

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF BROWARD COUNTY

6600 W. Commercial Blvd., Lauderdale, FL 33319

This meeting was held by Zoom Webinar with public access by computer or phone

August 20, 2020

9:30 A.M.

## MINUTES

### **Members in Attendance:**

Governor Appointee Cathy Donnelly (Chair); Broward County Commissioner Beam Furr; Judge Kenneth L. Gillespie; Governor Appointee David H. Kenton; DCF Community Development Administrator Dawn Liberta; Governor Appointee Tom Powers; Governor Appointee Maria Schneider; Governor Appointee Jeffrey S. Wood

### **Counsel Present:**

Garry Johnson, Esq.

### **Council Members Absent:**

School Board Member Robin Bartleman; School Superintendent Robert W. Runcie; Health Department Director Paula Thaqi

### **Staff in Attendance:**

Cindy Arenberg Seltzer, President/CEO; Monti Larsen, COO; Sandra Bernard-Bastien; Maria Juarez; Sue Gallagher; Marlando Christie; Andrew Leone; Laura Ganci; Dion Smith; Nancy Cohn; Michelle Hamilton; Kathleen Campbell; Amy Jacques; Diego Alvarez; Travis Johnson; Madeline Jones; Cynthia Reynoso; Marissa Aquino; Gloria Putiak; Jennifer Wennberg; Kyle Jones; Clarice Horton; Shawanda Spencer; Megan Turetsky; Brooke Sherman; Marissa Greif-Hackett; Andria Dewson; Camila Romero; Adamma DuCille; Latora Steel; Trisha Dowell; Carl Dasse; Meg Wallace; Piper Weber; S. Lorenzo Benaine; Michelle Hagues; Alicia Williams; Lynn Kalmes; Erin Byrne; Joshua Caraballo; Pooja Yajnik; Ileana Blanco; Kimberlee Reid; Katrina Welch; Angie Buchter; Keisha Grey; Keyonia Lawson; Akil Edwards; Melissa Soza; Seanteé Campbell; Nelson Giraldo; Colleen Carpenter; John Jeyasingh; Parry Silcox; Jocelin Eubanks; Jill Denis-Lay; Jessica Rincon; Betty Dominguez; Deborah Forshaw; Danielle Bachelder; Jennifer Fletcher; Johannie Stanley; Aisha Castleberry

**Guests in Attendance:**

See Attachment 1

**Agenda:**

**I. Call to Order:**

Ms. Donnelly called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M.

**II. Roll Call:**

The roll was called and a quorum was established with the presence of Ms. Donnelly, Commissioner Furr, Judge Gillespie, Dr. Kenton, Ms. Liberta, Mr. Powers, and Mr. Wood.

**III. Chair's Report:**

a) Mindful Moment:

Council Members took a moment to allow the body and mind to settle and focus before they considered the meeting agenda items.

Ms. Donnelly commended CSC leadership and thanked staff for continuing their exemplary work during these challenging circumstances brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. She applauded staff for being flexible, creative, and attentive to CSC-funded providers and the children and families served.

Ms. Donnelly shared that Castle Group, where she is Director of Community Relations, recently had their planned diversity, equity and inclusion meeting that she had previously mentioned. She stated that there was a huge response from their 2,000 employees and that it was evident that people want to have these conversations and they want equity. She encouraged others to provide this opportunity at their business.

b) Recognize Service of Mason Jackson:

Ms. Donnelly and Ms. Arenberg Seltzer recognized and thanked Mr. Mason Jackson, recently retired from CareerSource Broward, for his 44 years of service to the community, 34 of which were at CareerSource Broward. Ms. Arenberg Seltzer shared that he was the first person she met upon arrival in Broward, and that she was blessed to continue to strengthen that relationship through community partnerships and their

service together on the Coordinating Council of Broward and the Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, all of which have benefited the children and families served by CSC.

