



Special Needs Advisory Coalition (SNAC) - Meeting Minutes
August 6, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

Meeting Held via Zoom

Chairs in Attendance:

Robin Bartleman (CSC Council Member / School Board Member); **Dr. Justin Kohlhagen** (JAFCO Children's Ability Center)

SNAC Members in Attendance:

2-1-1 Broward (Billie Morgan, Gail Moore); **Active CHC** (Melodie Wolter-Harvill); **Advocacy Network on Disabilities** (Irenaida Diaz, Valerie Ugartechea); **Advocate** (Carole Zangari, Ciara LaVelle, Robert Mayersohn, Olga Marohnic); **Agency for Persons with Disabilities** (Milroy Senat); **All Write All Write All Write and Center for Independent Living** (Christina Disbrow); **Ann Storck Center** (Amanda Hernandez, Karen Flowers); **Arc Broward** (Jody Ellis); **Autism Speaks Florida** (Stacey Hoaglund); **Broward County Parks & Recreation** (Mary Palacios); **Broward County Public Schools** (Layne Polakoff); **Center for Hearing & Communication** (Olivia Angeli); **Dan Marino Foundation** (Susan Morantes); **Equine-Assisted Therapies of South Florida** (David Plath); **Epilepsy Foundation** (Michelle Collings); **Family Care Council** (Marty Norris); **Family Network on Disabilities** (Lisa Math); **Florida Department of Health** (Rachel Baker-Blackwell); **GAPS Legal** (Michelle Kenney, Esq); **Henderson Behavioral Health** (Luciangeli Flores); **JAFCO Children's Abilities Center** (Alanna Teitelbaum, Robin Ullman - Moffett); **Memorial Hospital** (Berta Plantz, Laura Costa, Marilyn Camerota); **Parent Education Network** (Ally Walford); **Project 10** (Lisa Friedman-Chavez); **Robinson Law** (Veronica Robinson); **The Journey Institute Inc.** (Dr. Harleen Hutchinson); **YMCA South Florida** (Susan Feldman)

CSC Staff in Attendance:

Marissa Aquino – Planning & Evaluation Manager Special Needs; Piper Weber – Programs Manager; Megan Turetsky – Government Affairs Manager; Liza Khan – Programs Manager; Dr. Joshua Caraballo – Research & Evaluation Manager; Dr. Lorenzo Benaine – Research & Evaluation Manager; Jessica Rincon – Programs Manager

Moment of silence was observed for the two (2) S.T.E.P participants who died from COVID-19.

I. Welcome

Robin Bartleman welcomed the committee members at 9:33am and wished the members are healthy and well.

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes was made by Bob Mayersohn, seconded by Luciangeli Flores and passed unanimously.

III. Welcome New Co-Chair Justin Kohlhagen, Psy.D

Robin Bartleman welcomed the new SNAC Co-Chair, Justin Kohlhagen. He is the Program Director at JAFCO Children's Ability Center who has worked that capacity for five years. He oversees program services for families and children with developmental disabilities. Prior to JAFCO, Justin worked as a Psychologist for Broward County Public Schools. He is very excited to be part of SNAC and is looking forward to advocating for the children and families.

IV. Respite Services

Piper Weber – CSC Programs Manager reported there will be an upcoming Respite Request for Proposals. A virtual community focus group will be conducted on August 13, 2020 from 2:00pm – 3:00pm. A registration link will be provided after the SNAC meeting. The CSC Respite programming will be for children ages 3 to 13 years old who exhibit behavioral health needs.

Feedback from the members via chat and comments indicate that the need for respite services is great.

V. Legislative Updates:

Megan Turetsky – Government Affairs Manager reported the Florida legislation session concluded in March followed by the Governor vetoing many line items. Budget cuts are expected for agencies due to COVID-19. A legislative update will be sent with the updates.

Robin reported that school district is having a budget conference with Senator Galvano. The budget cuts will come during the second half of the year based on the FTE. Additional impacts will come SY 2021- 2022.

VI. Committee Updates:

- a. **Policy & Systems:** Piper Weber (CSC) reported the system partners work group is addressing issues due to COVID-19. Robin is working on a one pager for families that provides food distributions and advocacy checklist for families to utilize when returning to schools. A link for respite and childcare services will be included in the one pager. Billie Morgan (211 Broward) will ensure the information is shared with the 211 staff and website, BCPS ESE website, and CSC website. Robin will contact the ESE Executive Director to email the resource list to the families and Title 1 coordinators.
- b. **Program & Parent Support:** Luciangeli Flores (Henderson) reported the needs of the families have shifted to concerns about COVID-19, the committee worked with Ally from PEN, and a representative from Broward Schools regarding parent supports. Available parent trainings, gaps in training and the dissemination of the parent training information was addressed. Broward Schools currently has a

community training booklet and the committee will work collaboratively to include more special needs caregiver trainings. The committee will meet again over zoom; however, the schedule has changed. Marissa will provide the new calendar. Work groups between committee meetings is encouraged. Please feel free to reach out to Alison or Luci.

- c. **Education & Awareness:** Michelle Kenney (GAPS Legal) reported that due to Covid-19, the committee is re-evaluating the work goals. The committee is still working with 211 Broward to assist with the website development, and on increasing the special needs representation in the community and other county forums. David Plath from Equine Assisted Therapy put together a four minute SNAC provider video to share basic information about their organizations. The committee is meeting next Wednesday, August 12, 2020.

Robin thanked the committees for their hard work during these unprecedented times. Robin requested to share the video with the council.

VII. Community Announcements

Mary Palacios (Broward County Parks and Recreation), announced a survey, Better Parks Better Broward <http://www.betterparksbetterbroward.com/>, to share input and help plan the future for parks and recreation in Broward County. Broward Parks is offering zoom programs each week and have some openings for people who would like to participate.

Susan Morantes (Dan Marino Foundation) announced Marino Campus has virtual open houses. Please contact Susan for more information.

Ire Diaz (Advocacy Network) announced services are being offered virtually since March. Families continue to be engaged.

Dr. Harleen Hutchinson has been meeting with professionals in a safe healing space to talk about race and how to talk to kids about race as well as ongoing professional training to support young children birth to 5.

Stacy Hoaglund (Autism Speaks) announced she is hearing from parents they need respite services. She requested a list of any available respite services.

Robin Bartleman asked the committee if a workgroup wanted to meet monthly to address the after care, eLearning or respite needs of the community. Please contact Robin if parents' needs are not being met.

Lisa Friedman-Chavez (Project 10) announced the Middle School Transition documents have been vetted by the FDOE and are now available on the Project 10 website.

Christina Disbrow (CIL) announced Center for Independent Living of Broward's Loan Closet has a lot of durable medical equipment and wheelchairs if you have any clients in need.

Ally Walford (PEN) announced PEN had an all-day virtual conference in Spanish for families. A list of services for non-English speakers is needed. If members have programs for non-English families, please send to Marissa.

Billie Morgan (211 Broward) announced the new 211 Community Resource Coordinator, Gail Moore.

Piper Weber (CSC) indicated that the Youth Work Incentive Counseling (YWIC) program has sun-stetted and the benefits toolkit with list of providers offering benefits counseling will continue to be shared via www.results4browardchildren.org.

VIII. Next Meeting Date: Next SNAC meeting is set for December 3, 2020. Virtual meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m., a platform is TBD.

IX. Adjourn Meeting

- a. Meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m.