

## **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

March 20, 2025

9:30 A.M.

### **Minutes**

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

Broward County Commissioner Nan Rich, DCF Child Protection Director Robert Shea, Health Department Director Paula Thaqi, Governor Appointee Christine Thompson, Judge Francis Viamontes, Governor Appointee Jeffrey S. Wood (*Chair*)

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

Governor Appointee Alyssa Foganholi, Governor Appointee Julia Musella

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

School Superintendent Howard Hepburn, School Board Member Debra Hixon

#### **Counsel Present:**

Garry Johnson, Esq.

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

Cindy Arenberg Seltzer (President/CEO), David Kenton, Sharetta Remikie, Maria Juarez, Michelle Hamilton, Sue Gallagher, Dion Smith, Lisa Bayne, Marlando Christie, Ken King, Marissa Greif-Hackett, Kathleen Campbell, Carl Dasse, Kimberly Goulbourne, Amy Jacques, Angie Buchter, Marissa Aquino, Tracy Graham, Andria Dewson, Johnsingh Jeyasingh, Diego Alvarez, Jessica Rincon, Meg Wallace, Nelson Giraldo, Jimmy Jean, Akil Edwards, Liza Khan, Camila Mathieson, Keyonia Lawson, Latora Steel, Radoika Pilarte, Michelle Hagues-Fullwood, Trisha Dowell, Carlos Campos, Erin Byrne, Jocelin Eubanks, Yolanda Meadows, Fern Phillip, S. Lorenzo "Lolo" Benaine, Madeline Jones, Alexia Bridges, Gaby Carbonell, Cynthia Reynoso, Maya Berryhill-Porter, Priscilla Cole, Valencia McConnico-Bell, Nicolette Picardi, A. Brooks, Betty Dominguez, Alexandra Lemoine, Mina Razavi, Gabi Tabib, Kim Reid, Shantigra Williams, Amber Gross, Zoë Lewis, Jonathan Corado, Tabitha Bush, Jennifer Wennberg, Travis Johnson, Ashley Cole, Felina Rosales-Furer, Kyle Jones, Pooja Yajnik, Shira Fowlkes, Ileana Blanco, Shawanda Spencer, Astrid Cantos, Lynn Kalmes, Brooke Sherman, Karen Franceschini, Leslie Saca, Maxine Goldson, Dianne Choi, Florence Ukpai, Frantz Millien, Jheanelle Henry, TaiQuay Bogle, Rhonda Morrison, Kandyss Torrence, Erica Ansley, Jennifer Fletcher, Ivy Pierre, Trisha Hines, Nancy Adjohan

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

See Attachment 1

## **Agenda:**

### I. Call to Order

Mr. Wood called the meeting to order at 9:33 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) February Council Minutes 2025

**ACTION: Senator Rich made a motion to approve the Council meeting minutes from February 20, 2025, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Musella and passed with no opposing votes and one abstention from Judge Viamontes who did not attend the January Council meeting.**

### IV. President's Report

Good of the Order

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer pointed out that this week is Florida Government Finance Professionals Week, a week to recognize the dedicated finance professionals who work behind the scenes to ensure CSC's financial health and compliance. She shared that once again, both of CSC's annual financial reports have been recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). CSC's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 23<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year, since CSC's inception. CSC's Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR), which summarizes the larger ACFR for the general public, was awarded for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting. It, too, has received this award since its creation. Ms. Arenberg Seltzer explained that the PAFR was the innovation a few years ago of CSC's Director of Finance, Kathleen Campbell, who also currently serves as the President of the South Florida Local Chapter of the FGFOA. Last week, Ms. Campbell hosted a seminar on budgeting best practices for South Florida's government finance officers.



Ms. Arenberg Seltzer announced that the Promise Neighborhood Grant Contract with Florida Atlantic University (FAU) is now fully executed and that the Program Services team is hard at work negotiating the subcontracts, which will be completed soon.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer highlighted CareerSource Broward's WOW (Worlds of Work) career exploration event, of which CSC was a sponsor. Youth were able to explore different career fields through hands-on experiences and interact with leading professionals in those careers.