She displayed the very first CSC Annual Report which highlighted the initial partnership, where CSC was able to draw down a 9-1 match of federal TANF funds through the state, and with the quick action and leadership from Mr. Jackson and CareerSource Broward, were able to quickly draw down \$450,000 of TANF funds, train TANF workers about Florida KidCare, and dispatch them into the community to assist eligible families in accessing health insurance for their children. Ms. Arenberg Seltzer described it as an early victory that demonstrated the value of CSC to the community. She also highlighted the value and benefit of the CSC-Funded Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), which CareerSource Broward, under Mr. Jackson's leadership, managed expertly with the flexibility required to meet community needs.

Mr. Jackson touched upon his relationship and partnerships with CSC Members and staff and described Ms. Arenberg Seltzer as a powerhouse in the community. He noted that he will be staying in the community.

Commissioner Furr and Ms. Liberta thanked Mr. Jackson for his service to the community and shared words of gratitude for their professional experiences and partnerships while he was at the helm of CareerSource Broward.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer announced that the next episode of Future First: Focus on Broward's Children will feature both Mr. Jackson and Ms. Carter and their service and legacies.

c) Recognize Service of Linda Carter:

Ms. Donnelly and Ms. Arenberg Seltzer recognized and thanked Ms. Linda Carter, recently retired from the Community Foundation of Broward, for her years of service, energy, passion, creative-thinking, and commitment to the community and for all she has done for CSC. Ms. Arenberg Seltzer shared that they first met through the Donors Forum/Florida Philanthropic Network and that she was grateful to have another female in a leadership role with whom to share and discuss creative ideas, with whom to partner, and to share opportunities and challenges, both professionally and personally.

She highlighted the many partnerships with Ms. Carter and the Community Foundation of Broward, including those in the areas of Transition to Independent Living (TIL) and summer youth employment, as well as bringing Geoffrey Canada, President of the Harlem Children's Zone, to the Youth Summit and promoting CSC as a valuable asset to the community.

Ms. Carter reflected on her relationship and partnerships with both Ms. Arenberg Seltzer and Mr. Jackson, noting that the three of them always had each other at the top of their lists and were the first to reach out to each other to share partnership opportunities, information, and candid discussions.

d) Council Minutes:

**ACTION: Commissioner Furr made a motion to approve the Council Meeting minutes from June 18, 2020, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Powers and passed with no opposing votes.**

e) September Meeting/TRIM Hearings:

Mr. Powers announced that he had to depart the meeting at 10:30am. Ms. Arenberg Seltzer stated she would delay her Good of the Order items so that the action items could be handled first.

Ms. Donnelly reminded Members of the upcoming TRIM Hearings and the importance of attendance on September 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm and September 24<sup>th</sup> and 4:00pm for the monthly meeting and 5:01pm for the Final TRIM Hearing.

#### IV. President's Report:

a) Good of the Order:

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer drew Members' attention to the different look of the meeting information packets, noting that this was staff's efforts to enhance ADA compliance of CSC-produced documents. She thanked staff for their efforts in this area and noted that Members will really see a difference when they receive the Annual Performance Report.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer highlighted community efforts to provide virtual learning over the summer, noting that providers implemented safety procedures that included not sharing supplies, wearing masks, and

utilizing outdoor space for activities, all while ensuring the activities were fun and engaging. She read an email from a MOST summer program monitor who described observing amazing, positive and engaging activities that were occurring virtually, such as project based learning, art, music, and even physical activities.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer also shared positive feedback from a parent whose children attended the summer program provided by the City of West Park. The mother thanked everyone for the awesome virtual summer camp, writing that her daughters loved every second of it and learned so much. She added that she also learned a lot with the amazing workouts and healthy cooking. She noted that her daughters continued their learning experience, used their imagination, and most importantly were kept safe while enjoying the various activities.

