



Children's Services Advisory Board Meeting

June 22, 2022

A meeting of the Children's Services Advisory Board of Manatee County, Florida, was held at the Manatee County Administration Building, 1112 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, Florida, 5th Floor Manatee Room on Wednesday June 22, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Present (In Person): Debbie Tapp, Connie Shingledecker, Hon. Scott Brownell, Jennifer Hamey, Charlie Kennedy, Kimberly Kutch, Kelly Hunt, and Rita Smith (Virtually): Susan Miller Kelly, Jannon Pierce, Xtavia Bailey, and Carolann Garafola. **Absent/Excused:** George VanBuren;
Absent/Unexcused: None.

Also Present: County Staff: (In Person) Kristi Hagen, LaWanda Timmons, Chris Handy-Honeycutt, and Johanna Beville, and (Virtually) Lee Washington; Members of the Public: (In Person) Kim Bailey, Jessica Ryherd, Sandra Richendollar, Christina Gerken, (Virtually) Renee Simon, Beth Clark, Drena Green, Becky Canesse, and Susan Capiello.

Call to Order/Welcome

Debbie Tapp, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Approval of Minutes for May 23, 2022 and May 25, 2022 **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Charlie Kennedy, **Seconded by** Jennifer Hamey, **Vote:** Motion passed (**Summary:** Yes = 11, No = 0, Abstain = 0). ((In Person): Debbie Tapp, Connie Shingledecker, Hon. Scott Brownell, Jennifer Hamey, Charlie Kennedy, Kimberly Kutch, Kelly Hunt, and Rita Smith (Virtually): Susan Miller Kelly, Xtavia Bailey, and Carolann Garafola.

Child Welfare Annual Update

Nathan Scott, Child Welfare Policy Coordinator, provided his annual Child Welfare presentation to the Children's Services Advisory Board. Major legislative updates for the 2022 legislative session includes equity being achieved in Community Based Care (CBC) Core Services Funding with \$150,498,489 in reoccurring funding, this brings every CBC in Florida to equity with \$0 in cuts to any lead agency. Locally the Safe Children's Coalition received \$8.6 Million, which will be added to the contract that goes into effect July 2022; this will eliminate the annual deficit, provide increases to case management salaries, and provide opportunities for new or re-installed programs in prevention.

Nathan reviewed information reflecting the number of Abuse Hotline reports, Investigations, and Protective Supervisions for FY20-21 and this FY21-22 for July-April. Also included in the presentation was an update on Manatee County's status as 4th in the state in removals per 100 Alleged victims, Circuit 12 ranks 3rd overall.

Child welfare workforce issues are ongoing for case managers and child protection investigator retention, 66.8% of investigator positions are currently vacant or filled by an investigator with less than 1 year of experience, while case manager turnover occurs on average within 16 months of employment. At the end of April 2022, the average caseload per case manager in Manatee County was 23 children. Florida law does not limit the number of children under the care of a single case

manager, but it mandates that the Florida Department of Children and Families provide enough funding so that case managers have a maximum caseload of 19.

Nathan concluded and responded to questions from CSAB members.

Jannon Pierce entered at 3:26pm

Xtavia Bailey exited at 3:48pm

Feeding Empty Little Tum mies

Jessica Ryherd, Director of Marketing for Feeding Empty Little Tum mies, provided an overview on the program and reviewed their reasoning for the Emergency funding request review. Expenses have doubled this year and there is an increase in demand. The program is providing meals for children by collaborating with some summer programs, the summer months are not included in the FY2022 contract. Program will also be searching for other funding sources. Program reports there were numerous reasons they did not submit an application for funding before due deadline. Program representatives fielded questions by CSAB members. Discussion ensued.

Kristi Hagen provided that County staff did not deem the request to meet the criteria put in place by the CSAB. CSAB members reviewed the Children's Services Emergency Funding Criteria and compared the reasoning behind the request and determined \$150,000 does meet criteria for emergency funding.

Charlie Kennedy exited at 4:37pm

Charlie Kennedy entered the meeting virtually at 4:38pm

Motion: Motion to approve emergency funding request for Feeding Empty Little Tum mies for FY21/22, in the amount of \$50,000 with rationale being program is increasing the number of children they are feeding, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Connie Shingledecker, **Seconded by** Kimberly Kutch, **Vote:** Motion passed (**Summary:** Yes = 11, No = 0, Abstain = 0). ((In Person): Debbie Tapp, Connie Shingledecker, Hon. Scott Brownell, Jennifer Hamey, Charlie Kennedy, Kimberly Kutch, Kelly Hunt, and Rita Smith (Virtually): Susan Miller Kelly, Jannon Pierce, and Carolann Garafola. Public Comment: None.

Discussion ensued on the program's FY22/23 funding request in the amount of \$100,000 for Feeding Empty Little Tum mies. CSAB members determined the program would be required to submit an application.

