



Children's Services Advisory Board

August 21, 2019

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, BCC Conference Room, Bradenton, FL 34205, on Wednesday August 21, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Xtavia Bailey, Sandra Stone, Jeremy Giddens, Kimberly Kutch, Cornelle Maxfield, Gina Messenger, Debbie Tapp, Gail Wynne, George Van Buren.

Absent/Excused: Amy Diss, Pierrette Kelly, Kelly Hunt

Also Present

County Staff: Ava Ehde, Susan Ford, Lawanda Timmons, James Slusser, Kristi Hagen; Members of the Public: Ashley Thomas, Mary Ann Legler, Suzy Ardila, Mike McCann, Michelle Grimsley, Beth Clark, Nathan Scott, Kristina Tincher, Larry Rose, Kevin Mulcahy, Laurel Lynch, Carolyn Geisler, Lisa Ramirez, Charlie Kennedy.

Call to Order/Welcome

Kimberly Kutch, former Chair called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Minutes for May 22, 2019, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Jeremy Giddens, **Seconded by** Gina Messenger, **Vote:** Motion passed (**Summary:** Yes = 7, No = 0, Abstain = 0).

Sandra Stone entered the meeting at 3:08 p.m.

Xtavia Bailey entered the meeting at 3:13 p.m. and assumed the role of Chair, during the Child Welfare Update presentation

Child Welfare Update

Nathan Scott, Child Welfare Policy Coordinator, presented his annual report, which included the following:

- Child Protection Investigations (Manatee County Sheriff's Office) 2018: 5,061 investigations, 472 removals numbers, and 200 children ages 5 years old and below. These removals were due to Substance Use (including substance-exposed newborns), Domestic Violence (Household Member & Intimate Partner), and Inadequate Supervision in the Zip Codes areas: 34207, 34205, and 34208.
- Reporting numbers for 2019 (Jan-July): 2,691 Investigations; 259 Removals and 105 Children ages 5 years old and below. These removals were due to Substance Use (including substance-exposed newborns), Domestic Violence (Household Member & Intimate Partner), and Inadequate Supervision in the Zip Codes areas: 34205, 34208, and 34207. Currently at the 5th highest removal rate per 100 alleged victims in State.
- Protective Supervision / Case Management (Safe Children Coalition): 2018 (Dec); 2019 (June) numbers for children under supervision, children in out of home care, children in licensed foster home, children in group care and children in home.

- Permanency 2018: 188 reunified; 2019: 84 Reunified.
- Children Deaths Reported to the DCF Hotline 2018 & 2019
- Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey 2018 Highlights
- Current Focus 2020
 - Expanding Handle with Care
 - Peace4Manasota
 - Foster Parent Task Force
 - Monitoring changes in Child Welfare on federal, state and local levels
 - Cross-System collaboration and integration

BOCC Request- FY19/20Funding Recommendations Report

Ava Ehde reported the following information in follow-up from the August 6, 2019 Board of County Commission meeting. The BOCC appreciates the CSAB's efforts in reviewing all the programs and their recommendations. When reviewing the programs for approval the Commissioners had some questions on what led to some of the recommendations to the following programs- Centers for Success-After School Enhancement; Healthy Teens- Teen Health; School District- STAND- It's Your Choice; Manatee Family YMCA- YDASH at Harllee Middle School; Replay Outreach- Success4Life.

The BOCC concerns were; Why was funding recommended for Centers for Success; Why was funding not recommended for four flagged items- Healthy Teens- Teen Health; School District- STAND- It's Your Choice; Manatee Family YMCA- YDASH at Harllee Middle School; Replay Outreach- Success4Life.