Members viewed a video featuring the Compass summer program. Ms. Arenberg Seltzer explained that Compass was an intergenerational program pilot operated by Hispanic Unity of Florida (HUF) that had ended, but some of the pilot principles are being applied to their new youth development programs.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer read an email from Mr. Dennis Haas, President/CEO of Arc Broward, thanking CSC for its leadership, passion, and compassion during these challenging times, as well as the school supplies for the children they serve.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer highlighted her recent media/community outreach, including virtual back-to-school panels, promotion of the Census, sharing information through Spanish and Caribbean media, South Florida 100 publication on Learning Pods, a Neighbors4Neighbors special on food distribution, and an appearance on WSFL's Inside South Florida.

b) Budget Update:

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer referred Members to the budget information in their packet explaining the additional monies in unallocated that will be available for community needs, including any COVID-related expenses.

c) COVID-19 Update/Funding for Learning Pods:

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer outlined the community partnership with the A.D. Henderson Foundation, the Early Learning Coalition of Broward County (ELC), the Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation, the Jewish Federation, the Jim Moran Foundation, and the United Way of Broward County to fund supervised learning pods for Broward's low-income families. She thanked the United Way of Broward County for hosting the application process on their system, noting that 150 provider applications were received, with 130 of those from child care centers. She noted that the ELC child care center applications were separated, with ELC currently reviewing those. She further explained that the remaining applications were reviewed by the funder collaborative and that the agencies listed in the information previously sent to Members are current CSC-funded MOST providers who submitted applications under the Learning Pods Request For Applications (RFA) and who will be funded within their current CSC contracts. Any additional dollars required above the contract to fund the learning pods will come from COVID Emergency Funds. As the total amount of money is unknown at this time, Ms. Arenberg Seltzer requested authorization to reconcile funds and enter into contract amendments with the agencies listed, permitting the CEO to use COVID Emergency Funds that will be ratified by the Council at a future meeting. She emphasized that CSC funds will only be utilized for low-income families.

Discussion ensued concerning safety measures and possible liability. Ms. Arenberg Seltzer explained that while there is no perfect way to ensure complete safety, there are requirements to aggressively meet and sometimes exceed CDC guidelines, which also explains the high cost per pod, as the ratio of each pod is very small with 9 children to one adult in a safe space.

CSC legal counsel, Garry Johnson, explained that CSC is not the service provider, nor does CSC expect to have liability for the service provider. He did expect required parental releases to provide additional protection.

Commissioner Furr offered possible assistance through the County with federal Cares Act money for cleaning and PPE expenses. Ms. Arenberg Seltzer expressed that County assistance with the ELC child care center applications would be the best way for the County to support the collaborative, as there is a real need for school-aged children participating in distance learning to be served by child care centers. She noted that

additional funds will be needed after September 30<sup>th</sup> and that unallocated funds will most likely need to be utilized and may be brought to the Council for consideration at its September meeting.

**ACTION: Commissioner Furr made a motion to authorize the President/CEO to reconcile funds already approved under COVID emergency fund for Learning Pods, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Liberta and passed with no opposing votes.**

d) 2020 Legislative Wrap-Up:

Ms. Donnelly stated how impressed she was with detailed legislative report and thanked Ms. Megan Turetsky, CSC's Government Affairs Manager, for her advocacy efforts on behalf of Broward's children and families. Ms. Turetsky highlighted the report and noted that next year's legislative platform will come to the Council later this year.

e) Racial Equity/Resiliency Efforts:

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer shared that CSC continues to provide leadership in this area, most recently convening non-profit CEOs to see how the nonprofit community can be better supported in its racial equity journey. After multiple discussions, a committee was formed with the Nonprofit Executive Alliance of Broward to support CEOs in the creation of a toolkit to help others traveling the racial equity path. She noted that CSC also continues to work internally reviewing policies and procedures with a racial equity lens.

