

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF BROWARD COUNTY

Held @ 6600 W. Commercial Blvd., Lauderhill, FL 33319
and by Zoom Webinar with public access by computer or phone

September 17, 2026

3:30 P.M.

Minutes

Council Members in Physical Attendance:

Judge Lauren M. Alperstein, School Board Member Debra Hixon, 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 in Virtual Attendance:

Governor Appointee Alyssa Foganholi, Health Department Director Dr. 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, Dion Smith, Alicia Williams, Lisa Bayne, Kathleen Campbell, Kenneth King, Kimberly Adams Goulbourne, Marissa Greif-Hackett, Carl Dasse, Marlando Christie, Michelle Hamilton, Amy Jacques, Marissa Aquino, Angie Buchter, Yolanda Meadows, Felina Rosales-Furer, Julie-Ann Waweru, Tracy Graham, Deidre-Ann Burrell, Betty Dominguez, Shaquoia Wilson, Jimmy Jean, Johnsingh Jeyasingh, Karen Franceschini, Kim Reid, Nelson Giraldo, Akil Edwards, Jill Denis-Lay, Alexandra Lemoine, Keyonia Lawson, Latora Steel, Radoika Pilarte, Michelle Hagues-Fullwood, Melissa Soza, Jonathan Corado, Trisha Hines, Trisha Dowell, Erin Byrne, Kandyss Torrence, Alexia Bridges, S. Lorenzo Benaine, Ashley Cole, Janine DeLeon, Horace Summers, Pooja Yajnik, Jheanelle Henry, Ivy Pierre, Maya Berryhill-Porter, Fern Phillip, Jennifer Fletcher, Alexia Bridges, Andria Dewson, Tabitha BushFlorence Ukpai, Amber Gross, Astrid Cantos, Rhonda Morrison, Brooke Sherman, Cynthia Reynoso, Shira Fowlkes, Roxanne Smith, Natalie Gomes, Travis Johnson, Gabi Tabib, Lynn Kalmes, Kyle Jones, Cristina Castellanos, Erica Ansley, Sharena Stinson, Arturo Parham, Maxine Goldson, Maryanne Rodriguez, Diane Choi, Celeste Freixas, Diego Alvarez, Shantigra Williams, Ileana Blanco, Fabiola Lagardere, Silke Angulo, Youseline Jean Baptiste, Shawanda Spencer, Liza Khan, Madeline Jones

Guests in Attendance:

See Attachment 1

Agenda:

I. Call to Order

Chair Jeffrey S. Wood called the meeting to order at 3:32 P.M.

II. Roll Call

The roll was called, and a quorum was lacking by one, with the physical presence of Judge Alperstein, Debra Hixon, Julia Musella, Robert Shea, and Jeffrey Wood. The Chair proceeded with the President's Report, followed by the Council Members' Roundtable, which was a presentation on the Impact Study Reports and did not involve any votes, as the related action item had previously been pulled by staff. Christine Thompson and Senator Rich joined the meeting during the Roundtable presentation to establish a quorum before the vote on the Consent Agenda.

III. Moment to Arrive

Council Members took a moment to allow their bodies and minds to settle and focus before considering the meeting agenda items.

IV. Council Members' Roundtable

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer expressed excitement about the study results and thanked CSC staff for their leadership in managing the Impact Study.

Dr. Gallagher introduced the researchers and noted that the Council will hear first about the qualitative study, followed by the statistical analysis, and then the Return on Investment (ROI). She thanked the Council for funding these studies last September.

Drs. Kimberly Nelson and Amy Wade of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill highlighted findings from qualitative research on 25 years of CSC leadership, advocacy, and resources. Dr. Wade explained that for the qualitative study, they talked to 40 diverse stakeholders across the community, looking at the perception of CSC's continuum of care and how it has impacted the community over the years, specifically CSC's approach to governance, partnerships, and decision making, as well as what priorities should guide CSC Broward's strategic direction over the next few years.

Council Member Christine Thompson arrived.

Dr. Nelson highlighted the executive summary, where stakeholders described CSC as a backbone organization for the child- and family-serving system, a leader in prevention and early intervention, a trusted convener that drives collaboration, a strong steward of taxpayer resources, and a data-driven organization focused on

accountability. She stated that the stakeholders they spoke to overwhelmingly viewed CSC as one of Broward County's most valuable resources and as one of its most trusted and influential organizations serving children and families. The stakeholders recommended that CSC build on these strengths through greater public awareness, stronger provider coordination, workforce development, and continued innovation.

Senator Rich arrived.

Drs. Wade and Nelson highlighted five major findings: (1) CSC built and strengthened Broward's continuum of care, (2) CSC's prevention strategy creates long-term value, (3) positive outcomes for children and families in improved literacy, expanded childcare access, greater family stability, foster care prevention, improved behavioral health supports, and more youth opportunities, (4) CSC strengthens the entire nonprofit sector through increased organizational capacity, better accountability systems, improved sustainability, stronger service delivery infrastructure, and growth among both small and large nonprofits, and (5) collaboration and accountability are CSC hallmarks through convening power, cross-sector partnerships, data-driven decision making, research and evaluation, and accountability for outcomes.

