

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

March 19, 2026

9:30 A.M.

Minutes

Council Members in Physical Attendance:

Judge Lauren M. Alperstein, Governor Appointee Alyssa Foganholi, Governor Appointee Julia Musella, Broward County Commissioner Nan Rich, DCF Child Protection Director Robert Shea, Governor Appointee Christine Thompson, Governor Appointee Jeffrey S. Wood (*Chair*)

Council Members Virtual Attendance:

School Board Member Debra Hixon, Health Department Director Paula Thaqi

Council Members Absent:

School Superintendent Howard Hepburn

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, Kathleen Campbell, Carl Dasse, Kimberly Goulbourne, Amy Jacques, Angie Buchter, Tracy Graham, Nelson Giraldo, Johnsingh Jeyasingh, Akil Edwards, Keyonia Lawson, Michelle Hagues-Fullwood, Trisha Dowell, Pooja Yajnik, Shira Fowlkes, Leslie Saca, Diane Choi, TaiQuay Bogle, Julie Toscano, Shaquoia Wilson, Kyle Jones, Karen Franceschini, Demetria Rawls, Shawanda Spencer, Deidre-Ann Burrell, Julie-Ann Waweru, Roxanne Smith, Madeline Jones, Erin Byrne, S. Lorenzo "LoLo" Benaine, Horace Summers, Janine DeLeon, Marissa Aquino, Gabi Tabib, Ivy Pierre, Carlos Campos, Diego Alvarez, Jessica Rincon, Fern Phillip, Silke Angulo, Lynn Kalmes, Alexandra Lemoine, Maya Berryhill-Porter, Radoika Pilarte, Maryanne Rodriguez, Ileana Blanco, Valencia McConnico-Bell, Kandyss Torrence, Mina Razavi, Gaby Carbonell, Jonathan Corado, Trisha Hines, Yolanda Meadows, Florence Ukpai, Zoë Lewis, Clarice Horton, Jennifer Fletcher, Maxine Goldson, Travis Johnson, Celeste Freixas, Priscilla Cole, Nicolette Picardi, Shantigra Shae Williams, Youseline Jean Baptiste, Rhonda Morrison, Cecil Arbiza-Rivera, Natalie Gomes, Sharena Stinson

Guests in Attendance:

See Attachment 1

Agenda:

I. Call to Order

Chair Jeffrey S. Wood called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M.

II. Roll Call

The roll was called. A quorum was established with the physical presence of Judge Alperstein, Ms. Musella, Senator Rich, Mr. Shea, Dr. Thompson, and Mr. Wood.

III. Chair's Report

a) Moment of Silence in Remembrance of Former Council Member Sue Gunzburger

Council Members took a moment of silence in remembrance of former Council Member Sue Gunzburger. Chair Wood shared that Ms. Gunzburger devoted more than three decades to public service in Broward County, including 22 years as a County Commissioner. She was also a founding member of the Children's Services Council and served this body with distinction, helping shape its mission to support children and families countywide. A former teacher and social worker, she brought compassion, integrity, and a deep commitment to ethical governance to everything she did.

Members viewed a clip from an episode of Future First: Focus on Broward's Children, in which Ms. Gunzburger discussed the CSC's work and impact and emphasized the importance of program outcomes.

Senator Rich shared that she had been friends with Commissioner Gunzburger for over 50 years, starting with their days in the National Council of Jewish Women. She pointed out that Commissioner Gunzburger had appointed her to the Children's Services Board, where Ms. Arenberg Seltzer was the Director at the time. She noted that Commissioner Gunzburger will long be remembered as the first County Commissioner to be appointed to the CSC and as a very special person who brought her lived experiences into the community as a source of power.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer shared that in addition to Senator Rich, Commissioner Gunzburger was one of the key people who shaped her thinking on Broward County and children's services. She reminisced about working together on the Children's Services Board (CSB) when she first arrived in Broward County, and how Commissioner Gunzburger had a deep-rooted commitment to outcomes. She pointed out that she will not only miss her on the Council, but also as a human being.

b) February 2026 Council Minutes

ACTION: Dr. Thompson made a motion to approve the Council meeting minutes from February 19, 2026, as presented. The motion was seconded by Senator Rich and passed with no opposing votes.

IV. President's Report

a) Good of the Order

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer highlighted this year's successful Broward: Read for the Record, which took place at 151 Broward County Public Schools, 44 charter schools, 288 childcare centers/private schools, 10 Broward libraries, and several community organizations. Readers included 512 volunteers registered through HandsOn South Florida, totaling 814 hours, with 37 elected officials and 50 youth readers. She pointed out that the 512 volunteers were only those through HandsOn South Florida and did not include those recruited by the individual schools, so the total number of volunteers may exceed 1,000.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer shared information on the Broward AWARE! Campaign, a community-wide prevention and awareness initiative focused on protecting children by strengthening families and increasing access to support and awareness. She highlighted this year's Campaign events held in February and early March, including an Internet safety panel discussion entitled, Keeping Our Children Safe: The Dangers of Online Platforms and Social Media; the Family Fun Day, which was designed to strengthen the bond between caregivers and children, and where the community had the opportunity to do yoga, listen to music, and visit resource providers; and A Day for Reading, a literacy event for children to have positive interactions with first responders and judges. This year, 20 first responders read at five schools to more than 350 students. At the Courthouse, 9 judges, including CSC Member Judge Alperstein, read to 100 kids.

