



Children's Services Advisory Board Meeting

March 22, 2023

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, 5th Floor Manatee Room on Wednesday March 22, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Present (In Person): Connie Shingledecker, Xtavia Bailey, Janet Vestal, Debbie Tapp, Jannon Pierce, Rita Smith, Susan Miller Kelly, Carolann Garafola, (Virtually): None. **Absent/Excused:** Gina Messenger, Kelly Hunt, and Hon. Scott Brownell; **Absent/Unexcused:** None.

Also Present: County Staff: (In Person) Tracie Adams, Kristi Hagen, Johanna Beville, Melissa Bomar, Brenda Marquez Facio, (Virtually) LaWanda Timmons; Members of Manatee County Commission: (In Person) Amanda Ballard; Members of the Public: Dawn Bryant, Drena Green, Linda Hedrick, Altagracia Lajara-Paredes, Anna Cismesia, Amy Yount, Charlie Kennedy, Renita Houston, Char Young, Peter Murawski, Kathy Patreka, (Virtually) Ashley Williams, Becky Canesse, Elida Mujic, Kaylen Hage, Mary Hughes, Bridget Harry, Ashley Williams, Susan Ford, and Zoya Shcherbinina.

Call to Order/Welcome

Connie Shingledecker, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Minutes for March 8, 2023, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Jannon Pierce, **Seconded by** Susan Miller Kelly, **Vote:** Motion passed (**Summary:** Yes = 7, No = 0, Abstain = 0). (In Person): Connie Shingledecker, Xtavia Bailey, Janet Vestal, Debbie Tapp, Jannon Pierce, Susan Miller Kelly, Carolann Garafola, (Virtually): None.

Discussion of Investment Applications

The CSAB Members had an open discussion on the review process and scoring. Five programs reviewed and listed below. Concerns or questions voiced are noted.

- Children's Home Society – Focus on Literacy After School Tutoring Program: *Initial CSAB Members scores were reviewed.*
 - *Program claimed priority: Funders, systems, policies, and practice align to ensure that our children have developmentally appropriate literacy skills. CSAB will consider as a priority by member consensus.*
 - *Program is requesting a funding increase and CSAB determined it may be considered for an increase by member consensus.*

Rita Smith entered at 3:10 pm

- Myakka City Community Center – Morning Care, After School, Camp Myakka (MAC): Initial CSAB Members scores were reviewed.
 - *Program claimed priority: Funders, systems, policies, and practice align to ensure that our children have developmentally appropriate literacy skills. CSAB will consider as a priority by member consensus.*
 - *Program is not requesting a funding increase.*
- Step Up Suncoast – Head Start/Early Head Start: Initial CSAB Members scores were reviewed.
 - *Program claimed priority: Funders, systems, policies, and practice align to ensure that our children have developmentally appropriate literacy skills. CSAB will consider as a priority by member consensus.*
 - *Program is requesting a funding increase and CSAB determined it may be considered for an increase by member consensus.*
- Step Up Suncoast – Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY): Initial CSAB Members scores were reviewed.
 - *Program claimed priority: Youth reduce their existing literacy gap towards age-appropriate literacy skills using an objective method. CSAB will consider as a priority by member consensus.*
 - *Program is requesting a funding increase and CSAB determined it may be considered for an increase by member consensus.*
- Step Up Suncoast – Parents as Teachers (PAT): Initial CSAB Members scores were reviewed.
 - *No priority claimed.*
 - *Program is requesting a funding increase and CSAB determined it may be considered for an increase by member consensus.*

Susan Miller Kelly exited at 4:08 pm

Susan Miller Kelly entered at 4:11 pm

Staff Updates

Johanna Beville provided the following updates:

- Working with assigned fiscal staff to complete fiscal reviews for FY23 for all assigned programs. Findings are to be determined and a follow-up report will be provided to the advisory board once the fiscal staff have provided their reports.

LaWanda Timmons provided the following updates:

- Collaborating with fiscal staff to complete fiscal reviews. At this time, reports have not been provided by fiscal staff.
- Compliance review visits conducted for SafePlace2B, Family Resources, there was nothing of concern noted during the observation.

Melissa Bomar provided the following updates:

- Fiscal reviews have commenced.

- Reviewed recent compliance visits for the following programs and there was nothing of concern noted during the observations:
 - Child Advocacy Center, Manatee Children's Services
 - Teen Health Educators, Healthy Teens
 - Alternative Path to Success, Next Generation Academics
 - Helping Young People Excel, Palmetto Youth Center
 - Foundation for Excellence, Palmetto Youth Center
- Attended a theatrical event called "Behind the Mask". Replay Outreach clients and staff participated in this play for the community to illustrate a tribute to an OB-GYN that struggled with peer pressure and poverty while growing up. He ended up being a staple within his community. Replay Outreach clients showed dedication, maturity, character building, positive direction, and appropriate socialization skills.

Brenda Marquez Facio provided the following updates:

- All fiscal reviews have been completed for assigned programs with no concerns or issues found.
- Reviewed recent compliance visits for the following programs and there was nothing of concern noted during the observations:
 - Myakka Area Community Center
 - Family Preservation Reunification
 - Family Support Services
 - Healthy Families
 - Centerstone
 - CAT
 - Baker Act
 - Sexual Assault Child Advocacy and Therapy
 - Big Brother's Big Sister's

Kristi Hagen provided the following updates:

- Please arrive to the Manatee Room 10-15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the meeting.
- Reminder to follow the timeline for application reviews and noted the importance of CSAB members submitting their questions according to the timeline, along with submitting initial and final scores for the applications.
- Final scores are due the Friday after the meeting in which the programs are discussed.
- Wear blue for next week's CSAB meeting scheduled on Wednesday March 29, 2023, as April 1, 2023, is Pinwheels for Prevention. Commit to prevent child abuse. Photo will be taken.

Public Comment

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

(In Person): Renita Houston, Anna Cismesia, Kathy Patreka, Amy Yount, Peter Murawski, and Altagracia Lajara-Paredes; (Virtually): None.

- Renita Houston, Children's Home Society of Florida: Thanked the CSAB Members for their funding for fiscal year 2023 at Manatee Elementary. Addressed questions posed to the program during the funding review.
- Anna Cismesia, Step Up Suncoast: Addressed questions posed to the program during the funding review.
- Kathy Patreka, Step Up Suncoast: Addressed questions posed to the program during the funding review.
- Amy Yount, Step Up Suncoast: Thanked CSAB members for their time, effort, and energy to review the program applications year after year. Commended the Children's Services staff for the ongoing help and support throughout the year. Spoke on the current state of the economy and how it impacts the programs. Addressed questions posed to the program during the funding review.
- Peter Murawski, Step Up Suncoast: Thanked CSAB members for their support in the challenging economic times. Addressed questions posed to the program during the funding review.
- Altagracia Lajara-Paredes, Step Up Suncoast: Thanked CSAB members for their support. Discussed the impact HIPPOY has in the community. Spoke on not being able to present to the CSAB members due to conflicting schedules but looks forward to doing so in the future.

New/Old Business

Xtavia Bailey is working with Roger's Garden Elementary School leadership team, encouraged programs working in early literacy and early education to reach out to Roger's Garden's leadership team to begin brainstorming ideas for a new program.

Next Meeting

March 29, 2023 – 3:00 pm, Manatee County Administration Building, 1112 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, Florida, Manatee/Osprey Rooms, 5th floor.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

Approved

Connie Shingledecker, Chair

Date