Motion: Accept late submission of the FY22/23 funding application for Feeding Empty Little Tum mies with due date of July 1, 2022 **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Connie Shingledecker, **Seconded by** Charlie Kennedy, **Vote:** Motion passed (**Summary:** Yes = 10, No = 0, Abstain = 0). ((In Person): Debbie Tapp, Connie Shingledecker, Hon. Scott Brownell, Jennifer Hamey, Charlie Kennedy, Kimberly Kutch, Kelly Hunt, and Rita Smith (Virtually): Susan Miller Kelly, Jannon Pierce, and Carolann Garafola. Public Comment: None.

Charlie Kennedy exited at 5:10pm

Percent Increase for FY23 - returning programs

Debbie Tapp discussed using some of the excess reserves for a blanket increase in funding for recommended returning programs due to hefty increase in the consumer price index (CPI). Debbie shared the details of the costs, with confirmation from Kristi Hagen as confirmed and provided by Manatee County Financial Management Department (FMD), an increase would be sustainable by utilizing some of the excess funds (leaving the required 20% reserves).

CSAB member discussion ensued concerning a 7% sustained increase in funding across the board for all returning programs as a supplement to offset the soaring increase in the CPI. This would apply only to returning programs with no compliance issues. Kristi Hagen confirmed the 7% increase, as

previously mentioned, would cost approximately \$1 million dollar from the excess funds, and would drop the excess fund amount to \$815,000.

Motion: Increase funding amount by 7% across the board for the returning programs as long as there have not been any compliance issue with the program., **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Jennifer Hamey, **Seconded by** Rita Smith, **Vote:** Motion passed (**Summary:** Yes = 10, No = 0, Abstain = 0). ((In Person): Debbie Tapp, Connie Shingledecker, Hon. Scott Brownell, Jennifer Hamey, Kimberly Kutch, Kelly Hunt, and Rita Smith (Virtually): Susan Miller Kelly, Jannon Pierce, and Carolann Garafola. Public Comment: None.

Agency Response to Investment Process

Debbie Tapp recommended a subcommittee be formed to review agency responses to the investment process survey and provide recommendations. The subcommittee will begin to meet in late July 2022 to early August 2022, the subcommittee meeting notices will be posted on Manatee County's calendar. These meetings will be open to the public in person and via Zoom. Recommendation determined by the subcommittee will be provided during the September 2022 CSAB meeting, or during the October 2022 annual retreat. CSAB members interested in participating should email Kristi Hagen.

Review of Recommendation Process & Timeline

Debbie Tapp recommended the aforementioned subcommittee will also review the recommendation process and timeline. Kristi Hagen will email CSAB members for their feedback and thoughts on the process.

Staff Updates

Chris Handy-Honeycutt provided the following updates:

- Reviewed recent compliance visits for the following programs and there was nothing of concern noted during the observations:
 - DH Randall Foundation
 - Boys and Girls Club
 - Easter Seals Children's Therapy Program
 - AMI Kids
 - Quarter 2 reports are still outstanding, the program is working with Contract Manager to resolve.

Johanna Beville provided the following updates:

- Will review recent compliance visits during next meeting for the interest of time.
- Marie O'Connell, Interim Director for From Cradle to College, provided a letter reporting the agency has decided to terminate the Operation WIT Contract with Manatee County effective June 30.
- Family Resources has hired a new Director of Client Success, Deanna Veremchuk, for their Manatee County programs, including 2 of which are funded by the Children's Millage (CERTAIN and SafePlace2B). She was hired on May 16, 2022.
- Quarter 3 requirements will be sent out to the programs by June 30 and will be due on July 30.

LaWanda Timmons provided the following updates:

- Reviewed recent compliance visits for the following programs and there was nothing of concern noted during the observations:
 - Florida Center
 - Centerstone - Baker Act

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- All agencies have submitted their Quarter 2 reports and there were no issues or concerns with those reports.

Kristi Hagen provided the following updates:

- Children's Services Advisory Board seats that are available this year will be announced by Manatee County Government in a July 2022 press release.
 - Terms of seats will be October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2025.
 - CSAB seats that are up for reappointment this year and expire September of 2022 are:
 - Child Advocate (Jennifer Hamey)
 - Criminal Justice representative (Connie Shingledecker)
 - Physician (George VanBuren)
- Tentatively confirmed the presentation of the funding recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday, July 26, 2022. It is not a time certain item.
 - It was determined Debbie Tapp, Hon. Scott Brownell, Jannon Pierce, and Jennifer Hamey will be available to present and answer questions
- CSAB members may resume site visits with contract managers and are encouraged to reach out to the contract managers.
- CSAB members wishing to opt out of paper copies of meeting handouts should let Kristi know.

New/Old Business

None.

Public Comment

None.

Next Meeting

July 20, 2022 – 3:00 pm, Manatee County Administration Building, 1112 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, Florida, Manatee/Osprey Rooms, 5th floor.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Approved

Debbie Tapp, Chair

Date