Members viewed a video of the event and Ms. Carol Hylton, President & CEO of CareerSource Broward, was called upon to share more information. She also shared the booklet received by the attending youth which provided information on each of those careers, such as specific jobs, education required, and the average annual wage in Broward County, as well as a QR link to the CareerSource website. She noted that CSC also funds them for the Summer Youth Employment Program and that they will be serving almost 1,200 teens this summer.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer shared that she and the CSC Chair presented the Children's Services Council of Broward County Collective Impact for Youth Award at the Non-Profit Awards to the United Way for Project Empower. Their partners were Fort Lauderdale Police, the Broward Sheriff's Office, Lauderhill Police, Nail It DIY, Streetwaves, and FPL. She noted that Mr. Mikelage Olbel of Community Based Connections was awarded Non-Profit Staff Leader of the Year. Community Based Connections is a CSC-funded provider.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer highlighted Eagles' Haven's Forever in Our Hearts Commemoration, led by JAFCO to honor the 17 victims. She noted that she read a poem before the annual dove release and candle-lighting ceremony. She also shared that CSC had a team at the Chris Hixon 5K Memorial Run/Walk, which celebrates the life of Marjory Stoneman Douglas' Athletic Director who was killed during that tragedy and raises money for scholarships for Broward's student athletes.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer shared that the Broward Children's Strategic Plan (BCSP) supported another highly successful United Way Community Response Team's National Addiction Solutions Summit and Reception by creating all marketing and communication strategies and materials. Special guests included Keynote Speaker Dr. Rahul Gupta, former Director of the White House Office of Drug Control Policy, and Moderator Dr. Stephen Loyd, Director of the West Virginia Office of Drug Control Policy and the inspiration behind Netflix's Dopesick. They and other panelists shared inventive and collaborative strategies to mitigate the impact of the opioid epidemic.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer shared that Dr. Sue Gallagher (CSC's Chief Innovation Officer) and Dr. Carl Dasse (CSC's Director of Community Research & Partnering) recently met with researchers from New America, a non-partisan think and action tank that incubates ideas, policies, and solutions related to education, work, family economic security, technology and democracy, and civic engagement among other areas. The researchers reached out to interview CSC Broward regarding the 2016 Performance Partnership Pilot (P3) and lessons learned, sustained effects of the grant, and recommendations for future federal procurements. CSC Broward and LA County were the two sites across the nation that successfully implemented and completed a robust P3 project. Staff contributions will be included in New America's final report and recommendations.

Ms. Lisa Bayne, CSC's Director of Program Services, was honored by the Broward County Commission for Women's History Month at a March Commission meeting.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer noted that lots of activities are happening as part of the Broward AWARE! Campaign. Upcoming activities in April are focused on Sexual Violence Awareness Month and Child Abuse Prevention Month, including Denim Day events and the culminating Campaign event, the Family Fun & Resource Fair, on April 12, 10:00 am-2:00 pm, at Reverend Samuel Delevoe Memorial Park. Members viewed a video on a recent Campaign event.

#### V. Executive Committee Meeting Report

##### President/CEO Employment Contract

Chair Wood summarized the recent meeting of the CSC Executive Committee to review the evaluation results of the President/CEO. Based on the Council Members' consistently high scores and positive comments, the Committee recommended that Ms. Arenberg Seltzer be retained as the President/CEO and that her current contract be extended through the end of her participation in the Florida Retirement System's (FRS) Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP), which would be February 28, 2032.

Cindy expressed her appreciation for the Members' kind remarks and confidence in her. She pointed out that she doesn't do it alone but with assistance from the other CSC Chiefs and staff and the amazing group of people funded by CSC Broward. She stated that CSC doesn't succeed unless the providers succeed, and the providers don't succeed unless the families succeed.

**ACTION: Dr. Thaqi made a motion to approve retaining the President/CEO and extending the current employment contract through February 28, 2032, as presented. The motion was seconded by Senator Rich and passed with no opposing votes.**



## VI. Finance Committee Meeting Report

Dr. Thaqi, CSC Finance Committee Chair, summarized the recent meeting of the CSC Finance Committee and referred Members to the minutes in the information packet. She noted that the auditors were there to provide a report, just as they are here today.