**V. Chief Program Officer (CPO) Report:**

- a) MOST Contracts Extension and MOST RFP Postponement:
- b) Urban League New DAY Contract Renewal:
- c) Children's Bereavement Center Leverage Contract Renewal:
- d) Cancellation of Lights on Afterschool Contract:

**ACTION: Commissioner Furr made a motion to approve all action items under the Chief Program Officer's Report, except for the school health addendum item f. The action items included postponing the release of the MOST RFP until FY 21/22; approving the extension of the MOST and Inclusion Supports Contracts through September 30, 2021; approving the reallocation of funds set aside for the RFP to support the extension; approving the additional Fiscal Sponsorship Fee for KID for New Mirawood; approving the**

**Urban League New DAY Contract Renewal; approving the Children's Bereavement Center leverage contract renewal; and approving the cancellation of the Broward County Parks and Recreation – Lights on Afterschool Contract, all as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Powers and passed with no opposing votes.**

e) School Health:

Mr. Powers departed the meeting.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer explained that while the school health contract was scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2020, the rapid spread of COVID in March forced the transition of health care staff from the schools to child care centers. The CSC-funded contract with Sierra Lifecare received additional funding and was extended through August 7, 2020. She noted that the use of health care staff in child care centers has proved to be very successful. With schools now closed until at least October, it will be beneficial for Sierra Lifecare to continue to provide health care staff support at the open child care centers and the learning pods that will be operating soon.

Commissioner Furr inquired as to what the School Board was planning. Mrs. Arenberg Seltzer explained that the School District is considering an RN and LPN in every school when they re-open. She further explained that for this to be even close to possible, it would require the County covering all costs through December 30<sup>th</sup>, which would allow the Health Department and CSC to redirect their savings toward meeting the needs at the end. She added that even with that, there would still be a \$2 million gap that would need to be filled. If CSC and the Health Department were to cover the costs from October through December, there would be no funds to provide health care staff in the child care centers and the learning pods. She noted that the Federal Cares Act funds must be utilized by December 30<sup>th</sup>.

**ACTION: Commissioner Furr made a motion to approve the extension of the Sierra Lifecare Contract through September 30, 2020, and approve reallocating the funds which were set aside for Sierra Lifecare to support the extension, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Liberta and passed with no opposing votes.**

f) Trauma Services Update for the Broward Behavioral Health Coalition (BBHC) and the Center for Mind Body Medicine (CMBM):



Ms. Juarez explained that there was a request of staff at the June Joint Finance & Program Planning Committee meeting to compile a report documenting CSC's trauma work in order to help inform the expansion of trauma services to the wider community. The Eagles' Haven status update was delivered at the June Council meeting, and information on trauma services provided by BBHC and CMBM was included in this month's information packet. She noted that both programs are performing well and providing high-quality services.

Ms. Schneider joined the meeting.

#### VI. Chief Innovation Officer (CIO) Report:

Termination of FSG Agreement:

**ACTION: Commissioner Furr made a motion to approve the termination of the FSG, Inc., Consulting Agreement. The motion was seconded by Ms. Schneider and passed with no opposing votes.**

#### VII. Chief Communications Officer (CCO) Report:

a) 2020 Back-to-School Extravaganza:

Ms. Sandra Bernard-Bastien, CSC's Chief Communications Officer, outlined the successful pivot that was necessary with this year's Back-to-School Extravaganza, noting that 7,000 backpacks have already been safely delivered to smaller organizations and that the supplies have been well received. She thanked HandsOn Broward and the School Board staff for delivering the backpacks to the smaller agencies.

**ACTION: Commissioner Furr made a motion to approve acceptance of revenue from the Community Foundation of Broward and reconciliation of the 2020 Back-to-School Extravaganza, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Schneider and passed with no opposing votes.**

b) Broward: Read for the Record:

Ms. Bernard-Bastien announced that Broward: Read for the Record will be held as a virtual event this year on October 29<sup>th</sup>. She also highlighted new Story Walks this year in various city parks and public spaces, where parents can walk along an outdoor path and read to their children from laminated pages of a children's book attached to wooden stakes or benches.