Dr. Nelson pointed out that stakeholders repeated that CSC is a trusted organization and noted that trust was built through transparency, responsiveness, accessibility, adaptability, and stewardship of public funds. She concluded that after 25 years, stakeholders view CSC as trusted, influential, collaborative, prevention-focused, and accountable.

Madeline Noel, Lauderhill Commission Candidate, thanked the Council for its work in the community. She noted that as a Project Champion for the Lauderhill Civic Design Team, she has had several opportunities to partner with CSC.

As an advocate 25 years ago for getting CSC Broward onto the ballot and approved, Senator Rich expressed pride in the impact it has had on the community, stating that the organization did not only do what they said it would do, but even more.

Dr. Alexander Kroll of Florida International University highlighted the findings from the statistical analysis of the Family Strengthening and New DAY Programs. His quantitative study concluded that both programs have been effective in achieving the intended outcomes. He noted that the Family Strengthening programs significantly improved outcomes, and that more hours in the program make achieving the highest score more likely. He pointed out that increasing a family's program hours from 10 to 100 doubles the probability of reaching the highest score for family relationship outcomes and halves the probability of out-of-home placement.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer pointed out that CSC was created due to a crisis in the child welfare system and a disproportionate number of children in the juvenile system, and that Family Strengthening was the first program procured, and New DAY was the third that first year. It is very validating to know that CSC has been able to deliver on the hope that created us.

Dr. Kasey Hammock and Sara Smith, both with Partner for Better, highlighted CSC's Return on Investment (ROI). When looking at CSC's high school initiatives, LEAP High, they found that over the 11 fiscal years, every \$1 spent generated an average of \$11.34 in community benefits, totaling almost \$400 million. Dr. Hammock explained that the benefits are in savings associated with the criminal justice system, food assistance, labor market earnings, and public assistance. CSC's LEAP High programs provide academic and personal enrichment services at 18 high-need schools. The goal is to help youth graduate on time and achieve their post-secondary goals.

In looking at all of CSC's investments over 11 years, Dr. Hammock reported that every \$1 spent generated an average of \$6.18 in community benefits, totaling approximately \$5.5 billion in economic value. The spending spanned 125 organizations and 28 programs. The benefits are in savings associated with child abuse and neglect, costs of higher education, the criminal justice system, food assistance, health care, K-12 grade repetition, K-12 special education, labor market earnings, mortality, property loss, and public assistance.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer explained that the Impact Study focused only on the last 11 years of programming because the data was solid and reliable due to data system changes and evolution over time, as well as research staff becoming much more sophisticated. She further explained that, in the action item staff had since withdrawn, there was a request for \$5,000 for the first 14 years, but it has since been determined that it would require immense staff effort and time to clean up that data.

V. President's Report

a) Good of the Order

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer highlighted the OIC of South Florida's 2026 Middle Class Summit, where OIC celebrated its 25th anniversary, and she served on the panel "From Relief to Resilience." She congratulated Mr. Newton Sanon, OIC of South Florida's President and CEO, and thanked him for the opportunity.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer shared that CSC staff presented on CSC's Annual Report to several more municipalities, including the cities of Hollywood (Sue Gallagher, Chief Innovation Officer), Miramar (David Kenton, Chief Operations Officer), Pompano Beach (Ken King, Director of Public Affairs and Organizational Development – Communications & Public Affairs), and Fort Lauderdale (Cindy

Arenberg Seltzer). She noted that they were very warmly received by the Commissioners.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer highlighted her recent media activity, including two episodes of the Our Children Podcast, participation in a Florida Policy Institute press conference, an interview with the Children's Funding Project for a national article, and a new Forever Family promo at Lloyd Estates Elementary School, which she shared with Members. She also shared a video clip from a BreakSpot interview that featured Kim Reid (CSC Program Manager).

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer highlighted CSC's recent "take-over" of the Mobile School Pantry's distribution event at MLK Elementary School, where 30 CSC staff members assisted with set-up, distribution, and clean-up for the event, which provided 198 families, including more than 395 children, with fresh fruits, vegetables, pantry staples, bread, and other nutritious groceries. She explained that the Mobile School Pantry, through the South Florida Hunger Coalition, is one of seven hunger-mitigation programs funded by CSC.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer gave an update on the effective date of legislation exempting CSCs from Tax Increment Financing (TIF) payments to Broward's Community Redevelopment Agencies (CRAs), noting that the Department of Revenue reconsidered its original opinion and has declared the exemption will be in effect for the 26-27 Fiscal Year.

b) Gubernatorial Appointees Process

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer highlighted the appointment process for the Council's gubernatorial appointees, noting that they are coterminous with the Governor and that the current appointees' terms end in January. She did, however, point out that there is precedent for appointments not being made immediately and for the current ones to continue serving until appointments are made. She explained that the application process is managed by the Broward County Commission, which plans to have the application available in early November, with the Commission considering the names to send to the Governor at its January meeting. The Commission must send the Governor at least 15 names, three for each of the five seats, and the Governor will have 45 days to make his appointments, per statute. She reminded the current appointees that they will need to apply again if they are interested in another term.

