thompson (*Committee Chair*)

Committee Members Attending Virtually:

Governor Appointee Alyssa Foganholi, Governor Appointee Julia Musella, Broward County Commissioner Nan Rich, Governor Appointee Jeffrey S. Wood

Staff in Attendance:

Cindy Arenberg Seltzer (*President/CEO*), Maria Juarez Stouffer, Sharetta Remikie, Lisa Bayne, Dion Smith, Kimberly Goulbourne, Marissa Greif-Hackett, Amy Jacques, Julie-Ann Waweru, Felina Rosales-Furer, Alicia Williams, Kathleen Campbell, Fern Phillip, Jill Denis-Lay, Erin Byrne, Kimberlee Reid

Guests in Attendance:

Michele Fernandez (*Hispanic Unity of Florida*), Arlene Connelly (*OIC of South Florida*), Newton Sanon (*OIC of South Florida*), Shannon Atwell (*OIC of South Florida*), Carolina Urrechaga (*Hispanic Unity of Florida*), Elizabeth Dorante (*Hispanic Unity of Florida*)

Agenda:

I. Call to Order

PPC Committee Chair Christine Thompson called the meeting to order at 9:33 A.M.

II. Roll Call

A roll call was conducted with all Committee members present, one physically present and four present virtually. As a physical quorum was not established, the meeting proceeded with only discussions of the agenda items.

III. PPC Minutes from August 11, 2025

There were no edits proposed.

IV. HANDY Leverage Request for Physical Healthcare Navigation Services

Ms. Maria Juarez Stouffer, Chief Program Officer, briefly highlighted the leverage funding request, as presented in the meeting information packet. She explained that if approved by the full Council, CSC would fund the program from January 1, 2026, through September 30, 2026, at a prorated amount of \$112,500. She noted that the performance measures are in the process of being developed.

Ms. Seltzer highlighted the item's second action of adding a new objective to the Goals with Words to add "Provide Healthcare Navigation Services to promote physical well-being." She noted that if the Council agreed, staff would move other relevant navigation services to the new objective.

Ms. Foganholi and Senator Rich both noted that they had visited HANDY's OnMed telehealth initiative and found it very impressive and beneficial to the community. They were both supportive of the proposed youth enhancements. A brief discussion ensued as to the various barriers to youth accessing physical healthcare, with staff confirming that this proposal will help to remove many of those barriers.

Senator Rich inquired as to why the new objective differentiated between physical and mental health, as she wanted to be sure the child was treated holistically, both mind and body together. Ms. Arenberg Seltzer confirmed that while both are indeed very connected and that the youth are always served holistically, staff developed different outcome measurements for each and wanted to track and report on each separately within CSC's overall funding. She noted that staff could discuss the best way to achieve that, but that it was important for accounting and reporting purposes. Senator Rich stated she would be fine with that if the youth were being treated holistically.

Consensus was reached to support HANDY's leverage funding request and to add the new Objective.

V. OIC of South Florida's Youth Employment Leverage Funding Request

Ms. Juarez Stouffer briefly highlighted the leverage funding request, as presented in the meeting information packet. If approved by the full Council, CSC funding would be from January 1, 2026, through September 30, 2026. She noted that the performance measures are in the process of being developed.

Mr. Newton Sanon, OIC of South Florida, thanked the Members for their consideration of this request. He stated that Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) is extremely important for workforce development for today's youth, pointing out that this is an enormous opportunity to not only expose youth to

STEAM fields, but also to build the skills, confidence, and professional networks necessary for success. He also noted that they have collaboratively secured funding from other sources to make this happen. He did request a friendly amendment to the proposal, amending it from out-of-school services to in-school/out-of-school so that they had an option to work with the Broward Advisors for Continuing Education (BRACE) Advisors.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer confirmed with Mr. Newton that his request to coordinate with BRACE advisors was approved; however, this leverage program may not provide programming during the school day, as the Council is not meant to supplant what the schools provide. He explained that he wanted to connect with the BRACE advisors to provide them with information to strengthen the ecosystem. Ms. Arenberg Selter agreed that coordinating with BRACE advisors is acceptable. She also suggested coordinating with the CSC-funded LEAP High programs that have Success Coaches and are in some of those schools. She noted that Mr. Dion Smith (Director of Program Services) would be able to assist with that connection.

Senator Rich shared that she has worked with Mr. Sanon and OIC since its inception and that their programs are amazing. She noted that their success can be seen in the people coming up through employment in the County. She expressed her support for their leverage funding request.

Consensus was reached to support OIC's leverage funding request.

