



Children's Services Advisory Board-Virtual Meeting

May 20, 2020

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, Honorable Patricia M. Glass Chambers, First Floor, Bradenton, FL 34205, on Wednesday May 20, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

This meeting was conducted via Zoom Communications Media Technology as allowed under Executive Order 20-69 issued by the Office of Governor Ron DeSantis on March 20, 2020.

Roll Call

Present: Xtavia Bailey, Sandra Stone, Amy Diss, Gina Messenger, Kimberly Kutch, Kelly Hunt, Connie Shingledecker, Rita Smith, Debbie Tapp, Gail Wynne, George Van Buren. **Absent/Excused:** None. **Absent/Unexcused:** None

Also Present

County Staff: Ava Ehde, Susan Ford, Kristi Hagen, Lawanda Timmons, James Slusser, Chris Handy-Honeycutt; Members of the Public (Via Phone): Elena Cassella, Evelyn Almodovar, Barbara Harvey, Mary Ann Legler, Linda Hedrick, Kathy Patreka, Barbara Patton; there were also 40 unidentified phone attendees.

Call to Order/Welcome

Xtavia Bailey, Chair called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

Discussion of Investment Applications

The CSAB Members had an open discussion on the new and ongoing programs listed below. Concerns or questions voiced are noted.

A general discussion took place on consistent member ratings of programs with responses of N/A to a question. Consensus was that individual members need to be consistent in how they rate across the board in those instances rather than the board determining that as a whole.

Discussion ensued on whether HIPAA blocks programs from follow-up with clients. It was suggested that this be a topic of discussion at the annual CSAB retreat because no follow-up due to HIPAA requirements is not an accurate statement. Follow-up is an expectation of this body.

- Early Learning Coalition, Early Care & Education: *Relationship of Federal funds match to the requested increase in funds from the County; differential in demographic numbers and those listed in the results; low number of parent participants in relation to number of young children served*
- Pace Center for Girls, Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Project: *Application lists West Coast Pediatrics and Planned Parenthood as essential partners, but there was some clarification sought on why the Department of Juvenile Justice and the School District was not listed if referrals come from those entities. Staff will check in with the agency to get that information. Staff clarified that referrals come from many sources and may not be considered essential partners.*
- Step Up Suncoast, Head Start/Early Head Start: *Concerns centered around the request for a \$750,000 increase for match funds; and a flat performance rate. Questions arose about the*

LENA services for which an increase was provided for the current year. Staff provided some information on the status of LENA. It was noted that the agency was on the line and could respond to questions voiced during the public comment agenda item. Additional concerns in the application not indicative of addressing the wait list in any significant manner.

- Step Up Suncoast, Healthy Families Manatee: Concerns focused on measuring child removals from the home when the goal is no verified cases of abuse. Additional concerns were that the program may not be doing checks of child welfare data with appropriate frequency. Staff clarified the agency checks child welfare data almost daily for reports on their clients but also checks quarterly reports from the system.

George VanBuren exited @ 4:01 pm

- Step Up Suncoast, HIPPY: Conversation centered around the request for an increase in relation to the reduced award given for the current year after an administrator left the agency and the costs were less. The programs from this agency appear to be duplicative and could possibly be consolidated to potentially decrease costs. There is some confusion in the number of participants served.
- Step Up Suncoast, Parents as Teachers: This program seems like a duplication of services with only a variance of ages of the children served. Included in the HIPPY conversation regarding the request for increase in relation to the reduced award given for the current year.
- Step Up Suncoast, Teaching Our Toddlers: Concern was expressed that the request for an increase may qualify as supplanting with the agency choosing to stop using prior funding sources and replace with CSDM funds.

George VanBuren re-entered @ 4:22 pm

- Step Up Suncoast, Whole Child Manatee: Confusion was expressed in the difference of this program and United Way 211. Staff and board members explained that this program is hands-on individual assistance and not a phone call and referral service. Members expressed interest in how much traffic comes through the Whole Child website.