An open discussed ensued between the CSAB members of their rationale and concerns to the BOCC:

Agency/Program: Centers for Success (formerly Tallevast) – Afterschool Enhancement

Rationale/Concerns:

- Poor return on investment
 - Per address mapping test of children served, only 4 children from Tallevast
 - Per agency records, serving an average of 12 children during afterschool days, and 20 children during the summer programming
- Inconsistencies in what was proposed, vs. what the agency is doing
 - Less children served than proposed and not serving the neighborhood
 - Children are bused in from as far as 18 miles from the center
 - Staff pay above local industry standards
- Questionable financial reporting
 - tested bank statements against quarterly reports submitted and found unreported revenues and expenditures
 - independent audit submitted did not show any revenues from Manatee County

There were concerns about nepotism (half of board and all of staff related to board chair); locking out the Tallevast community; program overstaffing over the Afterschool Standards of 20/1. There are other out of school time programs funded by the Children's Millage that could absorb the children attending this program.

FY19-20 Recommendations: **Motion:** To withdraw recommendation to fund Centers for Success, Afterschool Enhancement program for FY2019/2020, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** George VanBuren, **Seconded by** Gina Messenger, **Vote:** Motion passed (**Summary:** Yes = 9, No = 0, Abstain = 0). Yes Votes: Xtavia Bailey, Sandra Stone, Jeremy Giddens, Kimberly Kutch, Cornelle Maxfield, Gina Messenger, Debbie Tapp, Gail Wynne, George Van Buren

Agency/Program: Manatee County Family YMCA – YDASH at Harllee Middle School

Rationale/Concerns:

- In response to questions on Internal Audit report in 2014 of fraud where agency falsified documentation over a multiyear period, agency responses:
 - Agency didn't recognize any wrongdoing and blamed it on the county
 - Agency gave an unacceptable response when questioned on what they have done to put safeguards in place
- Application did not provide the required verification that the proposed program would serve abused, neglected, at-risk, or economically disadvantaged children as required in Ordinance 91-42
- Application did not provide the required MOU for key partners needed for the program (i.e., permission to use the Harllee Middle School campus for afterschool hours and summer) and the Superintendent stated the request and approval was for summer only
- Question of supplanting funds: Application stated the program operated in current and past year, but reported no funding was received for the program in the budget.

There were many red flags present in the application and in the in-person presentation by the CEO of the agency on 5/1/19.

FY19-20 Recommendations: No funding – per vote on 5/22/19; No motion/vote on 8/21/19

Agency/Program: The School District of Manatee County – STAND - Its Your Choice

Rationale/Concerns:

- Poor return on investment
- Application did not provide evidence that the proposed program would serve abused, neglected, at-risk, or economically disadvantaged children as required in Ordinance 91-42
- Results
 - Because the program has a duration of two weeks and no follow-up or track if participants become pregnant, use drugs, bully their peers, or other risky behaviors, the results are very weak and did not score well
 - The results measurement tool is self-reporting
- In the barriers question, the application listed all participants as having a low amount of barriers to success vs. mid-range or high-range barriers
- Applicant does not try to get funding from other sources, such as foundations or individual donors, and relies 100% on county funding

This program did not meet a priority and scored very low on results.

FY19-20 Recommendations: No funding – per vote on 5/22/19; No motion/vote on 8/21/19

Agency/Program: Healthy Teens Coalition of Manatee County, Inc. – Teen Health

Rationale/Concerns:

- Return on investment and costs of the program are unclear
 - Program director was formerly a volunteer and now to be paid \$37,500
 - Teen mentors are volunteers
- Application did not provide evidence that the proposed program would serve abused, neglected, at-risk, or economically disadvantaged children as required in Ordinance 91-42
- Results
 - Results were based on training teen mentors, vs. the recipients of teen mentoring
 - No tracking of end results
 - Measurement tool was weak

The agency provided a new budget, reducing their request to \$45,000. There was no opportunity for the CSAB to reassess the program based on this change.