VI. Consent Agenda

a) August 2026 Council Minutes and September 3, 2026, TRIM Minutes

b) FY 26-27 Contract Renewals

- c) FY 26-27 Contract for the BBHC Evaluation of the Youth Baker Act Transportation Pilot
- d) Letter of Agreement (LOA) with the Agency for Health Care Administration on Behalf of Henderson Behavioral Health
- e) Funds and Related Expenditures from ELC for the Purchase of Copies of the 2027 Read for the Record Book
- f) FY 26-27 Public Awareness Media & Collateral Plan
- g) Renewal of Becker Poliakoff for Governmental Affairs Consulting Services
- h) CSC Privacy Policy for all CSC-Related Website & Digital Platforms
- i) Interim Financial Statements and Budget Amendments
- j) Managed Fund Monthly Statements
- k) CSC Monthly & Annual Purchases

ACTION: Ms. Hixon made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, which included the approval of the August 20, 2026, Council meeting minutes; the September 3, 2026, TRIM Hearing minutes; the renewal of previously deferred FY 26-27 Program Contracts; the BBHC Evaluation Consulting Agreement for FY 26-27; the LOA with AHCA on behalf of Henderson Behavioral Health; the funds and related expenditures from the ELC for the purchase of 3,500 copies of Brave Like a Lion!; the FY 26-27 Public Awareness Media and Collateral Plan; the renewal of Becker Poliakoff for CSC Governmental Affairs consulting services; the adoption of a Privacy Policy applicable to all CSC-related websites and digital platforms; the Budget Amendments and Interim Financial Statements for the period ending August 31, 2026; the acceptance of the monthly statements for the Managed Fund from PFM and US Bank for August 31, 2026; the CSC monthly/annual purchases for September 2026; and the monthly/annual purchases for FY 2026-2027, all as presented. The motion was seconded by Senator Rich and passed with no opposing votes.

VII. Public Affairs & Organizational Development Report

Dr. Kenton drew Members' attention to the new FY 26-27 Family Resource Guide at their place on the dais. Members can contact him if they wish to obtain additional copies.

VIII. Public Comment

Mr. Newton Sanon, OIC's President & CEO, congratulated CSC on its 25th anniversary and expressed his deep appreciation for Ms. Arenberg Seltzer's participation in OIC's Middle Class Summit, as well as for CSC's leadership, especially its investment in workforce development innovation.

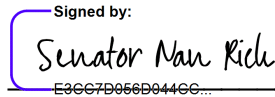
Mr. Mikelange Olbel, CEO & President of Community Based Connections, thanked the Council and staff for making their first family preservation conference possible. He noted that it will take place on September 26 and that it's a free conference that will give parents tools for success and features national speakers providing insight into preserving families.

IX. For Your Information

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer recognized the retirement of two long-time CSC staff, Jocelin Eubanks and Angie Buchter, citing their impactful service to CSC and Broward's families. Council Members expressed their appreciation for their dedication and service.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:57 P.M.

Signed by:

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Nan Rich, Secretary

MEETING ATTENDEES (* Denotes Speaking)

Name	Organization
Harrison Grandwilliams	Broward County Commission
Dale Mandell	HandsOn South Florida
Lauren Zuchman	Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County
Kasha Kitts	Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County
Donna Lavallo	Smith Community Mental Health
Jolene Mullins	South Florida Hunger Coalition
Larry Cooper	Children's Home Network
Sandra Einhorn	Coordinating Council of Broward
Monti Larsen	Broward County Resident
Lisa Mozloom	The M Network
Amy Lora	Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County
Joseph McCrary	Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County
Madline Noel*	Madeline for Lauderhill
Gail Moore	211 Broward
Debra Heim	Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County
Thom Mozloom	The M Network
Grace Ramos	The M Network
Arlene Connelly	OIC
Tim Dwyer	Hispanic Unity of Florida
Terrence Powell	Music is Good for the Soul, Inc.
Sarah Smith*	Partner for Better

Name	Organization
Dr. Kasey Hammock*	Partner for Better
Dr. Kimberly Nelson*	UNC – Chapel Hill
Dr. Amy Wade*	UNC – Chapel Hill
Dr. Alexander Kroll*	FIU
Newton Sanon*	OIC
Dan Burd	Speak Life End Bullying
Chris Robertson	Speak Life End Bullying
Mikelange Olbel*	Community Based Connections
Monica King	Healthy Start
Nic Hessing	Becker
Cody Rogers	Becker