



Children's Services Advisory Board Meeting

February 22, 2022

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 February 22, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Also Present: County Staff: (In Person) Kristi Hagen, Johanna Beville, Melissa Bomar, and Brenda Marquez Facio, (Virtually) LaWanda Timmons; Members of the Public: (In Person) Deirdre Guilloton, Gemma Clayson, Elida Mujic, Frank Perry, Sean Staffieri, Rebecca Harg, Gretchen Micheauy, Dawn Bryant, Char Young, Drena Green, Sean Gingras, Jennifer Powers, Jonathan Evans, Katie Becker, Kelly Benford, Kimberly Kutch, Nathan Scott, Nicole Leslie, Andrew Coble, Charmian Miller, Hon. Lee Haworth, and Pam Hodge, (Virtually) Katrina Bellamare, Crystal Cook, Becky Canesse, Lawrence Rose, Kaylen Hage, Julia Roberston, Stacey Schaeffer, Cheryl Andrews, Denise McGirr, Bridget Harry, Sandra Richendollar, and Melinda Thompson.

Call to Order/Welcome

Xtavia Bailey, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Minutes for January 18, 2023, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Carolann Garafola, **Seconded by** Susan Miller Kelly, **Vote:** Motion passed (**Summary:** Yes = 10, No = 0, Abstain = 0). (In Person): Xtavia Bailey, Janet Vestal, Kelly Hunt, Gina Messenger, Debbie Tapp, Jannon Pierce, Rita Smith, Susan Miller Kelly, Carolann Garafola, (Virtually): Hon. Scott Brownell, and Jannon Pierce.

Motion: Minutes for February 15, 2023, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Susan Miller Kelly, **Seconded by** Carolann Garafola, **Vote:** Motion passed (**Summary:** Yes = 10, No = 0, Abstain = 0). (In Person): Xtavia Bailey, Janet Vestal, Kelly Hunt, Gina Messenger, Debbie Tapp, Rita Smith, Susan Miller Kelly, Carolann Garafola, (Virtually): Hon. Scott Brownell, and Jannon Pierce.

Recognition/Thank You Presentation

Xtavia Bailey presented Kimberly Kutch with a Certificate of Appreciation for 21 years of volunteer service as a Children's Services Advisory Board member. Kimberly spoke of her appreciation for the recognition and gratitude for the opportunity to serve the children of Manatee County.

Discussion of Investment Applications

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

- Centerstone of Florida – Children's Community Action Treatment (CAT) Team: *Initial CSAB Members scores were reviewed.*

- *Program claimed priority: Youth decrease symptoms of behavioral health issues as identified objectively by a measure of level of functioning as determined by the program. CSAB Members will consider as a priority by member consensus.*
- *Program is requesting a funding increase and CSAB Members determined it may be considered for an increase by member consensus.*

Jannon Pierce entered physically at 3:30 pm

Motion: Revise the CSAB Decision Making Guide wording for Box 1, Number 2 to reflect the following wording: 2. Hire, train, retain key staff. **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Jannon Pierce, **Seconded by** Janet Vestal, **Vote:** Motion passed (**Summary:** Yes = 10, No = 0, Abstain = 0). (In Person): Xtavia Bailey, Janet Vestal, Kelly Hunt, Gina Messenger, Debbie Tapp, Jannon Pierce, Rita Smith, Susan Miller Kelly, Carolann Garafola, (Virtually): Hon. Scott Brownell. **Public Comment:** None.

- Family Resources, Inc. – SafePlace2B: *Initial CSAB Members scores were reviewed.*
 - *Program claimed priority: Children remain in their homes free of abuse and neglect and do not enter or re-enter foster care. CSAB Members will consider as a priority by member consensus.*
 - *Program is not requesting a funding increase.*
- The Florida Center – Early Childhood Court: *Initial CSAB Members scores were reviewed.*
 - *Program claimed priority: Children in foster care gain a permanent, stable, and nurturing home within 12 months of entering care and remain there. CSAB Members will consider as a priority by member consensus.*
 - *Program is not requesting a funding increase.*