Mr. Sardou Mertilus of Citrin Cooperman introduced himself as Partner in the engagement and Roberto Ayala as Manager. Mr. Mertilus read the required communication and noted that there were no corrected statements, no disagreements with management, and no consultations with other accountants. He then reviewed the financials, issuing an unmodified opinion with no findings, which he stated is the highest level of financial assurance.

Dr. Thaqi thanked Ms. Campbell and her team, noting that CSC has become spoiled with clean, unqualified financial opinions due to the finance team.

Senator Rich stated that she was pleased with the administrative rate consistently kept under 4%, which she deemed important.

Dr. Kenton, CSC's Chief Operating Officer, stated he was more impressed and humbled each day to work with the finance team, noting their dedication and work toward such a high product. He thanked Ms. Arenberg Seltzer for her leadership, as well as Ms. Campbell and the entire operations team, whose work is intense, meticulous, and really good.

### a) Auditor's Report & Draft Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR)

**ACTION: Senator Rich made a motion to approve acceptance of the Auditor's Report for FY ending September 30, 2024, and approve the draft ACFR for FY ending September 30, 2024, both as presented and recommended by the Finance Committee on March 12, 2025. The motion was seconded by Judge Viamontes and passed with no opposing votes.**

### b) Managed Fund Quarterly Reports

**ACTION: Dr. Thaqi made a motion to approve the acceptance of the Managed Fund Quarterly Performance Report, as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Thompson and passed with no opposing votes.**

## VII. Program Planning Committee (PPC) Meeting Report

Dr. Thompson summarized the recent meeting of the CSC PPC, noting that the Committee was recommending approval of the JCC funding request for a Summer

camp for children with cancer and their siblings, as well as the 2-1-1 Broward Contract adjustment for the 9-8-8 Crisis Helpline counselors.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer pointed out that while a leverage request is typically for five years, the Committee recommended the JCC leverage request for only one year due to economic uncertainties.

- a) David Posnack JCC Leverage Funding Request for Summer Camp for Children with Cancer and Their Siblings

**ACTION: Senator Rich made a motion to approve leverage funding for David Posnack JCC to provide a summer camp for children with cancer and their siblings, as presented and recommended by the PPC on March 6, 2025. The motion was seconded by Ms. Foganholi and passed with no opposing votes.**

- b) 2-1-1 Broward Contract Adjustment to Allow for the Hiring of Five 9-8-8 Crisis Helpline Counselors and Related Goal/Objective Language Adjustment

**ACTION: Ms. Foganholi made a motion to approve a contract adjustment for 2-1-1 Broward to allow for the hiring of five 9-8-8 crisis helpline counselors, and approve an update of System Goal 1.1, Objective 912 in Goals with Words to add the words “and the 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline,” as it is becoming a fundamental element of this goal, as presented and recommended by the PPC on March 6, 2025. The motion was seconded by Dr. Thompson and passed with no opposing votes.**

#### VIII. Chief Program Officer (CPO) Report

##### Raters for the 2025 Legal Supports RFP

Ms. Juarez briefly highlighted the item under the CPO Report, noting that the Legal Supports RFP closes on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Only one organization submitted financials and can move forward to submit an application. The Rating Committee was proposed in case there were multiple applicants. As there is only one possible applicant, Ms. Juarez said the raters would review the one proposal, if submitted, to determine if it's a responsive and quality one; in which case, it would be brought to the Council for consideration in May. She also stated that Members can request to review the proposal.

**ACTION: Dr. Thaqi made a motion to approve the Legal Supports 2025 RFP Rating Committee source experts, as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Thompson and passed with no opposing votes.**



IX. Chief Innovation Officer (CIO) Report

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

- a) CSC Research Policies & Related Promise Neighborhood Agreements and Actions

**ACTION:** Senator Rich made a motion to approve the new research policies for CSC human research protections, CSC human research training, and CSC Serious and Adverse Event (SAE) reporting; approve CSC applying for Federal Wide Assurance (FWA); and approve Florida Atlantic University Institutional Authorization Agreement (IAA), all as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Thompson and passed with no opposing votes.

- b) Urban League as A Little Help Never Hurt (ALHNNH) Fiscal Sponsor for the Community Foundation of Broward Passthrough Grant

**ACTION:** Dr. Thompson made a motion to approve Urban League as ALHNNH fiscal sponsor for the Community Foundation of Broward passthrough grant which incorporates the Fiscal Sponsor fee, as presented. The motion was seconded by Senator Rich and passed with no opposing votes.

