



Children's Services Advisory Board Meeting

December 13, 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, December 13, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Also Present: County Staff: (In Person) Tracie Adams, LaWanda Timmons, Melissa Bomar, and Brenda Marquez Facio (Virtually) Kristi Hagen, Johanna Beville; Members of the Public: (In Person) Stuart Offner, Elena Casella, Devonte Ousley, Carolyn McBean, Dreena Green, Jeanie Baik, Char Young, Dawn Bryant, Valarie Green, Brandi McArthur; (Virtually) Derrick Randall, Rachel Spivey, and Becky Canesse.

Call to Order/Welcome

Connie Shingledecker, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Minutes for October 18, 2023 **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Jannon Pierce, **Seconded by** Carolann Garafola, **Vote:** Motion passed (**Summary:** Yes = 8, No = 0, Abstain = 0). (In Person): Debbie Tapp, Connie Shingledecker, Xtavia Bailey, Kelly Hunt, Jannon Pierce, Rita Smith, Carolann Garafola, Constance Charles-Logan

Motion: Minutes for November 15, 2023 **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Jannon Pierce, **Seconded by** Carolann Garafola, **Vote:** Motion passed (**Summary:** Yes = 8, No = 0, Abstain = 0). (In Person): Debbie Tapp, Connie Shingledecker, Xtavia Bailey, Kelly Hunt, Jannon Pierce, Rita Smith, Carolann Garafola, Constance Charles-Logan.

Program Presentation- Foundation for Dreams; Dream Oaks Camp

Elena Casella from Foundation for Dreams provided a presentation on the Dream Oaks Camp program and services that the program provides to the children and parents within Manatee County. Devonte Ousley, Camp Director, provided testimony from some of the children. Stuart Offner, a program participant's parent, detailed the services that his daughter receives at the camp and praised the program's staff for their empathy, kindness, and expertise.

Program Presentation- One to One Mentoring; Big Brothers Big Sisters Suncoast

Jeanie Biak from Big Brothers Big Sisters Suncoast's One to One Mentoring program provided history, program updates, shared information on the services the program provides to clients and families, recent results from FY22-23, and plans for the program for FY24. Ms. Biak provided a brief PowerPoint and fielded questions from CSAB members.

Program Presentation- AMIKids Manatee Prevention Program; AMIKids Manatee

Carolyn McBean from AMIKids Prevention provided a history on the AMIKids program and shared an update on the status of the program. Ms. McBean shared information on the services the program provides to clients through academic success, robotics, STEM, and agricultural sustenance. Ms. McBean presented a PowerPoint and fielded questions from CSAB members.

Staff Updates

LaWanda Timmons provided the following updates:

- Reviewed recent compliance visits for PACE Center for Girls- Pregnancy Prevention Program and there was nothing of concern noted during the observation.

Melissa Bomar provided the following updates:

- Reviewed recent compliance visits for the following programs and there was nothing of concern noted during the observations:
 - Boys & Girls Club- Great Futures Start Here Program
 - Boys & Girls Club- Teen Program
 - Replay Outreach- Success4Life Program
 - Insight- S.O.A.R. Program

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:
 - Feeding Empty Little Tummys-Weekend Meals Program
 - Children's Home Society of Florida- Manatee Focus on Literacy Program

Kristi Hagen provided the following updates:

- Annual Plan was reviewed and approved by the Board of County Commissioners on December 12, 2023.
- Also on December 12, 2023, the Board of County Commissioners appointed Patricia Miner as the new Child Advocate for the CSAB. Her term runs through September 30, 2025.
- Investment meeting for the Children's Services application process was held on December 6, 2023.
- The investment applications are currently open and will close on January 24, 2024, at 5pm.
- FY23 annual program reviews will be sent out via email to the CSAB members. Hard copies will be made available at the January meeting.
- The Sleep Baby Safely initiative application information meeting will be held via zoom on Friday, January 5, 2024. The application will open on January 5, 2024, and close on January 26, 2024.

New/Old Business

Debbie Tapp requested an update on the status of the Rubonia Community Center. Kristi Hagen shared that Kids Club had previously provided their Letter of Intent, but has since been unable to obtain the required Department Children and Families licensure. Mrs. Hagen has been in

communication with Rubonia Community Center's administration and will keep the CSAB Members updated on any newly obtained information.

Xtavia Bailey mentioned the importance of bullying prevention and would like to see programs include additional methods of bullying prevention and intervention.

Public Comment

None

Next Meeting

January 17, 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 3:40 p.m.

Approved

Connie Shingledecker, Chair

Date