

# 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

November 21, 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, Governor Appointee Julia Musella, DCF Child Protection Director Robert Shea, Governor Appointee Christine Thompson, Governor Appointee Jeffrey S. Wood (*Chair*)

### **Council Members Absent:**

School Superintendent Howard Hepburn, Health Department Director Paula Thaqi, 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, Kathleen Campbell, 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, Camila Mathieson, Keyonia Lawson, Latora Steel, Radoika Pilarte, Zinajen De Oliveira, Michelle Hagues, Melissa Soza, Trisha Dowell, 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; Betty Dominguez; Alexandra Lemoine, Mina Razavi, Karen Franceschini, Gabi Tabib, Kimberlee Reid, Shantigra "Shae" Williams, Amber Gross, Zoë Lewis, Jonathan Corado, Kandyss Torrence, Tabitha Bush, Jennifer Wennberg, Jill Denis-Lay, Maxine Goldson, Travis Johnson, Ashley Cole, Felina Rosales-Furer, Florence Ukpai, Ivy Pierre, Kyle Jones, Silke Angulo

### **Guests in Attendance:**

See Attachment 1

## Agenda:

### I. Call to Order

Mr. Wood called the meeting to order at 9:32 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) Council Minutes, October 17, 2024

**ACTION: Mayor Furr made a motion to approve the Council meeting minutes from October 17, 2024, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hixon and passed with no opposing votes.**

#### c) Reminder – December Meeting Cancelled

Mr. Wood reminded Members that there will be no monthly meeting in December. The next Council meeting will be January 16, 2025.

#### d) Farewell to Beam Furr

Members said farewell to Mayor Furr, who is leaving the Council after 10 years of service. Mayor Furr reminisced on his first introduction to the Council, before he became a Council Member, when he came before the Council at the very beginning with a proposal for a reading project in his neighborhood. He stated that the experience gave him a lot of respect for the Council because it showed him what the Council was requiring from its funded providers, excellence and accountability. He pointed out that also at that time he became a new City Commissioner, and he was able to use the Council as an example of what a good organization, board, government and staff should look like, do, and require. He added that it has helped him in his 25 years of service to the community since then. He shared that the culture is different at CSC, which sets the tone and attracts exemplary staff. He pointed out that the community knows this, which is why in their darkest times they know to come to the CSC because they know the right thing will be done in a manner of accountability and transparency. He concluded that his time on the Council has been a privilege.



Ms. Arenberg Seltzer presented him with a token of the Council's appreciation for his dedication and commitment to the children and families of Broward County.

#### IV. President's Report

##### a) Good of the Order

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer noted that November is National Adoption Month, with the annual National Adoption Day event at the courthouse planned for this Saturday. She highlighted the importance of adoption and shared that she recently participated in a Heart Gallery video shoot promoting adoption.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer pointed out that International Babies Week was October 21-25. She highlighted a couple of related events, including the issuance of a proclamation related to the Week from the City of West Park and a community Babies & Bubbles Brunch that was attended by Council Member Foganholi and CSC staff.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer highlighted the successful Fathers Men and Boys Action Committee's Rise Up Summit 2024, which was held November 16, 2024, at Dr. Von D. Mizell-Eula Johnson State Park. This year's Summit theme was Flowing Forward: Wellness and Water for a Better Future. The 84 attendees explored the intersection of wellness and water, with an emphasis on the importance of water safety and the opportunities within aquatic careers. The event also commemorated International Men's Day by celebrating men's contributions to their communities, promoting men's health, and raising awareness of water safety. Participants learned to surf and learned the history and significance of the State Park.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer highlighted Arc Broward's InspHired Luncheon, where she presented the Training Site of the Year award to Memorial HealthCare System for its Transition Services Training Site. She also explained CSC history with funding of the Supported Training and Employment Program (STEP). Arc was one of the first agencies to receive funding for this program.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer highlighted the FLITE Center's Heroes Luncheon, where she presented the Children's Services Council Transition to Independent Living (TIL) System of Care Hero Award to the TD Charitable Foundation.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer highlighted this year's Read for the Record event in Broward County, citing great participation from Council Members, including Mr. Wood, Mayor Furr, Dr. Hepburn, Ms. Hixon, and Ms. Foganholi. She noted the addition of a new site this year, Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, where she joined U.S. Representative Debbie Wasserman Shultz, School

