



## Children's Services Advisory Board Meeting

January 17, 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 January 17, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.

### Roll Call

**Present** (In Person): Debbie Tapp, Connie Shingledecker, Hon. Scott Brownell, Patricia Miner, Gina Messenger, Melissa Leslie, Jannon Pierce, Rita Smith, Susan Miller Kelly, Carolann Garafola, Constance Charles-Logan; **Absent/Excused:** Xtavia Bailey, Kelly Hunt  
**Absent/Unexcused:** None.

**Also Present:** County Staff: (In Person) Tracie Adams, Kristi Hagen, Johanna Beville, Melissa Bomar, LaWanda Timmons; (Virtually) Brenda Marquez Facio; Members of the Public: (In Person) Drena Green, Jonathan Evans, Valarie Green, Rachel Spivey, Andy Coble, Becky Canesse, Char Young (Virtually) Dawn Bryant, Francesca Ricciardo, and Zoe Slavsén.

### Call to Order/Welcome

Connie Shingledecker, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

### Approval of Minutes

**Motion:** Minutes for December 13, 2023, **Action:** Approve **Moved by** Jannon Pierce **Seconded by** Scott Brownell **Vote:** Motion passed (**Summary:** Yes = 9, No = 0, Abstain = 0). (In Person): Connie Shingledecker, Debbie Tapp, Hon. Scott Brownell, Patricia Miner, Gina Messenger, Melissa Leslie, Jannon Pierce, Rita Smith, Carolann Garafola.

**Constance Charles-Logan entered at 3:15pm**

### Program Presentation: Just for Girls, Girls Alternative Program to Success (GAPS)

Becky Canesse and Drena Green introduced the Girls Alternative Program to Success (GAPS), which serves exclusively girls, provided a history on the GAPS program, and provided the program's status. Ms. Green detailed the program's services which include academic success, behavior modification, community engagement, and activity enrichment. Ms. Green presented a PowerPoint and fielded questions from CSAB members.

### Program Presentation: Just for Girls, Stepping Up to Success (SUS)

Drena Green presented the Just for Girls' Stepping Up to Success (SUS) program which serves exclusively-girls, provided a historical overview of the SUS program, and provided updates on the program's status. Ms. Green discussed the range of services offered by the program, including academic support, social assistance, at-risk prevention, behavior modification,

community engagement, STEM involvement, and activity enrichment. The presentation included a PowerPoint and Ms. Green addressed questions from CSAB Members.

***Susan Miller Kelly entered at 3:20pm***

**Program Presentation: Family Resources, Community Effort to Reduce Truancy by Assessing Individualized Needs (CERTAIN)**

Andy Coble of Family Resources, CERTAIN program, presented the program's history and offered an update on its status. Mr. Coble outlined the services provided by the program, including academic success, referral processes, collaborations with local agencies, and truancy prevention. During the presentation Mr. Coble shared a program brochure and addressed questions from CSAB members.

**Program Presentation- Family Resources; SafePlace2B**

Andy Coble of Family Resources, SafePlace2B program, delved into the program's history, purpose, and provided a program status update. Mr. Coble detailed the services available through the program encompassing crisis intervention, at-risk prevention, emotional and social counseling, counseling groups, and safety plans. As part of the presentation Mr. Coble distributed a program brochure and responded to inquiries from CSAB members.

**Reviewers Portal Information and Update**

Kristi Hagen will send out an email to all CSAB Members which will include the Results First presentation from the CSAB Annual Retreat held on October 6, 2023. The email will also contain the access link to the Reviewer's Portal. Kristi provided a brief demonstration of the Reviewer's Portal to CSAB Members. CSAB Members engaged in open discussion and shared helpful tips. Kristi reminded CSAB Members that funding investment application close on January 24, 2024.

**Staff Updates**

LaWanda Timmons provided the following updates:

- Reviewed recent compliance visits for the following programs and there was nothing of concern noted during the observations:
  - The Florida Center, Early Childhood Court
  - Early Learning Coalition, Nemours

Johanna Beville provided the following updates:

- Reviewed recent compliance visits for the following programs and there was nothing of concern noted during the observations:
  - Just for Girls, Stepping Up to Success
  - Just for Girls, Girls Alternative Program to Success

Melissa Bomar provided the following updates:

- Reviewed recent compliance visits for the following programs and there was nothing of concern noted during the observations:
  - Manatee Children's Services, Child Advocacy Center
  - Next Generation Academics, Alternative Path to Success
  - Insight Counseling, SOAR Program
  - United Community Center, Before and After School, Summer Enrichment +

Brenda Marquez-Facio provided the following updates:

- Reviewed recent compliance visits for the following programs and there was nothing of concern noted during the observations:
  - Step Up Suncoast, Collaborative Action Therapy for Children
  - Centerstone, Children’s Community Action Treatment Team
  - Safe Children Coalition, Family Preservation and Reunification

Kristi Hagen provided the following updates:

- Introduction of Patrica Miner, CSAB’s newly appointed Child Advocate. Patricia was appointed by the Board of County Commissioners on December 12, 2023.
- Provided the CSAB Members with a hard copy of the approved 2024/2025 Annual Plan and Review.
- Provided an update on the progress of agencies who have started applications for FY25 Results First and FY25 Results as Service consideration, and the current Sleep Baby Safely initiative consideration.

**Public Comment**

None

**Next Meeting**

February 14, 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 4:50 p.m.

**Approved**

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Connie Shingledecker, Chair

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Date