



Children's Services Advisory Board Meeting

April 19, 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 April 19, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

Roll Call

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

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) Mary Tavarozzi, Becky McDonough, Danielle Visone, Alexdrena Green, Char Young, Eugenia Gainers, Amy Wick Mavis, Christi Haley, Nicole Murby, Kristie Geimer, Dawn Bryant, (Virtually) Becky Canesse, Susan Ford, Kaylen Hage, Zoya Shcherbinina, Susan Cappiello, Francesca Ricciardo.

Call to Order/Welcome

Connie Shingledecker, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Deferred to the next meeting scheduled for April 26, 2023.

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.

- Mental Health Counseling Program - ALSO For Gay Youth Inc.: *This is a new program applying for funding from the Manatee County Children's Millage. Initial CSAB Members scores were reviewed.*
 - *Program claimed priority: Children demonstrate improved behavioral functioning. CSAB will consider as a priority by member consensus.*

Rita Smith entered at 3:15 pm

- Children's Therapy - EASTER SEALS SOUTHWEST FLORIDA: *Initial CSAB Members scores were reviewed.*
 - *Program claimed priority: Children demonstrate improved behavioral functioning. CSAB will consider as a priority by member consensus.*
 - *Program is requesting a funding increase and CSAB members determined, by consensus, the consideration for the requested increase will be tabled until after*

public comment in hopes the program will address the questions CSAB members voiced.

Xtavia Bailey entered virtually at 3:24 pm

- SOAR Program (Sexual Offense & Abuse Rehabilitation) - Insight Counseling Services, Inc.: *Initial CSAB Members scores were reviewed.*
 - *Program claimed priority: Children demonstrate improved behavioral functioning. 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.*
- Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Project - Pace Center for Girls, Manatee: *Initial CSAB Members scores were reviewed.*
 - *Program claimed priority: Children demonstrate improved behavioral functioning. CSAB 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 consensus.*
- Blue Butterfly School Program - Tidewell Foundation Inc: *Initial CSAB Members scores were reviewed.*
 - *Program claimed priority: Children demonstrate improved behavioral functioning. CSAB will consider as a priority by member consensus.*

Staff Updates

Johanna Beville provided the following updates:

- Conducted Counseling Standards Reviews for the following programs and there was nothing of concern noted during the reviews:
 - PACE- Pregnancy Prevention
 - Insight- SOAR

Melissa Bomar provided the following updates:

- Reviewed recent compliance visit conducted for Foundation for Dreams, Dream Oaks and there was nothing of concern noted during the observation.

New/Old Business

Melissa Bomar provided an update on the answers Palmetto Youth Center staff provided for the CSAB Members after the funding review meetings for the Foundation For Excellence Program (Batch 6 – April 5). Discussion ensued amongst the CSAB Members. Melissa fielded questions from CSAB members to clarify the answers provided. There are concerns about the submitted budgets for staff funding and the possibility of duplication of services for clients within this agency's programs that receive investment from Children's Services millage.

Public Comment

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

(In Person): Mary Tavarozzi, Becky McDonough, Christi Haley, Amy Wick Davis, Nicole Murby, Danielle Visone; (Virtually): None.

- Becky McDonough, ALSO for Gay Youth: Spoke of her appreciation to speak to the CSAB Members on the program. Provided background on her career and her position as the Executive Director. Spoke on the model currently in operation in the Sarasota location and that Manatee County clients are being served there.
- Mary Tavarozzi, ALSO for Gay Youth: Thanked the CSAB Members for their time to review. Spoke on the history of the program and agency and the importance of not turning youth away despite where they reside and the pride the agency has in serving the youth. Spoke on her excitement to be able to provide in-person services.
- Amy Wick Davis, PACE Center for Girls: Thanked the CSAB Members for their support and ongoing investment. Reviewed the recent changes made to the home location of the program and their fundraising to pay for the new buildings to serve more girls.
- Christi Haley, PACE Center for Girls: Spoke on the increase requested and the importance of the Transition Services Result and to expand the number of clients served.
- Danielle Visone, Tidewell Hospice: Thanked the CSAB Members for the recommendation for funding for current FY23. Clarified the program did receive an MOU with the School District of Manatee County.
- Nicole Murby, Easter Seals Southwest Florida: Spoke on the agency history in the area and the funding support needed to improve the lives of the clients they served. Provided a summary of the growth of the program due to the needs of the community. Addressed concerns for funding increase and clarified the increase of therapies provided to the children instead of increasing the number of clients served. Reviewed the criteria the program utilizes to identify the risk factors for clients.

Xtavia Bailey entered virtually at 4:14 pm

Revisit of Programs Requesting Funding Increase

Children's Therapy - EASTER SEALS OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA: CSAB members reviewed the program's funding increase request and determined it may be considered for an increase by member consensus and will be discussed further at the Buffer Meeting.

Next Meeting

April 26, 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 4:23 p.m.

Approved

Connie Shingledecker, Chair

Date

