

## 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

February 15, 2024

9:30 A.M.

### Minutes

#### **Council Members in Physical Attendance:**

Governor Appointee Cathy Donnelly; Broward County Commissioner Beam Furr;  
School Board Member Debra Hixon; School Superintendent Peter B. Licata;  
Governor Appointee David H. Kenton (*Chair*); Governor Appointee Jeffrey S. Wood;  
Judge Francis Viamontes

#### **Council Members Virtual:**

Health Department Director Paula Thaqi

#### **Council Members Absent:**

DCF Community Director Dennis Miles

#### **Counsel Present:**

Garry Johnson, Esq.

#### **Staff in Attendance:**

Cindy Arenberg Seltzer; Monti Larsen; Sharetta Remikie; Sue Gallagher; Dion Smith;  
Lisa Bayne; Kenneth King; Michelle Hamilton; Kathleen Campbell; Marissa Greif-  
Hackett; Amy Jacques; Angie Buchter; Tracy Graham; Shaquoia Wilson; Jimmy Jean;  
Johnsingh Jeyasingh; Diego Alvarez; Fern Phillip; Nelson Giraldo; Jill Denis-Lay;  
Priscilla Cole; Julie Toscano; Cristina Castellanos; Jocelin Eubanks; Keyonia Lawson;  
Radoika Pilarte; Alexia Bridges; Ashley Cole; Astrid Cantos; Erin Byrne; Ileana Blanco;  
Jonathan Corado; Kandyss Torrence; Lynn Kalmes; Shantigra "Shae" Williams; Trisha  
Dowell; Michelle Hagues-Fullwood; Jessica Rincon; Karen Franceschini; Ivy Pierre;  
Melissa Soza; Madeline Jones; Nicolette Picardi; Kim Reid; Camila Romero; Cynthia  
Reynoso; Alexandra Lemoine; Mina Razavi; Shira Fowlkes; Marissa Aquino; Kyle  
Jones; Amber Gross; Latora Steel; A Brooks; Meg Wallace; Carl Dasse; Zinajen De  
Oliveira; Liza Khan; Roxanne Smith; Valencia McConnico-Bell; Andria Dewson;  
Marlando Christie; Silke Angulo; Clarice Horton

#### **Guests in Attendance:**

See Attachment 1

## Agenda:

### I. Call to Order

Dr. Kenton called the meeting to order at 9:31 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 the body and mind to settle and focus before considering the meeting agenda items.

#### b) Welcome Judge Francis Viamontes

Dr. Kenton welcomed Francis Viamontes as the new judicial representative to the Council and presented her with a CSC pin.

#### c) January 18, 2024, Council Minutes

**ACTION: Vice Mayor Furr made a motion to approve the Council meeting minutes from January 18, 2024, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hixon and passed with no opposing votes.**

Dr. Kenton acknowledged February as Black History Month. He briefly highlighted a timeline of Broward County's history, starting in the 1920s with Dr. James Sistrunk as the first black physician, the arrival of Dr. Von D. Mizell and the history of Dillard School in the 1930s, and other significant events continuing through to 2015. He then asked everyone to think about CSC now in 2024 and the role it could play in the lives of black children and families to allow it to be a part of Broward's historical timeline.

### IV. President's Report

#### a) Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer acknowledged Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month as a time for organizations and individuals nationwide to come together to highlight the need to educate young people about dating violence, teach healthy relationship skills, and prevent the devastating cycle of abuse. With their adult allies, youth activists achieved a major victory in 2005 and 2013 when the importance of addressing teen dating abuse was highlighted in the reauthorization of the Violence Against



Women Act. Both Chambers of Congress have declared the entire month of February to teen dating violence awareness and prevention. Ms. Arenberg Seltzer pointed out that orange is the color for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month and she shared a picture of staff wearing orange.

b) Good of the Order

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer ran the Forever Family/NBC 6 promotional video she recently filmed. The video can also be found on the CSC YouTube channel. In addition to the video, she noted that they also conducted interviews on Foster Care, adoption recruitment, and the Broward AWARE! campaign.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer explained that Broward AWARE! is a four-month campaign leveraging various media to raise awareness. It culminates in April during Child Abuse Prevention Month. She highlighted three upcoming events: Women In Distress' In Their Shoes Teen Dating Violence Awareness event on February 21<sup>st</sup>, the Survivors Stroll on March 16<sup>th</sup>, and Broward Healthy Start Coalition's A Day for Families on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Additional events include A Day for Reading, lighting up the Guitar Hotel blue, and the Family Fun & Resource Fair.