Xtavia Bailey, Chairperson, exited @ 4:34pm; Sandra Stone assumed chair duties

Xtavia Bailey, Chairperson, re-entered @ 4:37 pm; resumed chair duties

- Easter Seals, Children's Therapy: Concerns centered on the cost of the program and if there is a sliding scale for the program. The agency bills Medicaid and insurance for services and the sliding scale will be requested from the agency and provided to the CSAB.
- Foundation for Dreams, Dream Oaks Camp: Concern centered around the large waitlist and a member questioned why they did not request an increase to address it. Other concerns were about results and milestones that seemed vague. There was a question asked about how the program supports the School District. Staff reported an agency representative was on the call and could respond to the concerns during public comment.
- Healthy Teens Manatee, Teen Health Educator/Mentoring: Questions addressed confusion on results and milestones focusing on leadership versus stated risky behavior. County staff provided clarification on services provided and how closely the teen mentors are followed to assure results are met.
- Step Up Suncoast, CATCH: Concerns and questions regarding the reasons for an increase in funding and how it would be used for therapy or screenings; how it would affect the waitlist.
- The Family Network on Disabilities, Parent Mentoring & Support: Clarification was sought on the numbers on the clients served and the milestones and results. County staff provided clarification that the webinars would be used to supplement in person classes for the parents.
- The Family Network on Disabilities, Sarasota/Manatee Respite Services: Concerns were voiced on the large disparity between numbers served over the past 3 years. County staff reported that the large number was a typographical error.
- The School District of Manatee County, ATOSS: Concerned focused on CSDM being the only funding source for this program. County staff will request more information on this issue from the agency and provide it to the CSAB. Questions ensued on the request for an increase in

funding and the hours of service at the additional location, and how the results are verified. County staff provided some insight on the additional location, and program results, and reported the main benefit of the program is students who are suspended are able to maintain their work and not arrive back at school behind their peers.

There were no comments or questions on the following programs:

- Just for Girls, Girls Alternative Program for Success
- Easter Seals, Family Support Services
- SMART, Therapeutic Horseback Riding

Any questions and clarifications the CSAB Members may have for the Non-Profit Agencies were suggested to be emailed to Susan Ford for request of answers from the agencies.

Staff Updates

Susan Ford provided the following updates:

- The next meeting will be to discuss batches #5 and #6. The scores for these were due May 14th. If you do not have these programs scored yet, please get them completed by Monday at the latest so we can provide you with a scoring comparison and request corrections if needed. These should be listed in your Reviewer Portal with due dates of May 7 and May 14. All draft scores should be in by May 25th and all scores should be finalized by May 28th.
- The board needs to meet for recommendations on June 10 or 17. The meeting will be held either through Zoom or in person at the Bradenton Area Convention Center depending on what the County determines to be best.

Discussion ensued on the date and time for the recommendations meeting. Consensus was June 17, 2020 at 3:00 pm.

Old/New Business

None

Public Comment

Agencies who submitted a public comment in writing were:

- Evelyn Almodovar, Healthy Teens Coalition
- Karen Holman, Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County
- Mary Ann Legler, Healthy Teens Coalition
- Nicole Murby, Easter Seals Southwest Florida
- Pamela Parmenter, Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County
- Peggy Algozzine, Healthy Teens Coalition of Manatee County
- Rachel Spivey, Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County
- Sharon Oakes, Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County

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

- Elena Cassella, Foundation for Dreams: Provided clarification on the Agency working with the Manatee County School district; an overview of the program and how the goals for each child are set based on the abilities of the child.
- Evelyn Almodovar, Healthy Teens Coalition: Thanked the CSAB Members and provided information of how they recruit teens for their program.

- Barbara Harvey, Educational Consultants Consortium: Provided a statement on their two locations; addressed the needs of the children who are graduating from their program; and provided clarification of CSAB concerns that funding from CSDM will not be used for their preschool program; however, the funding provided will be used for their Parenting Program.
- Mary Ann Legler, Healthy Teens Coalition: Thanked the CSAB Members and provided a brief overview of their program.
- Linda Hedrick, Step Up Suncoast: Provided feedback to the questions asked by the CSAB of their programs and services they provide to clients.
- Kathy Patreka, Step Up Suncoast: Provided feedback to the questions asked by the CSAB regarding their waitlisted clients.
- Barbara Patton, Step Up Suncoast: Provided feedback to the questions asked by the CSAB regarding their match funding for Head Start/Early Head Start. Barbara stated that she will provide that information to the CSAB members later and thanked them for their support.

George VanBuren exited @ 5:25 pm (during public comment)

Next Virtual Meeting

May 27, 2020 – 3:00 pm, Manatee County Administration Building, 1112 Manatee Ave, W, Bradenton, FL 34205, 1st Floor, BCC Chambers.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Approved

Xtavia Bailey, Chairwoman

Date