Connie Shingledecker entered virtually at 3:56pm

- Safe Children Coalition, Inc – Child Welfare Prevention Program (formerly the In-Home Child Welfare Prevention and Diversion Program): *Initial CSAB Members scores were reviewed.*
 - *Program claimed priority: Children remain in their homes free of abuse and neglect and do not enter or re-enter foster care. CSAB Members will consider as a priority by member consensus.*
 - *Program is requesting a funding increase and CSAB Members determined it may be considered for an increase by member consensus.*
- Safe Children Coalition, Inc – Family Preservation and Reunification Program: *Initial CSAB Members scores were reviewed.*
 - *Program claimed priority: Children remain in their homes free of abuse and neglect and do not enter or re-enter foster care. CSAB Members will consider as a priority by member consensus.*
 - *Program is not requesting a funding increase.*
- Florida Department of Health – SarasotaChild and Family Well-Being Policy Coordination Program: *This is not a scored application. Kristi Hagen shared this is an interlocal agreement and not a Results as Service nor Results First program. The application provided was solely for information.*
 - *Program claimed priority: Children in foster care gain a permanent, stable, and nurturing home within 12 months of entering care and remain there. CSAB Members will consider as a priority by member consensus.*
 - *Program is requesting a funding increase and CSAB Members determined it will be considered for an increase by member consensus.*

Staff Updates

Kristi Hagen provided the following updates:

- Shared an update on the vacant Children's Services Advisory Board member positions:
 - There is a Department of Children and Families recommended representative who will be submitting her application to the BOCC. Her name is Debra Allen-Johnson from the Office of Child Welfare and is a Manatee County resident.
 - Continue to have an open position for a physician.

LaWanda Timmons provided the following updates:

- All Quarter 1 requirement reports have been submitted for her assigned programs and no concerns found.
- Reviewed recent compliance visits for The Florida Center and report indicates there was nothing of concern noted during the observation.

Brenda Marquez Facio provided the following updates:

- Reviewed recent compliance visit for Easter Seals' Children's Therapy earlier today and there was nothing of concern noted during the observation.
- Conducting Fiscal Reviews of programs alongside assigned fiscal staff.

New/Old Business

None

Public Comment

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

(In Person): Sean Gingras, Nathan Scott, Kimberly Kutch, Lee Haworth, Andy Coble, Elida Mujic, and Sean Staffieri; (Virtually): None.

- Sean Gingras, Centerstone: Spoke on the Centerstone CAT Team. There is no specific match funding requirement for the CAT Team. The dollars provided by Manatee County Children's Services is used to obtain match dollars for the organization. Addressed concerns regarding the request for increase confirming it is for program key staff and not the agency.
- Nathan Scott, Florida Department of Health: Spoke on behalf of the Child and Wellbeing Policy Coordination Program and thanked the CSAB members for their review and his excitement for the Parents for Parents Program to provide peer support to those parents who have had their children removed.
- Kimberly Kutch, Florida Department of Health: Spoke on the Community Alliance (Family Safety Alliance for Circuit 12) in statute and the implemented effort to have a circuit-wide system advocate that was a recommended initiative of Judge Haworth's, and the positive impacts this has had locally and on a district level. This program is identified as a model and best practice throughout the state.
- Lee Haworth: Spoke on the value of the Family Safety Alliance and the Child and Family Wellbeing Policy Coordination Program. Reviewed all the necessary services provided and the duties increasing for the program.
- Andy Coble, Family Resources: Thanked the CSAB for their support and addressed the concerns the CSAB Members had for staffing challenges they have been experiencing stating an offer will be made to a candidate on Thursday, February 23.
- Elida Mujic, Department of Children and Families: Thanked CSAB members for funding Child and Family Wellbeing Policy Coordination Program and the work done that brings stakeholders

together to move prevention upstream. She also mentioned the greater impacts the program has locally and across the state.

- Sean Staffieri, Safe Children's Coalition: Thanked the CSAB Members for the work they do to review the applications. Reviewed the services the program provides and aims to decrease the number of removals and work to have timely reunifications. Spoke on the scope of impact their successes have on tax-payer dollars and the results for current fiscal year.

Next Meeting

March 1, 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 4:41 p.m.

Approved

Connie Shingledecker, Chair

Date