

**Special Needs Advisory Coalition (SNAC) - Meeting Minutes  
May 4, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.**

**Meeting Held via GoTo Webinar**

**Participants In Attendance:** 2-1-1 Broward (Jose Serano); **Advocacy Network on Disabilities** (Irenaida Diaz, Maria Andreina Espejo, Valerie Ugartechea, Amanda Key); **Advocates** (Robert Mayersohn, Carole Zangari); **Agency for Persons with Disabilities** (Milroy Senat); **Ann Storck Center** (Karen Flowers); **Arc Broward** (Jody Ellis, Shalean LaBerge); **Autism Society Florida** (Stacey Hoaglund); **Broward County** (Jessica Bailey-Pierre) **Broward County Public Schools** (Sonja Clay); **Center for Hearing & Communication** (Olivia Angeli); **Children’s Diagnostic Treatment Center** (Ellie Schrot); **Dan Marino Foundation** (Susan Morantes); **Disability Program & Training** (Yessenia Leyva); **Early Learning Coalition** (Debbie Kay); **Equine-Assisted Therapies of South Florida** (David Plath); **Family Care Council** (Marty Norris); **Family Network on Disabilities** (Lisa Math); **GAPS Legal** (Michelle Kenney, Esq); **Henderson Behavioral Health** (Luciangeli Flores); **JAFCO Children’s Abilities Center** (Alanna Teitelbaum); **Legal Aid of Broward** (Jaime D’Alessandro); **Parent Education Network** (Ally Walford); **Project 10** (Lisa Friedman-Chavez); **Broward School Board Member** (Robin Bartleman); **The Journey Institute Inc.** (Dr. Harleen Hutchinson); **United Community Options** (Cathea Comiskey); **YMCA South Florida** (Alison Bregman-Rodriguez); **Aham Education** (Knellee Bisram)

**CSC Staff in Attendance:** Dr. Sue Gallagher – Chief Innovation Officer; Dr. Laura Ganci – Director of Research & Planning; 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; Lorenzo Benaine – Research & Evaluation Manager; Andria Dewson – Programs Manager; Jennifer Wennberg – Programs Manager

**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 David Plath, seconded by Bob Mayersohn and passed unanimously.

**III. Program Success Stories:**

Due to the time needed for the presenters, Success Stories were not shared. For any member who wishes to speak about a success at the next SNAC meeting, please contact Marissa Aquino.

**IV. Presentations:**

- a. Advocacy Network on Disabilities (AND), Ire Diaz, Vice President of Programs & Services. The Advocacy Network has championed the rights of individuals with intellectual developmental and other disabilities by promoting inclusion providing services and advancing systems change. They work with the CSC MOST programs to provide professional development and support inclusion of children with disabilities in general programs. Last October, AND began providing Individual Services to families with children with disabilities or presumptive disabilities by providing weekly in-home counseling and parenting education. These services are provided by Masters level clinicians using evidence-based and promising practices that address both the universal and specialized needs of the families with care coordinators and trauma-informed strength based services using the framework of

strengthening families. Families are served for about six months. Services are offered in English, Spanish, Haitian Creole and Portuguese.

Questions from the SNAC members: *How is the Advocacy Network funded?* The CSC is funding this program. *How do families pay for the services at the Advocacy Network on disabilities?* The services are free for families because of the funding. *Was SNAC made aware of the programs for families with children of special needs?* It was funded through a widely advertised procurement for Family Strengthening programs.

If interested in referring families, please contact The Advocacy Network on Disabilities  
Tel #: 954-406-1234, E-Mail: [info@advocacynetwork.org](mailto:info@advocacynetwork.org)

- b. Mind Body Resiliency Coalition, Jennifer Wennberg, CSC Programs Manager and Knellee Bisram, CEO of Aham Education.

Knellee lead a mindful awareness practice with the SNAC members and presented on the importance of mind body practices. Jennifer reviewed a muscle relaxation activity. A “moment to arrive” was suggested when convening committee meetings. Online Classes will be open to all for a mind-body skills group including one at the end of May. She will share those dates and information for the committee members to join. Mindfulness-based stress reduction courses will be offered in the summer.