FY19-20 Recommendations: No funding – per vote on 5/22/19; Motion/vote failed on 8/21/19

Motion: To fund Healthy Teens Coalition of Manatee County, Teen Health program at \$45,000 for FY2019/2020, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Gina Messenger, **Seconded by** Jeremy Giddens, **Vote:** **Motion failed** (**Summary:** Yes = 2, No = 7, Abstain = 0). Yes Votes: Gina Messenger, Jeremy Giddens

George VanBuren exited the meeting @ 4:48 p.m.

Agency/Program: Replay Outreach – Success4Life Training

Rationale/Concerns:

- Concerns about program stability
 - Low numbers of youth served and staff turnover caused the agency to come back to the CSAB in FY18/19 to amend their program so they could draw down their full funding
- Results
 - Results did not define the human gain, or the benefit to the youth
 - Result score was below the threshold of 17/24
- Application did not provide the required MOU for key partners needed for the program
- Application overall provided very low quality answers in spite of built in guidance and examples for each question

It appears that the agency has worked to make improvements in the program. The staff has worked with the agency on their results statements, targets, milestones, and verifications. The staff will, if the program is funded, work with the agency more on getting better result measurements. This program works with difficult/high risk youth that are not served through other programs.

FY19-20 Recommendations: No funding – per vote on 5/22/19; Motion/vote failed on 8/21/19

Motion: To fund Replay Outreach, Success4Life Training program at \$50,000 for FY2019/2020 with the stipulation that staff work with the agency to improve results measures, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Jeremy Giddens, **Seconded by** Cornelle Maxfield, **Vote:** **Motion failed** (**Summary:** Yes = 4, No = 4, Abstain = 0). Yes Votes: Jeremy Giddens, Cornelle Maxfield, Xtavia Bailey, Sandra Stone.

Staff Updates

Susan Ford gave an update on the vacant position. Kristi Hagen has filled the position as a Sr. Human Services Analyst. She provided a brief description of herself to the CSAB Members.

NSD Director, Ava Ehde informed the CSAB Members of Susan Ford new position as the Human Services Program Manager of the Children's Services Department.

New Business

Susan Ford provided a new 2019 CSAB Meeting Schedule, which was revised due to renovations of the Manatee Room, making the room no longer available. Dates of meetings for November and December were changed, and location of meetings for October through December was changed to the 9th Floor in the BCC Conference Room.

Old Business

Susan Ford reported that the CEO/President, Jennifer Radebach, of New Path Academy was concerned her program was not listed under a priority and would like for the CSAB Member to reconsider the Alternative Path to Success (APS) to be listed under the Priority: Improved Student Behavior and Fewer Incidents of Out of School Suspension. This came about because the Blackbaud system report did not pick up more than one priority listed. In her case, there were two listed and the CSAB had already ruled that the one for grade level reading was not appropriate. An open discussed ensued.

Motion: To allow New Path Academy, Alternative Path to Success (APS) program to be listed under the Priority: Improved Student Behavior and Fewer Incidents of Out of School Suspension, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Debbie Tapp, **Seconded by** Jeremy Giddens, **Vote:** Motion passed (**Summary:** Yes = 8, No = 0, Abstain = 0). Yes Votes: Xtavia Bailey, Sandra Stone, Jeremy Giddens, Kimberly Kutch, Cornelle Maxfield, Gina Messenger, Debbie Tapp; No Votes: Gail Wynne

Jeremy Giddens recommended that changes be made to the application in regard to selecting priorities. Susan Ford advised the changes have been made for the next cycle so that agencies select priorities from a drop down menu.

Public Comment

Larry Rose spoke on behalf of Replay Outreach program; Charlie Kennedy spoke on behalf of Healthy Teens; and Mike McCann spoke on behalf of the School District.

Charlie Kennedy recommended that public comments be held at the beginning of the meetings. Xtavia Bailey provided feedback to his recommendation.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2019, Manatee Room of the County Administrative Complex, 3:00 p.m.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Approved

Xtavia Bailey, Chairman

Date