



## Children's Services Advisory Board Meeting

February 21, 2024

A meeting of the Children's Services Advisory Board of Manatee County, Florida, was held at the Manatee County Administration Building, 1112 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, Florida, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Manatee Room on Wednesday February 21, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.

### Roll Call

**Present** (In Person): Connie Shingledecker, Debbie Tapp, Carolann Garafola, Rita Smith, Patricia Miner, Melissa Leslie, Constance Charles-Logan, Susan Miller Kelly **Absent/Excused:** Hon. Scott Brownell, Jannon Pierce, Xtavia Bailey, **Absent/Unexcused:** Gina Messenger.

**Also Present:** County Staff: (In Person) Kristi Hagen, Johanna Beville, Melissa Bomar, and LaWanda Timmons (Virtually) Brenda Marquez Facio and Lee dePalo; Members of Board of County Commissioners: Amanda Ballard; Members of the Public: (In Person) Katie Becker, Samantha Kolb, Dawn Bryant, Carlos Portillo, Mark Wiles, Char Young, Hilda Arreola, Karlee Hudson, James McCloud, Denise Gatson (Virtually) Susan Ford, Michelle Gaines, Kira Parks, Sandra Richendollar, Jennifer Powers, Linda Harradine, Rachel Spivey, Stacey Schaeffer, Becky Canesse, Alexandra Green, Francesca Ricciardo, and Sean Staffieri.

### Call to Order/Welcome

Connie Shingledecker, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

### Approval of Minutes

**Motion:** Minutes for February 14, 2024 **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Rita Smith, **Seconded by** Carolann Garafola, **Vote:** Motion passed (**Summary:** Yes = 7, No = 0, Abstain = 0). (In Person): Connie Shingledecker, Debbie Tapp, Carolann Garafola, Rita Smith, Patricia Miner, Melissa Leslie, Constance Charles-Logan.

### Discussion of Investment Applications

The CSAB Members engaged in an open dialogue regarding the review process and scoring. Six programs were reviewed. Any concerns or questions were noted.

- Genesis Health Services, Inc. – Children's Whole-Health Program: *Initial CSAB Members scores were reviewed.*
  - *Program claimed priority:*
    - *Priority D: Children demonstrate improved behavioral functioning.*
  - *Program is a new applicant.*
  
- Legal Aid of Manasota, Inc. – Legal Lifeline for Youth: *Initial CSAB Members scores were reviewed.*
  - *Program claimed priority:*
    - *Priority D: Children demonstrate improved behavioral functioning.*

- *Program is a new applicant.*
- Prodigal Daughters Journey Home - Path to Reunification: Nurturing Family Unit: Initial CSAB Members scores were reviewed.
  - *Program claimed priority:*
    - *Priority A: Children in foster care gain a permanent, stable, and nurturing home within 12 months of entering care and remain there.*
    - *Priority B: Children remain in their homes free of abuse and neglect and do not enter or re-enter foster care.*
  - *Program is a new applicant.*

**Susan Miller Kelly entered at 3:34pm**

- Safe Children Coalition, Inc. – Youth Intervention Services: Initial CSAB Members scores were reviewed.
  - *Program claimed priority:*
    - *Priority D: Children demonstrate improved behavioral functioning.*
  - *Program is a new applicant.*
- Selah Freedom, Inc. – Prevention Training for Manatee County Youth: Initial CSAB Members scores were reviewed.
  - *Program claimed priority: None claimed.*
  - *Program is a new applicant.*
- Suncoast Youth for Christ – Juvenile Justice Ministry: Initial CSAB Members scores were reviewed.
  - *Program claimed priority:*
    - *Priority D: Children demonstrate improved behavioral functioning.*
  - *Program is a new applicant.*

**Staff Updates**

LaWanda Timmons provided the following updates:

- Reviewed recent compliance visit for the following program and there was nothing of concern noted during the observation:
  - Tidewell, Blue Butterfly Greif Program

Johanna Beville provided the following updates:

- No New Updates

Melissa Bomar provided the following updates:

- All quarter 1 requirements have been submitted and no concerns have been found.

Brenda Marquez Facio provided the following updates:

- Reviewed recent compliance visit for the following program and there was nothing of concern noted during the observation:
  - Step Up Suncoast, Parents as Teachers
  - Step Up Suncoast, Whole Child Manatee

- Children's Home Society of Florida, Focus on Literacy After-School Tutoring

Kristi Hagen provided the following updates:

- Kelly Hunt, Licensed Mental Health Counselor, has resigned from the CSAB.
- Batch 1 final scores are due February 23, 2024.
- Batch 2 initial scores are due February 26, 2024
- If there are any forms that need to be replaced, please reach out to staff to obtain a copy.

### **New/Old Business**

Mrs. Shingledecker announced that Early Learning Coalition is mandated by the State to include a CSAB Member on its Board of Directors. Mrs. Shingledecker will fulfill this role on the Early Learning Coalition's Board of Directors.

Mrs. Hagen emphasized to the CSAB Members the importance of disclosing any affiliations they may have with agencies or programs, including being on the Board of Directors, who are applying for investment from the Children's Services Millage of Manatee County Government. Additionally, she mentioned known affiliations between Ms. Rita Smith who is a member of the Boys and Girls Clubs Board of Directors and Ms. Xtavia Bailey who is a member of Creative Arts Academy Board of Directors. According to County Attorney review, these affiliations are not a conflict of interest.

### **Public Comment**

Agencies who verbally provided a public comment during the meeting were:

(In Person): James McCloud, Carlos Portillo, Karlee Hudson, and Hilda Arreola; (Virtually): Linda Harradine.

- James McCloud, Genesis Health Services: Responded to the CSAB's questions regarding the program's Board of Directors, staff count, and possible conflicts of interest with their employees.
- Carlos Portillo, Suncoast Youth for Christ: Addressed the CSAB's inquiries regarding the program's key partners and commitment documentation. Mr. Portillo mentioned his intentions to secure the required letters while confirming the program's strong affiliations with Teen Court, the Department of Juvenile Justice, and Base Kids.
- Karlee Hudson, Prodigal Daughters: Conveyed her appreciation to the CSAB Members and Children's Services Team for their flexibility and communication regarding the program's initial application process. Mrs. Hudson offered clarification regarding the number of clients served and emphasized that the program extends its services to children up to the age of twelve, not solely infants.
- Hilda Arreola, Selah Freedom: Expressed her gratitude for the CSAB Member's provided feedback. Mrs. Arreola will work on obtaining a commitment letter from their key partners.
- Linda Harradine, Legal Aid of Manasota: Provided clarification regarding application questions from the CSAB Members. Mrs. Harradine emphasized the importance of the

child having a voice. The referred cases that are referred to the program are very complex and challenging.

**Next Meeting**

February 28, 2024 – 3:00 pm, Manatee County Administration Building, 1112 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, Florida, Manatee/Osprey Rooms, 5<sup>th</sup> floor.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

**Approved**

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Connie Shingledecker, Chair

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Date