VI. Pilot Initiative to Allow Advance Payments to the Legal Aid Services of Broward for the Homeless Prevention Contract

Ms. Juarez Stouffer briefly highlighted the proposed pilot initiative, as presented in the meeting information packet. She noted that Ms. Kathleen Campbell (Director of Finance) researched the possibility of advance payments and discovered that other Children's Services Councils, specifically those in Palm Beach, Miami (The Children's Trust), and Alachua County, have successfully implemented advanced payments models. Ms. Juarez Stouffer outlined the stipulations related to the proposed advanced payments and recommended that language be added to the Contract's Scope of Work.

Senator Rich emphasized the importance of this program in keeping people in their homes and out of homelessness. She shared that there's not enough placement availability once people are homeless and that this program has saved so many families in just the first couple of years.

Consensus was reached to support the proposed advance payment pilot initiative for Legal Aid Services of Broward's Homeless Prevention Contract.

VII. Hispanic Unity of Florida Leverage Funding Request

Dr. Remikie briefly highlighted the leverage funding request, as presented in the meeting information packet. She explained that if approved by the full Council, CSC would fund the program from November 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026.

Dr. Thompson expressed her appreciation that the program doesn't just hand out food but also helps with SNAP applications and provides nutrition education.

Ms. Michele Fernandez, Hispanic Unity of Florida, spoke to their program and its benefits. She thanked the Members for their consideration.

Consensus was reached to support Hispanic Unity of Florida's leverage funding request.

VIII. Public & Members' Comments

There were no additional comments.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:08 A.M.

For Program Planning Committee Meeting November 6, 2025

Service Goal	2.2 Children live in financially stable environments.
Objective:	026 Promote food security for families.
Issue:	The delay and reduction in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) funding has created an urgent need to assist Broward County children and families who rely on SNAP benefits, as well as federal employees who are not receiving a paycheck.
Action:	Approve the Children's Services Council (CSC) to allocate funds to the Broward County Collaborative Cross-Funder Emergency Fund, administered by the Health Foundation of S. Florida, to provide emergency support for Broward County children and families affected by the delay and reduction in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) funding, as well as federal employees who are not receiving a paycheck.
Budget Impact:	\$ 250,000 Of \$6,855,586 Available in Unallocated for FY 25/26.

Background: After learning of the disruption in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and the impact of the federal government shutdown on employees who are not receiving paychecks, Senator Nan Rich convened community leaders to coordinate a countywide response aimed at mitigating the effects on vulnerable families and federal workers. An estimated 371,000 individuals in Broward County are projected to lose access to SNAP benefits.

Representatives from the Children's Services Council of Broward County (CSC), the Health Foundation of S. Florida, the United Way, Farm Share, Feeding South Florida, Memorial Healthcare System, Broward County Public Schools, local government officials, and Senator Rich's office participated in a strategic meeting to address immediate food assistance needs, align resources, and plan collaborative support for those most affected.

During the meeting, participants explored strategies for equitable food distribution, identified areas of greatest need, and discussed funding options to sustain the community's response to this emerging crisis.

Current Status: CSC's CEO suggested the creation of a Joint Emergency Food Fund as a collaborative and flexible funding mechanism to help Broward County respond swiftly to the anticipated SNAP disruption. The fund would pool resources from multiple organizations, including Broward County, the Children's Services Council (CSC), United Way of Broward County, the Health Foundation of South Florida, Broward Health and Memorial Healthcare System, to address growing food insecurity and support countywide food distribution efforts. This approach would enable rapid deployment of funds to high-need areas identified through SNAP recipient data and cross-agency mapping, while providing support to food banks such as Feeding South Florida and Farm Share, which are not directly funded by some public entities. United Way of Broward County will serve as the repository for the fund, leveraging its flexibility as a private foundation to expedite coordination and disbursement. A commitment of \$250,000 from CSC would match the amount tentatively committed from other funders and will be added to the emergency fund within the repository to strengthen this collaborative response effort.

Additionally, Mrs. Arenberg Seltzer authorized CSC-funded food insecurity providers, including the South Florida Hunger Coalition (and its partners Mobile School Pantry and Summer BreakSpot), LifeNet4Families, Harvest Drive, FLIPANY, and Community Enhancement Collaboration to draw down existing funds more quickly to address the immediate increase in community food needs.

CSC-funded providers with Emergency Flex Funds were encouraged to continue assessing the needs of the children and families they serve and to use these funds responsibly to purchase groceries as needed, thereby helping to alleviate food insecurity across Broward County.

With Council approval, CSC will, if necessary, backfill and replenish funds used by CSC-funded providers to support SNAP recipients and federal employees, ensuring uninterrupted services across Broward County.

Recommended Action: Approve the CSC to allocate funds to the Broward County Collaborative Cross-Funder Emergency Fund, administered by United Way, to provide emergency support for Broward County children and families affected by the delay and reduction in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) funding, as well as federal employees who are not receiving a paycheck.