

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

October 17, 2024

9:30 A.M.

Minutes

Council Members in Physical Attendance:

Governor Appointee Alyssa Foganholi, Broward County Commissioner Beam Furr, School Board Member Debra Hixon, DCF Child Protection Director Robert Shea, Governor Appointee Christine Thompson, Governor Appointee Jeffrey S. Wood (*Chair*)

Council Members Virtual:

Health Department Director Paula Thaqi

Council Members Absent:

School Superintendent Howard Hepburn, Governor Appointee Julia Musella, Judge Francis Viamontes

Counsel Present:

Garry Johnson, Esq.

Staff in Attendance:

Cindy Arenberg Seltzer (President/CEO), Sharetta Remikie, Maria Juarez, Michelle Hamilton, Sue Gallagher, Dion Smith, Lisa Bayne, Kenneth King, Marissa Greif-Hackett, Carl Dasse, Amy Jacques, Angie Buchter, Marissa Aquino, Tracy Graham, Andria Dewson, Johnsingh Jeyasingh, Diego Alvarez, Jessica Rincon, Meg Wallace, Nelson Giraldo, Akil Edwards, Liza Khan, Jennifer Fletcher, Julie Toscano, Shawanda Spencer, Camila Mathieson, Keyonia Lawson, Latora Steel, Radoika Pilarte, Zinajen De Oliveira, Michelle Hagues, Melissa Soza, Trisha Dowell, Ileana Blanco, Carlos Campos, Erin Byrne, Erica Ansley, Jocelin Eubanks, Nancy Adjohan, Yolanda Meadows, Lynn Kalmes, Brooke Sherman, Fern Phillip, Cristina Castellanos, S. Lorenzo Benaine, Roxanne Smith, Natalie Gomes, Madeline Jones, Alexia Bridges, Gaby Carbonell, Cynthia Reynoso, Maya Berryhill-Porter, Shaquoia Wilson, Priscilla Cole, Valencia McConnico-Bell, Nicolette Picardi, A. Brooks; Diane Choi; Betty Dominguez; Alexandra Lemoine, Mina Razavi, Karen Franceschini, Clarice Horton, Gabi Tabib, Kim Reid, Astrid Cantos, Trisha Hines, Cecil Arbiza-Rivera, Shantigra "Shae" Williams, Shira Fowlkes

Guests in Attendance:

See Attachment 1

Agenda:

I. Call to Order

Mr. Wood called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M.

II. Roll Call

The roll was called and a quorum was established.

III. Chair's Report

a) Moment to Arrive

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

b) TRIM Minutes, September 26, 2024

ACTION: Vice Mayor Furr made a motion to approve the TRIM Hearing minutes from September 26, 2024, as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Thompson and passed with no opposing votes.

c) Council Minutes, September 26, 2024

ACTION: Vice Mayor Furr made a motion to approve the Council meeting minutes from September 26, 2024, as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Thompson and passed with no opposing votes.

d) Cancelling December 2024 Meeting

Chair Wood noted that if approved, staff will ensure all items needing approval before the January 16th Council meeting are brought to the November 21st meeting.

ACTION: Vice Mayor Furr made a motion to cancel the December 2024 monthly Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hixon and passed with no opposing votes.

e) 2025 Meeting Schedule

Chair Wood noted that the proposed meeting schedule maintains the traditional third Thursday morning of each month, except for the June and September dates. The proposed June date is Wednesday, June 18th, so as to avoid the Juneteenth Holiday, and the September dates are in the late afternoon on Thursday, September 4th at 5:01 pm for the first TRIM Hearing and September 18th at 4:00 pm for the monthly meeting and 5:01 pm for the final TRIM Hearing. He asked all Members to please cross-check all dates

with their calendars and let Ms. Jacques know as soon as possible if there are any conflicts so that a quorum can be ensured for all meetings. Ms. Jacques will send calendar appointments to Council members for the 2025 dates.