Board & CSC Member Debra Hixon, and Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital CEO Caitlin Beck Stella in reading to minor patients. Members viewed a BECON video highlighting Read for the Record activities throughout the County.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer highlighted the Parkland Chamber of Commerce's Networking for Good event, which promoted local nonprofit members. She pointed out that many CSC-funded providers participated in the event.

Members viewed pictures from the 2024 For the Public Good Gala, where Ms. Arenberg Seltzer received the Tony Karrat Excellence in Community Service Award.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer announced that Dr. Sharetta Remikie, CSC's Chief Public Affairs Officer, will be recognized as one of the March of Dimes 2024 Women of Distinction at a luncheon on November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

She also announced that Mr. Dion Smith, CSC's Director of Program Services, will be one of the 2024 Honorees at Community-Based Connections' upcoming 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Green Blazer Awards Gala & 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer shared that she is now a board member of the national Children's Funding Project, which supports the creation of independent children's services funding organizations around the country. It also networks existing organizations to allow for sharing of best practices.

b) Community Collaborative Agreement Between CSC and Legal Aid Services of Broward County

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer highlighted the community collaborative agreement between CSC and Legal Aid Services of Broward County to expand the availability of eviction and homelessness prevention services in Broward County. She explained that it became evident through the CSC-funded HEAL Trauma program that many of those being served felt their biggest problem was impending eviction, and that they needed to deal with that before they could even begin to address and heal their trauma. She further explained that while CSC is statutorily prohibited from building houses and doesn't possess the type of funds required for that, it was seeking ways to provide support to those who are at risk of experiencing homelessness. She admitted that paying a month of rent didn't guarantee avoidance of a future eviction, but that providing legal intervention to help negotiate with landlords for some protection might be the best way to bring CSC resources to bear. Therefore, staff was recommending entering a community collaborative partnership with Legal Aid Services of Broward County, Broward County Human Services Department, and the Manne Foundation to expand Legal Aid's homeless



prevention program, where attorneys would work to prevent evictions and create a sustainability plan for the families. She concluded that CSC's role would also include referrals from CSC-funded HEAL and Family Strengthening Programs, referring families with children in the child welfare system where not having stable housing is a barrier to reunification, and welcoming children from the homeless prevention program into additional CSC-funded programs to enhance the service.

Mr. Bob Manne, Manne Homeless Prevention Program, shared the history of the program, the current status, and his hopes for the future of the program. He pointed out that the program, which was founded in 2022, has saved 550 people from becoming homeless, 320 of which were children. He said it is a win for both the landlords and the families. He noted that it costs \$1,060 to save each person from homelessness, but \$40,000 is spent each year by agencies once a person becomes homeless. He concluded that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

**ACTION: Mayor Furr made a motion to approve the Community Collaborative Agreement between CSC and Legal Aid Services of Broward County, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hixon and passed with no opposing votes.**

- c) Promise Neighborhood (PN) Grant
  - i. Broward PN Administrative Grant Budget for Oct-Dec 2024 and Calendar Year 2025, Pending Receipt of Funds from USDOE
  - ii. PN Subcontracts, Pending FAU Receipt of Funds from USDOE
  - iii. Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Components of the PN Grant