X. Chief Public Affairs Officer (CPAO) Report

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

- a) 2025/2026 Family Resource Guide Passthrough Revenue and Related Expenditures from ELC to Kessler Creative

**ACTION:** Dr. Thaqi made a motion to approve passthrough revenue and related expenditures from the Early Learning Coalition (ELC) to Kessler Creative for the 2025/26 Family Resource Guide, as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Thompson and passed with no opposing votes.

- b) Ancillary Purchases for the Back-to-School Extravaganza (BTSE) 2025

**ACTION:** Dr. Thompson made a motion to approve ancillary purchases for BTSE 2025, as presented. The motion was seconded by Senator Rich and passed with no opposing votes.

XI. Chief Operating Officer (COO) Report

Dr. Kenton briefly highlighted the items under the COO Report.

a) Purchasing/Credit Card Policy

**ACTION:** Judge Viamontes made a motion to approve revisions to the Purchasing/Credit Card Policy, as presented. The motion was seconded by Senator Rich and passed with no opposing votes.

b) Budget Amendments and Interim Financial Statements

**ACTION:** Judge Viamontes made a motion to approve the Budget Amendments and Interim Financial Statements for the period ending February 28, 2025, as presented. The motion was seconded by Senator Rich and passed with no opposing votes.

c) Managed Fund Monthly Statements

**ACTION:** Dr. Thompson made a motion to accept the monthly statement for the Managed Fund from PFM and US Bank for February 28, 2025, as presented. The motion was seconded by Senator Rich and passed with no opposing votes.

d) CSC Monthly Purchases

**ACTION:** Dr. Thompson made a motion to approve the CSC monthly Purchases, as presented. The motion was seconded by Senator Rich and passed with no opposing votes.

XII. Agency Capacity Building Committee Meeting Report

Ms. Foganholi highlighted the recent meeting of the Agency Capacity Building Committee and referred Members to the meeting minutes in the information packet. The next meeting is scheduled for May 22, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

XIII. 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.

XIV. Public Comment

Ms. Laurie Sallarulo, Junior Achievement of South Florida, thanked the Council for the Girls Rule sponsorship. She shared that 320 female high school students from 11 schools enjoyed a day of empowerment and inspiration. She also thanked the Council for their leverage grant and for the two store fronts at JA World and Biz Town. She noted that Biz Town was for 5th-grade students and Finance Park was for 8th-grade students. She presented a framed piece of artwork to each Member and Ms. Arenberg Seltzer and Ms. Juarez displaying student answers as to what a day as a health community worker looks like.



XV. Council Members' Roundtable

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer gave a brief update on the State legislative session, which runs from March 4 through May 2. While bills were slow to be filed, they now total 1,842, similar to previous years. She noted that the Governor's proposed budget is \$115.9 Billion and that the agency budget request totals \$124.5 Billion. Last year's (2024-2025) final budget was \$118.6 Billion.

She briefly highlighted three special sessions that established new powers and duties around immigration.

She highlighted a few bills of interest and provider appropriation requests. She shared that CSC and the state-wide association (FACCT) will be following these and other bills related to property taxes, special districts, early learning, child welfare, K-12 education, healthy development, and mental health. Members will receive weekly updates through the Capitol Connection.

XVI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:18 am.



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Nan Rich, Secretary

## ATTACHMENT 1

### MEETING ATTENDEES (\*denotes speaker)

Name	Organization
Sardou Mertilus*	Citrin Cooperman
Roberto Ayala	Citrin Cooperman
Alison Rodriguez	YMCA of South Florida
Laurie Sallarulo*	Junior Achievement
Lisa Clements	YMCA of South Florida
Yvette Jacome	The M Network
Traci Schweitzer	Department of Children and Families
Carol Hylton*	CareerSource Broward
Haley Dacks	Smith Community Mental Health
Juliana Gerena	Gerena & Associates
James Sahnger	Florida Department of Health in Broward County
Eugenia Nikitina	Broward County Commission
Kathy Wint	HandsOn South Florida