



Children's Services Advisory Board Meeting

March 1, 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 1, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Present (In Person): Connie Shingledecker, Hon. Scott Brownell, Janet Vestal, Debbie Tapp, Rita Smith, Susan Miller Kelly, Carolann Garafola, (Virtually): Kelly Hunt, Jannon Pierce. **Absent/Excused:** Gina Messenger; **Absent/Unexcused:** Xtavia Bailey.

Also Present: County Staff: (In Person) Johanna Beville, Melissa Bomar, Brenda Marquez Facio, (Virtually) Kristi Hagen; Members of the Public: (In Person) Drena Green, Julia Robertson, Cheryl Andrews, Char Young, Katie Becker, Kelly Benford, Bridget Harris, Melinda Thompson, (Virtually) Becky Canesse, Julia Robertson, Laurel Lynch, Jocina Newsome, Susan Ford, Denise McGirr, Lawrence Rose, Zoya Shcherbinina, Kimberly Kutch, and Christi Haley.

Call to Order/Welcome

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Minutes for February 22, 2023, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Hon Scott Brownell, **Seconded by** Susan Miller Kelly, **Vote:** Motion passed (**Summary:** Yes = 9, No = 0, Abstain = 0). (In Person): Connie Shingledecker, Hon. Scott Brownell, Janet Vestal, Debbie Tapp, Rita Smith, Susan Miller Kelly, Carolann Garafola, (Virtually): Kelly Hunt, Jannon Pierce.

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.

- Parenting Matters – Chosen Families: *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 will consider as a priority by member consensus.*
 - *Program is not requesting a funding increase.*
- Parenting Matters – Parent Partner 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 will consider as a priority by member consensus.*
 - *Program is requesting a funding increase and CSAB determined by member consensus it may be considered based on final determinations during the May 17, 2023 (Buffer) meeting.*

- Manatee Children's Services – Child Advocacy Center: *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 will consider as a priority by member consensus.*
 - *Program is requesting a funding increase and CSAB determined by member consensus it may be considered based on final determinations during the May 17, 2023 (Buffer) meeting.*
- Manatee Children's Services – Kids Personal Safety: *Initial CSAB Members scores were reviewed.*
 - *No priority claimed.*
 - *Program is requesting a funding increase and CSAB determined by member consensus it may be considered based on final determinations during the May 17, 2023 (Buffer) meeting.*
- Manatee Children's Services – Residential: *Initial CSAB Members scores were reviewed.*
 - *No priority claimed.*
 - *Program is not requesting a funding increase.*

Staff Updates

Kristi Hagen provided the following updates:

- Encouraged CSAB Members to review their funding meeting review timelines.
- Batch 4 was sent out early so the members who are up to date in their reviews, they may continue without losing pace.

Johanna Beville provided the following updates:

- Reviewed recent compliance visits for the following programs and there was nothing of concern noted during the observations:
 - Insight S.O.A.R.
 - Children's Home Society- Manatee Elementary- Program has made progress in working with staff to revise the program's Milestones and Verifications and improve their tracking methods for client success.
- Continuing to work with Feeding Empty Little Tummys to problem solve their current issues with providing a current financial compilation and letter from an independent CPA firm.

New/Old Business

Connie Shingledecker expressed her thanks and appreciation to Xtavia Bailey for her assistance of stepping in to lead the CSAB Meetings while Connie was not able to be physically present.

Carolann Garafola attended a luncheon today with County Commissioner George Kruse. Carolann questioned the Commissioner, as a member of the public, to determine if there are any plans to increase the Children's Millage rate. Carolann reports the answer she was provided is as follows: In the last 2 years he has led the charge to reduce the millage rates on citizen tax bills. He will be looking at what can be taken from the general fund to disperse into other groups to avoid increasing millage rates. Connie Shingledecker thanked Carolann for the update and her work to increase awareness for the Manatee County Children's Millage. Connie expanded and voiced her appreciation to the citizens who felt this initiative was important enough to vote to impose the Children's Millage tax on themselves as there are many areas across Florida and the nation who do not have anything like it.

Public Comment

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

(In Person): Cheryl Andrews, Melinda Thompson, Julia Robertson, Katie Becker, and Becky Canesse;
(Virtually): None.

- Cheryl Andrews, Manatee Children's Services: Spoke on the outcomes of the Children's Advocacy Center program and provided additional details to the CSAB members.
- Melinda Thompson, Manatee Children's Services: Forfeit her 3 minutes of public comment time to Cheryl Andrews to continue to address CSAB Member concerns.
- Julia Robertson, Manatee Children's Services: Addressed the CSAB members comments concerning the agency's work to increase, supplement, and diversify funding.
- Katie Becker, Parenting Matters: Thanked CSAB members for their careful review of the funding applications. Provided clarification on the programs they are requesting funding for through the applications and reasoning behind the funding increase request. Spoke on the waitlist and caseloads the Parenting Educators programs serve.
- Becky Canesse, Just for Girls: Thanked the CSAB Members for the time they put into the funding application review process and for reviewing all the program applications. Spoke on the thoughtful conversations she has observed and the key role programs like these have in saving taxpayers \$7 to \$10 for every dollar invested. Becky feels there is no better investment than this for tax dollars, especially when the programs work to get ahead of these issues with these young children to make an enormous difference in their lives and in our community.

Next Meeting

March 8, 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