**ACTION: Mayor Furr made a motion to approve the total budget for the PN Grant in Special Revenue Funds for FY 24/25 and Calendar Year 2025; approve the PN Subcontracts, contingent upon receipt of the 12-month grant and pending FAU receipt of funds from USDOE; approve the removal of \$500,000 in revenue and related expenditures from the General Fund; approve the two-month PN Grant funding and contract for A Little Help Never Hurt (ALHNNH) Facilitation & Coaching Services for November 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024; approve the annual PN contract for ALHNNH for January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025, contingent upon receipt of the 12-month grant and pending FAU receipt of funds from USDOE; approve fiscal sponsor fees for ALHNNH PN Contract for January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025, contingent upon receipt of the 12-month grant and pending FAU receipt of funds from USDOE; and approve**

**the extension per Grant Procurement Exemption Policy for the ABCD Facilitation and Coaching Procurement, all as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hixon and passed with no opposing votes.**

- d) CSC FY 24/25 Policy Priorities and Recommendations

**ACTION: Mayor Furr made a motion to approve the CSC 2025 Policy Priorities & Recommendations, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hixon and passed with no opposing votes.**

- e) Live Local Tax Affordable Housing Tax Exemption Update

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer pointed out that CSC Broward was not permitted to opt out of the tax exemption for developers who were constructing affordable housing. She explained that Broward County is unable to opt out due to the increased need for affordable housing in Broward County.

- f) December Office Schedule

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer announced that as in years past, the CSC office will be closed the week between Christmas and New Year, December 25 - January 1<sup>st</sup>. The office will re-open January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## V. Chief Innovation Officer (CIO) Report

Dr. Gallagher briefly highlighted the items under the CIO Report.

- a) Revenue and Related Expenditures from the Community Foundation of Broward for Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) for FY 24/25

**ACTION: Mayor Furr made a motion to approve revenue from the Community Foundation of Broward and the Contract with A Little Help Never Hurt for ABCD for FY 24/25, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hixon and passed with no opposing votes.**

- b) Partnership on Participatory Governance with the Annie E. Casey Foundation

**ACTION: Mayor Furr made a motion to approve staff to submit a proposal to partner with the Annie E. Casey Foundation on Promise Neighborhood Participatory Governance, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hixon and passed with no opposing votes.**

## VI. Chief Public Affairs Officer (CPAO) Report

Dr. Remikie briefly highlighted the items under the CPAO Report.



- a) Extension of Trainer Cadre RFQ Until May 2025

**ACTION:** Mayor Furr made a motion to approve the extension of the Trainer Cadre RFQ until May 2025, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hixon and passed with no opposing votes.

- b) Harvest Drive Contract Adjustment

**ACTION:** Ms. Hixon made a motion to approve an adjustment to the Harvest Drive Contract to reinstate the COLA adjustment, as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Thompson and passed with no opposing votes.

- c) Public Awareness Media & Collateral Purchase Plan FY 24/25

**ACTION:** Ms. Hixon made a motion to approve the Public Awareness Media and Collateral Purchase Plan FY 24/25, as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Thompson and passed with no opposing votes.

- d) Reallocation of The Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation Funding

**ACTION:** Ms. Hixon made a motion to approve the reallocation of The Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation funding, as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Thompson and passed with no opposing votes.

- e) Subaru Love to Help Socks & Shoe Donation

**ACTION:** Ms. Hixon made a motion to approve the acceptance of the Subaru Love to Help socks and shoes donation, as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Thompson and passed with no opposing votes.

- f) 2<sup>nd</sup> Biannual Media, Communication, and Community Engagement Report

Dr. Remikie briefly highlighted CSC's media, communication, and community engagement activities between April 1, 2024, and September 30, 2024. She explained that CSC's efforts were directed toward building community dialogue, raising awareness on child-serving issues, and gathering feedback.

VII. Chief Operating Officer (COO) Report

Ms. Larsen briefly highlighted the items under the COO Report.

