



Children's Services Advisory Board Meeting

November 10, 2021

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 November 10, 2021, at 3:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Present (In Person): Debbie Tapp, Hon. Scott Brownell, Jennifer Hamey, Charlie Kennedy, Carolann Garafola (Virtually): Connie Shingledecker, Jannon Pierce, and Rita Smith. **Absent/Excused:** Xtavia Bailey, George VanBuren, Kimberly Kutch, and Kelly Hunt; **Absent/Unexcused:** Susan Miller Kelly.

Also Present: County Staff: (In Person), Kristi Hagen, Chris Handy-Honeycutt, Johanna Beville, Charles Lee; Members of the Public: (In Person) Elena Cassella, Stacey McKee, Char Young, Patrick Ryan, Nicole Murby, Laurel Lynch, (Virtually) phone number 1-941-705-4667.

Call to Order/Welcome

Debbie Tapp, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

No quorum present and approval of minutes for the October 20, 2021 meeting will occur during the next scheduled meeting on December 8, 2021.

Foundation for Dreams-Program Update

Elena Cassella, Executive Director for Foundation for Dreams, provided an overview of the program and services. Approximately 80% of children/families who attend the camp receive financial assistance/support. The program is growing and looking to expand to a new (Manatee County) location in the future. The agency collaborates with other agencies (Johns Hopkins, All Children's Hospital, Jewish Family and Children's Services, Parenting Matters, etc.) to provide services for families with children who have special needs. Stacey Holwigger, a parent whose daughter attends camp, spoke on the experience of her daughter's participation in day, weekend, and week camps over the years.

Easter Seals-Program Update

Pat Ryan, Easter Seals Chief Operating Officer, provided an overview and summary of the agency services including some program expansions to serve Manatee County citizens.

Nicole Murby, Sr. Director of Therapy and Partnerships, spoke on the programs directly funded by the Children's Millage. Currently there is approximately a year-long waitlist to be evaluated and assessed for a mental health diagnosis. A medical diagnosis is required for families to obtain appropriate services.

Sarasota Manatee Association for Riding Therapy-Program Update

Rebecca Blitz, Executive Director for S.M.A.R.T., provided an overview and summary of the agency's services provided by two (2) staff members and many volunteers, who have logged over 15,000 volunteer hours (pivotal for program operation). Rebecca responded to a CSAB question that the Agency is able to bill insurance companies, Medicaid/Medicare and obtain some supplemental income

and they do so on a reimbursement basis, services are paid up front then reimbursement is made to the client.

Reflection of Retreat Conversation

Review and handout of notes reflecting the CSAB annual retreat which was held on Friday, November 5, 2021 at the Manatee County Administration Building, Manatee Room and via Zoom from 8:30am – 4:00pm. Items listed (below) are clarifications that were requested:

Staff requested from the CSAB clarification for the wording of Priority C. CSAB members discussed and clarified that Priority C is to focus on children who have a determined deficit in literacy skills to make extraordinary progress to close the gap towards literacy. Proper verbiage for the priority has been determined as, "Children who are identified with below age-appropriate literacy skills, reduce their existing literacy gap between below age-appropriate towards age-appropriate literacy skills."

Priority D is being reviewed, researched, and determined for consideration of the CSAB by a subcommittee consisting of current members: Kim Kutch, Jennifer Hamey, Debbie Tapp, Connie Shingledecker and Kelly Hunt; and is supported by staff: Charles Lee and Kristi Hagen.

Kristi Hagen clarified the budget provided by each program request is the program budget, not the agency budget. There were some questions on some expenditure lines, the additional itemization forms required are: Administrative Expenses, Professional Fees, and Miscellaneous Expenses.

Reviewer's guidance, applicant guidance, and edits to some questions on the FY22/23 application will be updated to provide CSAB members with better and clearer information in their effort to give their best recommendations to the Manatee County Board of County Commission.

Staff Updates

LaWanda Timmons provided the following updates:

- Quarter 4 reports are being reviewed and findings will be shared during the December CSAB meeting,
- Staff are working to schedule compliance visits with their agencies. A hand-out was provided to CSAB members reflecting invested programs and the associated staff assigned. Members are encouraged to reach out to the appropriate contract manager to shadow a compliance visit. Staff business cards were made available during the meeting.

Kristi Hagen provided the following updates:

- Manatee County Local Law Seminar is scheduled for Wednesday, November 17, 2021, from 1pm to 5pm via Zoom. Registration link was emailed to all members.
- Manatee County Rural Health has a health and nutrition expo scheduled for November 20, 2021.
- Boys and Girls Club sent a thank you card to the CSAB.
- Request for Legal Services has been submitted per the motion provided during the October 20, 2021, CSAB meeting regarding whether or not the Children's Millage could be utilized for the local childcare licensing.
- BOCC will potentially be requesting a work session on child welfare/foster care, there is no date yet.

New/Old Business

Jennifer Hamey provided information on the Parrish Hometown Christmas & Tree Lighting Event on December 11, 2021, from 4pm-8pm.

Charlie Kennedy shared the Multicultural Healthcare Alliance is hosting vaccinations and boosters.

Carolann expressed her appreciation for the retreat and feels the meeting was helpful to bring her up to speed and appreciative of the CSAB and staff members.

Debbie Tapp encouraged CSAB members who have been assigned to the Priority D workgroup to schedule a meeting. This needs to be resolved by Friday, December 3 for review and approval during the December 8, 2021, meeting.

Public Comment

None

Next Meeting

December 8, 2021, at 3:00 pm, Manatee County Administration Building, 1112 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, Florida, Manatee Room (CSAB) and Osprey Room (Public Observers), 5th floor.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

Approved

Debbie Tapp, Chair

Date