**ACTION: Commissioner Furr made a motion to approve additional budget authority for Scholastic and accept revenue from the Community Foundation as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Schneider and passed with no opposing votes.**

c) Countdown to Kindergarten Update:

Ms. Bernard-Bastien noted that Countdown to Kindergarten this year was a virtual event. She referred Members to the information in their meeting packet.

d) Look Before You Lock Update:

Ms. Bernard-Bastien explained that a PSA for the Look Before You Lock campaign also had to pivot once the pandemic arrived, as people couldn't be brought together to film the PSA as planned. The partnership of CSC, Broward County, and ELC got creative and produced a very powerful PSA. The Members viewed the PSA that will be shared via social media now and will air on television starting in October.

**VIII. Chief Operating Officer (COO) Report:**

a) Juneteenth Holiday:

b) Interim Financial Statements and Budget Amendments for July 2020:

c) Invoices, P.O.s & Contracts:

**ACTION: Commissioner Furr made a motion to approve all three action items under the COO Report. Those items included approval of Juneteenth as a paid holiday for CSC staff, approval of the Budget Amendments and Interim Financial Statements for period ending July 31, 2020, and approval of the CSC Monthly/Annual Purchases, all as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kenton and passed with no opposing votes.**

**IX. Special Needs Advisory Coalition Report:**

Dr. Gallagher referred Members to the information in the meeting packet. She announced that Mr. Justin Kohlhagen, the Program Director at JAFCO Children's Ability Center, is the new SNAC Co-Chair with Ms. Bartleman.

**X. Broward Reads Coalition Report:**

Commissioner Furr recapped the recent meeting of the Broward Reads Coalition.

**XI. Funders Forum Report:**

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

**XII. Public Comment:**

There were no comments.

**XIII. Council Members' Roundtable:**

CSC staff led a Roundtable presentation on CSC's Community Participatory Action Research (CPAR) work.

Dr. Sue Gallagher, CSC's Chief Innovation Officer, gave a quick overview of the purpose and intent of CSC's CPAR work, explaining that with CSC's investment in an integrated data system, it was important to build that system using a racial equity lens to disrupt racism in data.

Dr. Carl Dasse, CSC's Sr. Data Systems & Research Manager, thanked the Council for its continued support and briefly outlined CSC's two CPAR projects. The first was the federal Performance Pilot Partnership Grant in FY 18/19, and the current grant with the Florida Institute of Child Welfare.

Dr. Seanteé Campbell, CSC's Research & Evaluation Manager, highlighted key CPAR learnings and experiences. She explained that CPAR builds trust through the sharing of lived experiences and expertise; builds the capacity of parents, youth, and professionals working in the system to become co-researchers; and humanizes all participants.

Ms. Leneesha Nash, an FAU graduate student and CSC CPAR Co-Researcher, highlighted the Very Important Parents (VIP) Research Team, which consisted of child welfare professionals and parents with lived experiences in the child welfare system. The Team's central research question was, "How can we best develop and implement prevention services to help families in need of services thrive, so they do not enter the child welfare system?" To help answer that question, the Team interviewed a diverse group of nine parents whose children had been removed by Child Protective Services Investigators.

Ms. Nash highlighted the VIP Research Team's study findings:

- Parents felt largely unaware of what it would take to successfully reunify with their children;
- Parents reported minimal communication with caseworkers and little time to process crucial decisions while in court;
- Parents reported feeling alone and without support or resources before and after their dependency cases closed;
- Parents reported feeling prematurely judged by Child Welfare System professionals regarding mental health issues; and
- Parents reported being dehumanized throughout the process.

The VIP Team's CPAR solution was a parent education video designed to improve access to support services that prevent families from entering into the Child Welfare System. Members viewed the video.

Ms. Tiffany Csonka, a parent and CSC CPAR Co-Researcher in the VIP Research Team, shared her story of her children being removed from her care for two years and her experience successfully going through the child welfare system. She shared both her positive and negative experiences. She noted that she received helpful resources, such as therapy and parenting classes. But she also found the Child Welfare System to be intimidating, expressing that parents often feel like they're expected to know everything in court and often agree to things they don't fully understand. She suggested that child advocates meet with parents before or after court so that they clearly understand what is needed to regain custody. She also shared that having a child taken away from a parent is both dramatic and traumatic. She felt that professionals in the system need to seek to support and empower parents, adding that compassion, communication and empowerment will bridge the gap between the Child Welfare System and struggling Broward County parents.