Ms. Foganholi arrived.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer and Chair Wood announced Mobile School Pantry as the winner of the CSC Collective Impact for Youth Award at the recent 2-1-1 Broward Non-Profit Awards. She explained that while a sponsor of the award, CSC is not involved in choosing the finalists or the winner in that category. Ms. Arenberg Seltzer also received the Excellence in Leadership Award at the event. Members viewed an Eye on South Florida interview with Ms. Arenberg Seltzer at the event.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer highlighted CareerSource Broward's recent Worlds of Work Career Expo, which CSC has sponsored over the past three years. She explained that this Expo gave 9th-12th graders an opportunity to actively explore

nine different work worlds, each with a QR code outlining the educational pathway for that career. Members viewed a slideshow of the event.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer highlighted the 2026 Broward Advocates for Children Awards, presented by Florida's Children First, which she attended with Judge Alperstein, Senator Rich, and CSC staff. Outstanding advocates who make a meaningful difference in the lives of children across our community were honored, including Ms. Sarah Franco, former CEO of JAFCO, who received the Outstanding Champion for Children Award, and Ms. Shanika Ramos, a Member of Florida Youth SHINE and one of CSC's Youth System Organizers, who received the Outstanding Youth Advocate Award.

b) Legislative Update

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer noted that the Florida Legislature concluded its 60-day regular session on March 13. But she pointed out that major work remains unfinished as lawmakers have yet to finalize a state budget for the upcoming fiscal year. A finalized spending plan is required before the fiscal year begins on July 1, so legislators are expected to reconvene in April for a special session to complete the budget and pass the necessary bills. A separate special session on property tax is also anticipated, with the Governor indicating it may occur in July or August. As promised at the last Council meeting, Ms. Arenberg Seltzer shared a one-page educational document showing that CSC represents only 2% of every property tax dollar and that 2% helps fund effective programs designed to support and strengthen the families and children of Broward.

V. Finance Committee Report

Dr. Thaqi, Chair of the CSC Finance Committee, briefly highlighted the recent Committee meeting and invited the auditors to deliver their required communication and report.

a) Auditor's Report & Draft Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR)

Auditors Sardou Meritlus and Roberto Ayala (*Citrin Cooperman & Company, LLP*) delivered the required communication and highlighted the draft ACFR, reporting a clean audit with no difficulties or findings. Mr. Meritlus noted this is a strong indicator of CSC management's commitment to sound financial reporting and maintaining solid internal controls.

ACTION: Dr. Thaqi made a motion to accept the Auditor's Report for FY ending September 30, 2025, and approve the draft ACFR for FY ending September 30, 2025, both as recommended by the Finance Committee on February 24, 2026, and as presented. The motion was seconded by Senator Rich and passed with no opposing votes.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer commended Ms. Kathleen Campbell (CSC Director of Finance) on the ACFR and the clean audit, noting that she does an amazing job of ensuring that CSC follows all policies and procedures. That sentiment was echoed by Dr. Thaqi, who praised CSC's financial transparency and compliance in handling taxpayer funds. She pointed to the 3.8% administrative rate as a testament to CSC's commitment to fiscal responsibility.

b) Managed Fund Quarterly Report

ACTION: Dr. Thaqi made a motion to accept the Managed Fund Quarterly Performance Report for the period ending December 31, 2025, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Musella and passed with no opposing votes.

VI. Chief Program Officer (CPO) Report

Ms. Hixon joined the meeting virtually.

MOST 2026 RFP Overview

Ms. Juarez thanked Chair Wood and Ms. Musella for serving on the MOST Rating Committees and gave a brief overview of the status of the MOST 2026 RFP, gauging the Council's willingness to increase the budget for that programming in response to the requests. While the Council had previously allocated \$33 million for MOST programs, the 2026 RFP requests totaled \$56 million. The Council is scheduled to consider those requests at its April meeting.

Ms. Liza Khan and Jessica Rincon, Assistant Directors for Program Services, highlighted the MOST 2026 RFP and discussed the program area's history and trends, including increased demand and growth in the number of inclusion sites.

Discussion ensued with Senator Rich suggesting a focus on the increased diagnoses and meeting the needs of those children and families. She expressed a desire to set parameters around where the need is greatest.

Ms. Musella referenced studies on the impact of early care on a child's future and the need to provide families with stability.

Dr. Thaqi shared that the Finance Committee recently discussed taking a conservative spending approach during the current environment. She felt that if that was the approach, it should be taken across all program areas, as all areas are doing well and have a need. She preferred to see the whole proposed budget before making any adjustments in one area.

Mr. Wood indicated that any proposed increase in one area would require a sacrifice in another, and that the Council would need to know what that would be. Ms.