The Non-Profit Awards finalists in the CSC Collective Impact for Youth category were recently announced at the VIP Awards Announcement Party by Dr. Kenton and Mr. Ken King (Director of Public Affairs & Organizational Development). The finalists are the David Posnack Jewish Community Center, Serving with GRACE, Inc., and the Friendship Circle of Greater Fort Lauderdale. The winner will be announced at the Awards luncheon on March 5<sup>th</sup> at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.

CSC recently participated in the Annual Title 1 Parent Seminar at Signature Grand, where more than 200 parents received Family Resource Guides and drowning prevention information. For next year, CSC has been asked to do a parent breakout session.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer highlighted her recent meeting with Dr. Licata and Ms. Zoie Saunders (Chief Strategy & Innovation Officer at Broward County Public Schools) where she learned more about the Redefining Our Schools Initiative and discussed CSC resources and collaboration. She noted that BCPS might request a formal letter that expresses CSC's willingness to participate in the Initiative. Members briefly discussed the request and consensus was gained to provide such a letter if requested.

**ACTION: Vice Mayor Furr made a motion to approve a formal letter, if requested, expressing CSC's willingness to participate in the BCPS Redefining Our Schools Initiative. The motion was seconded by Ms. Donnelly and passed with no opposing votes and two abstentions from Dr. Licata and Ms. Hixon, who submitted the attached voting conflict forms.**

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer announced that the next Program Planning Committee (PPC) meeting, on March 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm at CSC, will further the conversation on what CSC's role should be in funding academic-natured services during the instructional school day.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer noted that CSC had a resource table at the David Posnack JCC's Be A Hero 5K Run and at the Jack & Jill Center's Winter Carnival, and she highlighted the upcoming "Queen for a Day, the Ultimate Self-Care Experience," which will be hosted by the Girls Coordinating Council of Broward on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Participants will participate in various activities that promote healthy relationships, career exploration, self-esteem, and confidence building.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer announced that the wrapping of the CSC vehicle had been completed and asked Members to gather around it after the meeting for pictures.

c) Legislative Update

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer updated the Council on legislative items related to children and families.

V. Chief Program Officer (CPO) Report

Ms. Juarez briefly highlighted the items under the CPO Report.

- a) Summer-Only Out-of-School-Time Contracts
- b) 2024 Healthy Youth Transitions (HYT) RFP Raters
- c) U-Turn Youth Consulting Leverage Contract
- d) Dr. Licata requested efficacy data for the New DAY program.

**ACTION: Vice Mayor Furr made a motion to approve the MOST Summer-Only Inclusion and Special Needs Contract renewals, the HYT 2024 RFP Rating Committee source experts, and the Leverage Contract with the State Attorney's Office for a Teen Chat Training**



**Series with U-Turn Youth Consulting, all as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hixon and passed with no opposing votes.**

VI. Chief Innovation Officer (CIO) Report

UPENN Funding for Youth Baker Act Community Participatory Action Research (CPAR)

Dr. Gallagher provided a brief update on the CPAR project with UPENN Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy (AISP) that was approved by the Council in February 2022. Research was conducted over a six-month period with youth who had experienced a Broward Baker Act admission, parents who had a child admitted, and system professionals, including insurance company representatives. The research showed that youth experienced the system as criminalizing and dehumanizing and that there was a need for educational materials and a Learning Community to consider additional improvements to the Baker Act process. The research groups created educational materials and convened a Learning Community. They are currently exploring alternative transportation options that don't warrant law enforcement and are considering innovative ways to disseminate the research findings and data from the project, such as engaging a cultural artist who will bring this information to a cadre of artists to create an interactive hybrid experience of the research and data. Stay tuned for more details mid-Summer.

