



## Children's Services Advisory Board Meeting

April 26, 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, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Manatee Room on Wednesday April 26, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

### Roll Call

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

**Also Present:** County Staff: (In Person) Kristi Hagen, Johanna Beville, Melissa Bomar, and Brenda Marquez Facio (Virtually) LaWanda Timmons, Members of Manatee County Commission: (In Person) None, (Virtually); Members of the Public: (In Person) Alexdrena Green, Ebony King, Andrew Colbe, Tari Allen, Dawn Bryant, Jonathan Evans, Char Young, Reggie Bellamy, Katherine Becker, Emma Vallentire, Sean Gingras, Kelly French, and Paul Fowler (Virtually) Dora Amaro, Becky Cenesse, Laurel Lynch, Melissa Washington, Susan Ford, Melissa Leslie, and Zoya Shcherbinina.

### Call to Order/Welcome

Debbie Tapp is facilitating the meeting and issued the call to order at 3:01 p.m.

### Approval of Minutes

Deferred to the next meeting scheduled for May 3, 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 Evaluation - Baker Act Youth - Centerstone of 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 determined it may be considered for an increase by member consensus.*

### Rita Smith entered at 3:06 pm

- Sexual Assault (Rape Crisis) Child Advocacy and Therapy - Centerstone of Florida: *Initial CSAB members scores were reviewed.*
  - *Program claimed no priority.*
  - *Program is requesting a funding increase and CSAB determined it may be considered for an increase by members consensus.*

- CERTAIN (Community Effort to Reduce Truancy by Assessing Individualized Needs) - Family Resources, Inc.: *Initial CSAB members scores were reviewed.*
  - *Program claimed no priority.*
  - *Program is requesting a funding increase and CSAB determined it may be considered for an increase by members consensus.*

***Susan Miller Kelly entered at 3:23 pm***

- Children's Counseling Program - HOPE Family Services, Inc.: *Initial CSAB members scores were reviewed.*
  - *Program claimed no priority.*
  - *Program is requesting a funding increase and CSAB determined it may be considered for an increase by members consensus.*
- Housing-Focused Family Shelter Program - The Salvation Army:- *Initial CSAB members scores were reviewed.*
  - *Program claimed no priority.*
  - *Program is not requesting a funding increase.*

**Staff Updates**

Johanna Beville provided the following update:

- Reviewed a recent compliance visit for Just for Girls for the GAPs program and there was nothing of concern noted during the observations.

LaWanda Timmons provided the following updates:

- Noted she recently accompanied Johanna Beville on a compliance visit to the Just for Girls GAPS program and confirmed there was nothing of concern noted during the observation.
- Fiscal staff has conducted their Reviews for the following programs:
  - Early Learning Coalition (3 Programs)
  - Hope Family Services
  - Educational Consultant Consortium
  - Parenting Matters (2 Programs)
  - The Florida Center
  - Family Resources (2 Programs)

Kristi Hagen provided the following update:

- Reviewed the Blue Butterfly program, Tidewell Foundation - application, this would be considered a new program. Although they have received investment through Manatee County's Children's Services millage, the amount of funding and services they are proposing to provide are not the same as what was provided in the current funding year (FY23). This was not mentioned during the meeting, but should be noted and will be mentioned in old/new business next week. members should keep this in mind as they finish up submissions for Batch 8.

Melissa Bomar provided the following update:

- Shared an update on the answers Palmetto Youth Center staff provided following the concerns voiced by CSAB members during the last meeting on April 19, 2023.

### New/Old Business

CSAB members requested to revisit the Palmetto Youth Center's Foundation For Excellence Program to discuss. Melissa Bomar fielded additional questions from CSAB members.

Debbie Tapp encouraged the CSAB members to provide any additional outstanding questions for agencies to Kristi Hagen via email no later than May 5, 2023.

Susan Miller Kelly asked if there is a possibility of having the date included on the header of footer of the documents provided to the CSAB members. Janet Vestal also requested to have the batch number included.

Debbie Tapp encouraged members to make notes as the meetings progress so members can provide recommendations for the process next year during the June 2023 CSAB meeting.

### Public Comment

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

(In Person): Char Young, Sean Gringras, Emma Vallentire, Andrew Colbe, Reggie Bellamy;  
(Virtually): Melissa Washington.

- Char Young, Hope Family Services: Thanked the CSAB members for all they do. Spoke on the attempts to link with the schools to allow staff back into the school with limited progress. Discussed the dedicated children's counseling center. The building is ready with anticipated opening date in October 2023 to provide more services in a child-friendly environment.
- Sean Gringras, Centerstone of Florida: Spoke on the programs reviewed during today's meeting. Shared the reasoning behind the increase in funding request is for staffing as a means of remaining competitive in wages. Staff turnover rates are a challenge across all programs. Expanded on the funding match information from the funding application for the two programs reviewed during today's meeting, "I wanted to address was the match Calculation both of our programs. Mental health evaluation, as well of sexual assault. advocacy, and therapy receive State grant funds. and the State Grant funds require 25% match from other sources. Non-federal resources. We utilize the funding from the county to meet those match requirements. We received our match requirement from Central Florida behavioral health as an aggregate number across all of our programs. So in in our response we show 5.5 million match dollars used last year. We, that is what the aggregate amount was. We don't have a specific sexual assault value or specific mental health evaluation number it. It gets all rolled into one."
- Emma Valentine, Centerstone of Florida: Reviewed the outcomes from last year and proposed funding year.
- Kelly French, Salvation Army: Thanked the CSAB members for all their hard work to review all the funding applications and the service to the community. Spoke on the expansion and the City of Bradenton permitting is under review and the project is on hold until the City of Bradenton has made their determination.
- Andrew Coble, Family Resources: Spoke on the outcomes and data tracking and the history of the agreements being in one result and program sought to pull apart into two results. Pertaining to the outcome tracking and the truancy task force and limited staffing.
- Reggie Bellamy, Palmetto Youth Center: Thanked the CSAB members and Children's Services staff for their hard work and dedication. Spoke on the essential services Palmetto Youth Center provides to the community across its numerous programs.

Reviewed the grassroots efforts and other services the agency provides outside of the funded programs and the hopes this will increase clients in the funded programs.

- Melissa Washington, Palmetto Youth Center: Spoke on the enrollment numbers and how the agency hosts other programs to increase the number of clients registered to participate in the Children's Services Millage funding programs. Reviewed how the agency is seeking to enrich the daily lives of the clients and improvements in reading, behaviors, healthy eating, etc. Understands the program achieving the target number of clients served and served for the results. Thanked the CSAB members for their services and how it provides programs with the ability to impact the youth across the county.

### Next Meeting

May 3, 2023 – 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 4:16 p.m.

### Approved

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Connie Shingledecker, Chair

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Date