- a) Budget Carryforward from FY 23/24 into FY 24/25
- b) Emergency Provider Billing Policy
- c) Budget Amendments and Preliminary Financial Statements for Fiscal Year Ending September 30<sup>th</sup>
- d) Managed Fund Monthly Statements
- e) Monthly Purchases

**ACTION: Ms. Hixon made a motion to approve the Budget Carry-Forward from FY 23/24 into FY 24/25, approve the Emergency Provider Billing Policy, approve the Budget Amendments and Preliminary Financial Statements for the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2024, accept the monthly statements for the Managed Fund from PFM and US Bank for October 31, 2024, and approve the CSC monthly purchases, all as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Thompson and passed with no opposing votes.**

VIII. Agency Capacity Building Committee Meeting Report

Mr. Wood briefly highlighted the recent meeting of the Agency Capacity Building Committee 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

There were none.

XI. Council Members' Roundtable

CSC staff led a visioning roundtable on the upcoming Legal Supports Request for Proposals (RFP).

Ms. Madeline Jones, CSC's Assistant Director of Program Services, outlined Service Goal 6 for this program area, which is to increase the number of children living in safe and nurturing families. The desired outcome is to reduce the length of stay for children in the child welfare system and help improve life outcomes. She described the program as providing legal representation to youth in foster care to be



safely and expeditiously reunited with parents, permanently placed with caregivers, or transitioned into independent living; providing individual legal and systemic advocacy to support legal goals and the overall well-being of children and youth in state care; providing legal services to youth who are involved in the delinquency system or at high risk of dual involvement in the delinquency and dependency systems; and providing a Legal Helpline for families to call an experienced attorney for independent legal information and assistance with questions involving juvenile delinquency, diversion, civil citation, and/or dependency.

Ms. Natalie Gomes, CSC's Programs Manager, highlighted the program's history, which began in 2010. She noted that Legal Aid Services of Broward County has been the sole provider since inception. It was initially funded as a pilot program with \$259,560 to serve 240 children/youth but is currently funded with \$2.7 million to serve 800 children/youth and 550 callers to the Legal Helpline. And since 2019, the program allows CSC to claim Federal Title IV-E reimbursement.

Ms. Shira Fowlkes, CSC's Sr. Planning & Research Manager, highlighted the community conversations with Broward's judges. She outlined the important feedback from those conversations, including the importance of youth involvement in their legal representation through the process, the need to quickly ensure permanency, the acknowledgment of the critical role attorneys play in the dependency and delinquency systems, and the benefits and challenges of transitioning from in-person hearings to virtual hearings. She also highlighted findings from recent research in this area.

Dr. Marissa Greif-Hackett, CSC's Director of Research & Evaluation, reported on the performance measures for this program. In the permanency area, 97-100% of the children in the program had their permanency goals (reunification, permanent guardianship, or adoption) met during the past three fiscal years. For the dually-involved youth, they met the goal of reducing risk in various domains during the past three fiscal years. And for the Hotline performance measures, there were on average 440 calls during each of the past three fiscal years related to civil citation, diversion, and expunction. The callers who completed the satisfaction survey appreciated and valued the service.

## XII. Farewell to Monti Larsen

Members said farewell and thanked Chief Operating Officer Monti Larsen upon her retirement after 24 years of service at the Children's Services Council of Broward County. She was presented with a beautiful glass art piece and cake in recognition of her service.

XIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 am.



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Dr. Christine Thompson, Secretary



## ATTACHMENT 1

### MEETING ATTENDEES (\*denotes speaker)

Name	Organization
Denissa Facey	Pembroke Pines Police Department
Alison Rodriguez	YMCA of South Florida
Ellyn Drotzer	Lighthouse of Broward for the Blind & Visually Impaired
Lisa Clements	YMCA of South Florida
Mark Reyes	Urban League of Broward County
Christine Thompson	Wellsprings Community Coalition
Andy Fernandez	Firewall Centers
Bob Manne*	Manne Homeless Prevention
Traci Schweitzer	Department of Children & Families
Grace Ramos	The M Network