ACTION: Ms. Hixon made a motion to approve the monthly meeting dates for 2025, as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Furr and passed with no opposing votes.

f) November Annual Report Photo

Chair Wood shared that the photographer will be present before the start of the November Council meeting to take Council member photos for the Annual Report and CSC website/social media. He requested that Members arrive at 9:00 am on November 21st for photos, with the Council meeting starting promptly at 9:30 am. Ms. Jacques will send a calendar appointment to Members for 9:00 am on November 21st.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer explained that individual headshots would be used for the various reports that would be issued covering FY 23-24 to allow for acknowledgment of the partial-year terms of several members.

IV. President's Report

Good of the Order

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer highlighted National Kinship Care Month activities in September, noting that CSC's Kinship providers celebrated by accepting proclamations at various city commission meetings. KID accepted a proclamation from Wilton Manors on September 12th, Harmony Development Center accepted one from Cooper City on September 17th, Memorial Healthcare System accepted one from the City of Hollywood on September 18th, and CSC accepted a proclamation from Broward County at the CSC monthly meeting on September 26th. CSC Kinship providers also hosted the 2024 Kinship Care Conference at the Mt. Herman AME Church in Fort Lauderdale on September 28th. Ms. Arenberg Seltzer described it as a special day that was well-planned and well-attended. The families were grateful for the resources and support they received, with the caregivers being able to focus on the presentations and information while the children were participating in activities on the 2nd floor. The families then came together for lunch and joint activities in the afternoon.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer highlighted the Special Needs Advisory Coalition's (SNAC) support of the Guardianship Alternative Pro Bono Workshop, which was offered by the NSU Shepard Broad School of Law. Ninety-five families participated in the workshop to learn more about guardianship opportunities.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer announced that she recently taped an episode of Future First: Focus on Broward's Children, celebrating the 10th anniversary of Broward: Read for the Record and the 40,000 books distributed to children to take home.

In preparation for this year's Broward: Read for the Record, approximately 50 volunteers came together on September 28th to pack the books for all Broward County public schools, private schools, and early learning centers.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer highlighted the successful Lights On Afterschool celebration as part of the national campaign. This year, Broward elementary students were hosted in the morning and middle and high school students in the afternoon. She commended Karen Franceschini (CSC Programs Manager), Cristina Castellanos (CSC Programs Manager), and Val Wolberg (Senior Parks Manager, Broward County Park and Recreation Division) for leading an outstanding event.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer updated the Members on the Promise Neighborhoods Grant, noting that the Grant has officially transferred from Broward College to Florida Atlantic University (FAU) and that FAU has approved the agreement with CSC. She shared that CSC has begun negotiating the subcontracts and has started the hiring process, which has created exciting opportunities internally, even if only for the remaining two years of the Grant. She explained that these temporary promotions will be initially available to CSC staff through an internal job fair. If any staff are hired for Promise Neighborhood Grant positions, their current positions will be backfilled for the two remaining years of the Grant. She added that when the Grant ends, staff will resume their original positions. She announced that subcontracts will come to the Council for consideration at the monthly meeting in November if there is a signed agreement with FAU. She shared that staff are really excited about this community work and that Dr. Carl Dasse (CSC Director of Community Research & Partnering) has been amazing and committed to making this happen. She added that he and Mr. Dion Smith (CSC Director of Program Services) will take the lead on this Grant.

The community retirement party for CSC's Founding Chief Operating Officer, Monti Larsen, will be held at the Renaissance Hotel in Plantation on December 20th at 3:00 pm. Details will be finalized soon, and Ms. Jacques will send Members a calendar appointment with the details.

V. Chief Innovation Officer Report

- a) Urban League of Broward County as Fiscal Sponsor for A Little Help Never Hurt

ACTION: Vice Mayor Furr made a motion to approve the Urban League of Broward County as the Fiscal Sponsor for A Little Help Never Hurt Triparty Agreement, as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Thompson and passed with no opposing votes.

b) Community Participatory Action Research Arts Exhibition Recap

Dr. Gallagher provided a summary of the month-long Echoes of Empathy interactive arts exhibit, which she explained as an amazing opportunity to engage art to communicate the findings of the Community Participatory Action Research (CPAR); bring family and community together to support those who are healing from a Baker Act experience; and improve policies, systems, and partnerships. Members viewed a video clip, which will be part of a larger video, regarding the experience. Dr. Gallagher thanked the Council for its support of this innovative approach.

c) Broward Consent Management Initiative

Dr. Gallagher highlighted the CPAR-created consent form for the care coordination process of the We Are Supported Integrated Data System. She pointed out this CPAR work has been recognized as a best practice and has informed communities and states as to how to design a consent management process. It highlights the collaboration to create the form, the inclusion of young people and parents who experience these systems and the need to provide consent, and all of the regulatory requirements that must be included in a consent form when you include social and educational services. Vice Mayor Furr requested and received a hard copy of the report.