For more information on the Mind Body Resiliency Coalition, please contact Jennifer at [jwennberg@cscbroward.org](mailto:jwennberg@cscbroward.org) or Knellee at [knellee@ahameducation.org](mailto:knellee@ahameducation.org).

## V. Legislative Updates:

Megan Turetsky – Government Affairs Manager reported the Florida legislation session concluded in Mid-March with a 92-billion-dollar budget that has not yet been approved by the Governor. There is a lot of uncertainty as to what our state's finances are going to look like as a result of COVID-19. Additionally, the Governor has not been signing a lot of non-budget bills. Megan will send more information as she receives it.

Stacy Hoaglund asked if CSC is aware of the \$3.3 billion going to the State from the Federal Government with a portion to pay for compensatory education for education services for children and youth with disabilities. Megan replied she is aware. Please contact Megan if you have additional questions at Tel#: 954-551-0735.

## VI. Committee Updates:

- a. **Policy & Systems:** Piper Weber (CSC) reported the system partners work group will meet on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 1:30pm via Zoom. As a friendly reminder, this committee consists of special needs system partners.
- b. **Program & Parent Support:** Alison Bregman-Rodriguez (YMCA) reported an email was sent to the SNAC members on April 6, providing opportunities to continue the work of the committee even though the April meeting was canceled. The committee will look at updating the matrix with our new objectives with a new assessment of the needs of our community. The committee is following up on identifying program programmatic gaps relating to parent trainings and Social Security benefits for our children. Please feel free to reach out to Alison or Luci. There are opportunities still available for those interested. Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 11, 2020 at 9:30am via Zoom.

- c. **Education & Awareness:** Michelle Kenney (GAPS Legal) reported that due to Covid-19, the last meeting was canceled so that members could adjust to the new distancing measures. She invited the members to the next meeting on Wednesday, May 13, 2020 via Zoom at 1:30pm.

## **VII. Community Announcements**

Robin Bartleman requested committee members provide her with input regarding distance learning for those students with special needs. She is requesting additional feedback to use the information to lobby the legislature for additional resources and for providing students with the opportunity to recoup time with additional hours, possibly Saturdays. Marissa will develop a document for SNAC members to input their feedback with more concrete information.

Lisa Friedman-Chavez (Project 10) announced Project 10 will be hosting a part II to the "Teaming Up with Teachers to Share Transition-Related Resources" webinar on 5/08/20 from 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The description and link to register can be found on our website: <http://project10.info/DPage.php?ID=320#NS108>.

Marissa Aquino (CSC) announced a Racial Equity – SNAC subcommittee will be developed under the Policy & Systems committee that will address disparities and cultural responsiveness. More information will come after the SNAC planning session on Friday. Those who have attended the 2-day Racial Equity Training will be asked to join. As a friendly reminder, all meeting dates and times are posted on Results4Broward.org

Stacy Hoaglund (Autism Speaks) announced a session of REACH that features an informative US attorney, Selene Almazan, Esq., Legal Director of the Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates, Inc., Here is a link to the meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7OxZF8FC0TY>

Allica Walford (PEN) announced Secretary DeVos' department wrote an 18-page report about not limiting special education for students. FND had a resource day where they conducted a 45 minute interview with the Bureau Chief of the Bureau of Exceptional Education Student Services in the State of Florida.

Lisa Math (FND) responded to Robin's request for information stating a lot of families are very concerned about the regression in their students' education and if there is any way to get Extended School Year put through for summer at least this year to mitigate education losses and support families with children who do not have Summer Camp options. She also noted caregivers that are working from home are struggling to keep their children engaged. Robin noted the concern.

**VIII. Next Meeting Date:** Next SNAC meeting is set for Thursday, August 6, 2020. Meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom unless otherwise announced.

## **IX. Adjourn Meeting**

- a. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.