Ms. Shanika Ramos, a CSC CPAR Co-Researcher in the Youth Leaders in Action (YLA) Research Project, shared that she had been in the Child Welfare System since she was 18 months old. She outlined the work of the YLA Research Team, which was comprised of youth transitioning to independent living and child welfare professionals working to improve the Child Welfare System. The Co-Researchers worked with two focus groups, one comprised of

youth and the other comprised of Life Coaches. Ms. Ramos highlighted the findings:

- Lack of empathy from system professionals to youth;
- Youth felt like they had no control/voice and no validations;
- No sense of normalcy in youth's lives; and
- Caring, trusting relationships with adults were huge.

The YLA Team's CPAR solution was the creation of the Youth System Organizers of Broward (YSO), a way for youth and system professionals to build trusting relationships to work collaboratively, and to co-identify and co-create solutions to improve the quality of care and outcomes for children in care.

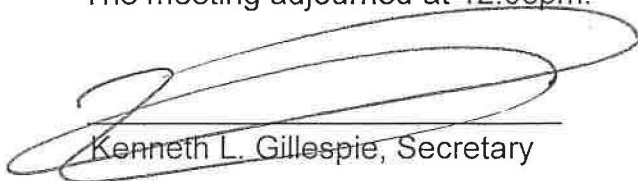
Mr. Jordan Klohr, a CSC CPAR Co-Researcher, shared that he was in the Child Welfare System since he was 7 years old. He further highlighted the creation of the YSO, describing it as a youth system organizing process that leverages the lived experiences of youth in the child welfare system and the knowledge of system professionals to generate change that improves the quality of living and outcomes for children in care.

Dr. Gallagher Sue concluded the presentation by reminding the Council of the purpose of CPAR, which is to create more equitable structures that would produce better outcomes. She noted that the CPAR work has created opportunities to institutionalize youth and parent feedback in a more trusting way and has created ways to co-research, co-imagine, and co-construct solutions together.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer thanked the youth and parents for being vulnerable and using their voices, and she thanked the system professionals and agencies for listening and acting.

#### **XIV. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:08pm.



Kenneth L. Gillespie, Secretary

# ATTCH 1

## MEETING ATTENDEES

\*denotes speaker

Name	Organization
Shanika Ramos*	CSC CPAR Co-Researcher
Linda Carter*	Community Foundation of Broward
Leneesha Nash*	CSC CPAR Co-Researcher
Jordan Klohr*	CSC CPAR Co-Researcher
Mason Jackson*	CareerSource Broward
Tiffany Csonka	CSC CPAR Co-Researcher
Mark Reyes	Urban League of Broward County
Regine Kanzki	Crockett Foundation
Idelma Quintana	Broward County
Andy Fernandez	Firewall Centers
Christine Klima	Early Learning Coalition of Broward County
Nicole Carter	City of Hallandale Beach
Dr. Harleen Hutchinson	The Journey Institute, Inc.
Tonya Ricker	Arc Broward
Walter Honaman	Legal Aid Service of Broward County
Shawn Preston	Arc Broward
Donna Brown	Florida State University
Lisa Clements	YMCA South Florida
Marilyn Camerota	Memorial Healthcare System

Christina Disbrow	Center for Independent Living of Broward, and NAMI Broward
A. Therese Sullivan	Pembroke Pines Police Department
Felipe Pinzon	Hispanic Unity of Florida
Robin Ullman	JAFCO
Marianna Tutwiler	Florida State University
Sandra Einhorn	Nonprofit Executive Alliance of Broward
Alison Rodriguez	YMCA of South Florida
Justin Kohlhagen	JAFCO
Michael Farver	South Florida Hunger Coalition