VI. Chief Public Affairs Officer Report

Dr. Remikie briefly highlighted the items under her Report.

a) Back-to-School Extravaganza FY 23/24

ACTION: Vice Mayor Furr made a motion to approve the acceptance of revenue and reconciliation of expenditures for the Back-to-School Extravaganza FY 23/24, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hixon and passed with no opposing votes.

b) Purchase of Local Author Books for Family Literacy Event

ACTION: Vice Mayor Furr made a motion to approve funding to purchase local author books for the Family Literacy Event, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hixon and passed with no opposing votes.

VII. Chief Operating Officer Report

Dr. Kenton briefly highlighted the items under his Report.

a) Budget Carryforward for Selected POs and Initiatives

ACTION: Vice Mayor Furr made a motion to approve the Budget Carry-Forward for selected POs and initiatives, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hixon and passed with no opposing votes.

- b) Disposal of Fully Depreciated or Non-Capitalized Items for FY 23/24

ACTION: Vice Mayor Furr made a motion to approve the disposal of the fully depreciated fixed assets and non-capitalized items for FY 23-24, as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Thompson and passed with no opposing votes.

- c) Managed Fund Monthly Statements

ACTION: Ms. Hixon made a motion to accept the monthly statement for the Managed Fund from US Bank for September 30, 2024, as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Furr and passed with no opposing votes.

- d) Monthly Purchases

ACTION: Ms. Hixon made a motion to approve the CSC monthly purchases, as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Furr and passed with no opposing votes.

VIII. Broward Reads Coalition Meeting Report

Vice Mayor Furr briefly highlighted the recent meeting of the Broward Reads Coalition and referred Members to the minutes in the meeting information packet.

IX. Funders Forum Report

Ms. Juarez briefly highlighted the recent meeting of the Funders Forum and referred Members to the minutes in the meeting information packet.

X. Public Comment

None

XI. Council Members' Roundtable

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer briefly highlighted CSC's Request For Proposals (RFP) process which includes a "visioning" session with senior CSC staff and a Council "visioning" session. She explained that the Council visioning session gives staff the opportunity to provide Members with CSC's funding history in the area, research and best practices, any lessons learned during the previous funding cycle, and gives the Members an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback to be incorporated into the RFP. After visioning, Members receive a draft and have 5 days

to review and provide feedback before the RFP is released to the public. Upon release, Members and staff are under a cone of silence. She explained that Members are permitted to sit on rating panels, and she encouraged new Members to do so.

Ms. Lisa Bayne (CSC Director of Program Services) introduced the HEAL Trauma RFP Team. She noted that this RFP falls under Goal 2.1 (Trauma), which aims to reduce the incidence of child abuse, neglect, and trauma. The desired outcome for Goal 2.1 is for children to live with safe and nurturing families. She shared that staff consistently gathers information during the year and will change/pivot when necessary.

Ms. Brooke Sherman (CSC Sr. Programs Manager) summarized the history of the program, which began after the MSD tragedy with conversations in three communities that have experienced ongoing gun violence, followed by a partnership with Dr. West-Olatunji to host community discussions and focus groups. The initial RFP was released in 2021 and re-released in 2022 to include a Central East region. The initial funding was \$1,744, 905 and is now up to \$2,835,001. Currently, five programs are funded, serving approximately 1,250 youth/families annually.

Ms. Shira Fowlkes (CSC Sr. Planning & Research Manager) explained the Community Mental Health Worker (CMHW) Research and Service Models, noting that CSC's model focuses on reducing the stress of under-resourced communities and utilizes a combination of elements from different CMHW models.