VII. Chief Equity & Community Engagement Officer (CECEO) Report

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

a) 2024 Back-to-School Extravaganza (BTSE) Backpack Vendor

During the discussion of the Back-to-School Extravaganza, Members expressed concerns with duplication with other community drives, as well as the need for the renewal of supplies mid-way through the school year. Staff were asked to reach out to the Broward Education Foundation to avoid duplication with their backpack drive for Title 1 schools. It was also suggested that CSC consider holding back some backpacks and supplies for mid-school year distribution to renew students' supplies, or even possibly shifting to supplies and resources other than backpacks. Ms. Arenberg Seltzer shared the history of how the event originated as a vehicle to consolidate the multiple backpack drives and that it was initially limited to a list of students provided by school social workers, who were then given leftover or additional backpacks to distribute to students as needed throughout the school year. She agreed that they would look to minimize duplication when possible and explore other models to best meet community needs.

- b) Countdown to Kindergarten Campaign Material

**ACTION: Ms. Hixon made a motion to approve Kids First as the backpack vendor for the 2024 BTSE and approve funding to purchase books for incoming Kindergarten students for Countdown to Kindergarten, as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Furr and passed with no opposing votes.**

- c) Communication Plan for the dissemination of Annual Performance Report

Dr. Remikie drew Members' attention to the communications plan drafted with the assistance of CSC's contracted marketing provider to educate stakeholders about the CSC mission and the significance of its Annual Report and Annual Performance Report to both municipalities and community members.

#### VIII. Chief Operating Officer (COO) Report

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

- a) Budget Amendments and Interim Financial Statements for Period Ending January 31, 2024

**ACTION: Vice Mayor Furr made a motion to approve the Budget Amendments and Interim Financial Statements for the period ending January 31, 2024, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hixon and passed with no opposing votes.**

- b) Monthly Statements for the Managed Fund

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

- c) Monthly Purchases

**ACTION: Mr. Wood made a motion to approve the CSC Monthly Purchases, as presented and minus the United Way sponsorship request for the Behavioral Health Conference. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Furr and passed with no opposing votes.**

**ACTION: Vice Mayor Furr made a motion to approve the United Way sponsorship request for the Behavioral Health Conference, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hixon and passed with**



**no opposing votes and an abstention from Ms. Donnelly, who submitted the attached Conflict Form.**

**IX. Special Needs Advisory Coalition (SNAC) Report**

Ms. Hixon highlighted the recent SNAC meeting and referred Members to the meeting minutes in the information packet.

**X. Broward Reads Coalition Report**

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

**XI. Funders Forum Report**

Ms. Juarez referred Members to the recent meeting minutes in the information packet.

**XII. Public Comment**

Mr. Walter Honaman, Legal Aid Service of Broward County, Inc., welcomed and thanked Judge Viamontes for her future service to the CSC. He also thanked Mr. Nicholas Hessing (CSC Government Affairs Manager) for his great assistance in legislative matters, as well as CSC staff in general, including Natalie Gomes.

**XIII. Council Members' Roundtable**

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer led Council members in a discussion of the upcoming budget and budget process. As a starting framework, she reminded Members of the Chair's challenge last month during his State of the CSC remarks, where he asked Members and staff to think about CSC's role and resources in the community and how to leave CSC and Broward's children and families in a better position than when we arrived.

She then outlined the CSC Budget process, noting that the risk and protective factors within the national Communities That Care (CTC) structure provided the foundation for the Council's first goals and objectives and still guides us today. Around that CTC middle core is research, evidence-based programs and approaches, and Return on Investment; program/fiscal/administrative evaluation; new initiatives or sustaining RFPs; and then funding recommendations and renewals that come to the Council at the May Budget Retreat. Also informing the process is the Broward Children's Strategic Plan (BCSP) Committees, which serve as a vehicle to bring the community together to look at community conditions and the five desired results: Children live in stable and nurturing families; children are mentally and physically healthy; children are ready to

succeed in school; children live in safe and supportive communities; and young people successfully transition to adulthood.