Arenberg Seltzer answered that there would likely be some “pruning” in areas where the need is not as high. She also added that the Finance Committee leaned toward keeping the Millage Rate flat and relying on any increase in property values.

VII. Public Affairs & Organizational Development Report

Dr. Kenton highlighted the items under the Public Affairs & Organizational Development Report, as presented in the meeting information packet.

- a) Passthrough Revenue and Related Expenditures from ELC to Kessler Creative for 2026/2027 Family Resource Guide
- b) Six-Month Extension of the Government Consulting Contract with Becker & Poliakoff
- c) Budget Increase for Additional Summer BreakSpot Site and to Replenish South Florida Hunger Coalition Funds
- d) Increased Funding for The M Network for CSC Community Awareness Campaign

ACTION: Judge Alperstein made a motion to approve passthrough revenue and related expenditures from ELC to Kessler Creative for the 2026/2027 Family Resource Guide, approve the extension of Becker Poliakoff for six months of governmental affairs consulting services, approve a budget increase to facilitate establishing a new Summer BreakSpot site for FY 25/26 and replenish South Florida Hunger Coalition program funds used to provide emergency food support in November and December 2025, and approve increased funding for The M Network for the CSC Community Awareness Campaign, all as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Thompson and passed with no opposing votes.

- e) 2026-2027 Capacity Building Grant Request For Applications (RFA) Update

Dr. Kenton highlighted the 2026-2027 Capacity Building Grant RFA, which helps smaller niche organizations build capacity. He drew Members’ attention to the information in the meeting packet outlining changes to the RFA, including extending the application period, updating the project categories, simplifying the application process for returning grantees, adding an application submission checklist, and creating two rating committees to review applications, one for new applicants and the other for returning applicants.

VIII. Chief Operating Officer (COO) Report

Dr. Kenton briefly highlighted the items under the COO Report, as presented in the meeting information packet.

- a) Revised Leverage Funds Request Policy
- b) Revised Violence in the Workplace Policy
- c) Budget Amendments and Interim Financial Statements
- d) Managed Fund Monthly Statements
- e) CSC Purchases

ACTION: Judge Alperstein made a motion to approve the revised leverage funds request policy, the revised Violence in the Workplace Policy, the Budget Amendments and Interim Financial Statements for the period ending February 28, 2026, the PFM and US Bank monthly statements for the Managed Fund for February 28, 2026, and the CSC monthly purchases, all as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Shea and passed with no opposing votes.

IX. Agency Capacity Building (ACB) Committee Meeting Report

Ms. Musella highlighted the recent ACB Committee meeting, which featured two informative and knowledgeable speakers from the Small Business Development Center (SBDC). She commended CSC staff for their work. The next ACB meeting is scheduled for May 28th.

X. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

XI. Council Members' Roundtable

Dr. Maya Berryhill-Porter (*Assistant Director of Community Building*) introduced members of the Roundtable and highlighted the history and structure of CSC's Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) work.

Ms. Yvette DuBose (*ABCD Apprentice/Community Connector, Fort Lauderdale*), via video, talked about community leadership from within and how they have used the ABCD model to listen to and amplify their neighbors.

Michelle Hagues-Fullwood (*Assistant Director of Program Services*) explained the connection between the Promise Neighborhood (PN) Grant and CSC's ABCD work, including how the PN providers share a wealth of information with the families, and how the partnership with Florida Atlantic University (FAU), which is the lead on the PN Grant, has led to great connections and projects, such as the mapping of free transportation in the community.

Ms. Miriam Monegro (*Community Connector, Hollywood*) spoke about her work as a District 6 Community Connector. She emphasized the importance of building trust within the community, as it is the foundation for strong, meaningful relationships.

Ms. Kamalah Fletcher (*CEO, A Little Help Never Hurt*) highlighted the coaching and support they provide as part of their ABCD partnership.

XII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:39 A.M. with a motion from Senator Rich and a second from Dr. Thompson.



Nan Rich, Secretary

MEETING ATTENDEES (* Denotes Speaker)

Name	Organization
Traci Schweitzer	Department of Children & Families
Paul Seligmann	M.A.R.B. Language Services
Sardou Meritlus*	Citrin Cooperman
Roberto Ayala	Citrin Cooperman
Miriam Monegro*	Community Connector, Hollywood
Kamalah Fletcher*	A Little Help Never Hurt
Janice Raiford	Retired
Lisa Clements	YMCA of South Florida
Shawn Preston	Arc Broward
Isabella Pfeiffer	Humana Healthy Horizons
Christy Gilis	Department of Children & Families
Rachel Taylor	Firewall Centers, Inc.
Kathy Wint	HandsOn South Florida
Thom Mozloom	The M Network
Donna Lavallo	Smith Community Mental Health
Otto Valenzuela	Hispanic Unity of Florida
Alison Rodriguez	YMCA of South Florida
Harrison Grandwilliams	Broward County Commission
Michele Fernandez	Hispanic Unity of Florida
Grace Ramos	The M Network
Nic Hessing	Becker