Ms. Tabitha Bush (CSC Sr. Programs Manager) further highlighted CSC's Community Mental Health Worker Model (CMHW), noting that one of the core benefits of the model is that CMHWs live in, and identify as being a part of, the communities they serve. She further explained that they receive 30 hours of content-specific training that aligns with requirements from the Florida Certification Board, and they take part in monthly group reflective practice and partnership meetings to self-reflect, discuss shared experiences, and provide feedback on system gaps and challenges.

Ms. Kandyss Torrence highlighted the HEAL Program's performance consultation services, where a consultant provides support to providers to strengthen their organizational capacity, support their implementation structure, provide them with operational tools & resources, support their professional development, and support their contractual compliance.

Ms. Fowlkes and Ms. Bush discussed the service areas for HEAL, which are determined by the Broward County Social Vulnerability Index (SVI). The Index uses 16 variables to identify communities that may be in greater need before, during, or after a disaster. The areas in which services are provided are the Northeast Region of Deerfield and Pompano Beach, the Central East Region of Lauderhill, and the Southeast Region of West Park and Dania Beach. The families must live in Broward

County, with youth between birth and the age of 17, and must be experiencing trauma or suffering from chronic trauma.

Ms. Fowlkes highlighted community conversations with service providers and participants where program strengths and opportunities were identified. Strengths were identified as the service delivery model, relationships between CMHWs and participants, access to emergency funding, and the CMHW 30-hour training. Opportunities were identified as more support for housing/rental assistance, barriers to resources, referral wait time, communication with referral/agencies, and the short length of HEAL services.

Ms. Florence Ukpai (CSC Research & Evaluation Manager) outlined the current performance measures for the HEAL Trauma programs. She noted that an average of 345 individuals were reached at community events, 68% of HEAL participants reported that their needs were met, and 78% of HEAL families reported successful linkages to desired services.

She also outlined future outcomes for the next iteration of HEAL, including the number of community events attended, the number of HEAL provider events hosted, the percentage of families linked to desired services, the percentage of families who indicated that case management and wellness services improved their well-being, the percentage of families who are more knowledgeable about how to access community resources, and creating a space for providers and families to share system barriers and discuss opportunities.

Ms. Hixon inquired as to what services the community was requesting and how the services were provided. Ms. Ukpai responded that they were requesting financial assistance (rental), food assistance, mental health services, and transportation services. Ms. Bush explained that once a family is referred to the program, an assessment is conducted and the family is then linked to the appropriate services that can either be provided in their home, in the community, or in the HEAL Program offices, wherever the family feels most comfortable. Ms. Hixon inquired as to any plans to expand Eagles Haven, pointing out that it takes the stigma out of asking for help and that some families can't easily make it to Eagles Haven from other parts of the County. She also appreciated the in-home component, noting that it had been of value to her son following the MSD tragedy.

Discussion ensued on food/housing resources available in the County.

Mr. Paul Jacquith, Mental Health America, introduced Shajuana Taylor as the Director of their HEAL Program and expressed gratitude for the HEAL program they have operated in Pompano and Deerfield Beach for about three years now. He stressed that the economic challenges are real and they appreciate the opportunity to work in a very fluid manner. He pointed out that of their five CMHWs, all are from that area and two were former HEAL clients who now have full-time employment working in their community providing these services. He added that they are

working with the library, which has become an informal drop-in center for kids after school, to bring services to those kids hanging out there, as well as working with local churches because that's where people go and who they trust. He said they utilize all of those resources, which is part of the training the CMHWs receive. He described the program as a forward-thinking project and shared that they were honored to work with CSC to bring these services to the community. He added that the CSC Team is fantastic to work with and very responsive.

XII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 am.



Dr. Christine Thompson, Secretary

ATTACHMENT 1

MEETING ATTENDEES (*denotes speaker)

Name	Organization
Alison Rodriguez	YMCA of South Florida
Traci Schweitzer	Department of Children and Families
Lisa Clements	YMCA of South Florida
Paul Jaquith*	Mental Health America
Shajuana Taylor	Mental Health America/HEAL Program
Gabe Ochoa	YMCA of South Florida
Denissa Facey	Pembroke Pines Police Department
Teves Bush	Department of Juvenile Justice
Mark Reyes	Urban League of Broward County
Ana Valladares	Mujeres Latinas Empowering Women