She highlighted the Council's service and system goals.

1. Agency Capacity
2. Family Strengthening
3. Youth Development and Juvenile Diversion
4. Independent Living
5. Literacy & Early Education
6. Child Welfare Supports
7. Out of School Time
8. Physical Health
9. Maternal & Child Health
10. Physical, Developmental and Behavioral Needs
11. Child and Youth Safety
12. Public Awareness & Advocacy
13. Leveraging Resources

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer then explained the staff budget visioning process, where she gathers the programmatic team, the research team, and the budget team to discuss each goal area. She listed the factors considered during these sessions: alignment with the Council's core mission, previous Council discussions, integration with other funders, emerging community issues, Results Based Accountability, community and CSC capacity, the impact of Federal funding, and program performance.

She then opened the floor for Council members to raise areas and issues they wanted staff to consider in the draft budget that will be brought to the Council at the May Budget Retreat.

Dr. Kenton requested staff look at the Delinquency and Diversion area, which currently comprises three percent of the total budget, especially considering the increase in youth gun violence and things that are happening. He wondered if there were other resources that could be deployed in that area. He also raised the items of staff salaries, how to use funds to support homelessness, and



expanding the emerging community issues piece to include front-line staff and what they are seeing and hearing in their communities, possibly through a staff-based initiative/pilot or an Innovation Fund to spotlight staff solutions.

Ms. Hixon added the items of gun violence and homelessness to the budget exploration list. For gun violence, she noted a significant uptick in students bringing weapons to school. She touched upon a couple of possibilities for the uptick, such as learning about it faster and students fully embracing the See Something, Say Something campaign. She also noted it involves partnering with the communities, not just the schools, because students have expressed fear walking to and from school. She pointed out this would fall under the goal of students feeling safe.

For homelessness, she wondered if a better job could be done in educating and communicating what affordable housing means and the criteria to qualify. She noted that people mistakenly think of it as the Projects and associate it with crime and, therefore, don't want it in their city. She stated that is not what it is. She suggested CSC partner with some of the current affordable housing developments, such as the Urban League. She noted there was a desire for an Early Childhood Center within that development, and that was something with which CSC could assist, or even possibly assisting with outreach or serving as a liaison to help applicants complete forms and submit the required paperwork.

Ms. Donnelly touched upon the ALICE families and the Live Local program, suggesting that as a way to communicate the idea of affordable housing for working populations such as teachers and first responders, maybe even referring to affordable housing as Live Local Housing. She also suggested using the successful VITA program as a model for assisting the community with intimidating housing forms and processes that are not user-friendly.

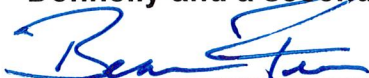
Ms. Donnelly also listed the items of mental health, food insecurity, housing and gun violence as a budget focus.

Mr. Wood spoke in favor of supports and resources for the Agency Capacity area.

Judge Viamontes spoke to the need for resources, or at least awareness of resources, for families being served in the Family Court division.

#### XIV. Adjournment

**ACTION: The meeting adjourned at 11:42 A.M. with a motion from Ms. Donnelly and a second from Ms. Hixon.**



Beam Furr, Secretary

## ATTACHMENT 1

### MEETING ATTENDEES (\*denotes speaker)

Name	Organization
Traci Schweitzer	Department of Children and Families
Grace Ramos	The M Network
Audrey Ljung	Broward County Family Success/Community Action Agency
Shirley Plantin	Uturn Youth Consulting
Walter Honaman*	Legal Aid Service of Broward County, Inc.
Shawn Preston	Arc Broward
Alison Bergman-Rodriguez	YMCA of South Florida
Idelma Quintana	Broward County
Andy Fernandez	Firewall Centers
Gloria Moschella	State Attorney's Office
Mark Reyes	Urban League of Broward County