

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR MANATEE ROOM
1112 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida
May 22, 2024**

Present were:

Connie Shingledecker, Chairman
Xtavia Bailey, Vice-Chairman
Hon. Scott Brownell
Carolann Garafola
Susan Miller Kelly (entered during meeting)
Melissa Leslie
Patricia Miner
Jannon Pierce
Rita Smith
Debbie Tapp

Absent were:

Constance Charles-Logan
Gina Messenger
Amanda Ballard, County Commissioner

Also present were:

Tracie Adams, Deputy Director, Community and Veteran's Services
Kristi Hagen, Children's Services Program Coordinator
Johanna Beville, Senior Human Services Analyst
Melissa Bomar, Human Services Analyst
Lawanda Timmons, Senior Human Services Analyst
Brenda Marquez Facio, Human Services Analyst
Vicki Tessmer, Deputy Clerk, Clerk of the Circuit Court



Chairman Shingledecker called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

AGENDA and SIGN-IN SHEET

Chairman Shingledecker reviewed the dollar amounts, explained tiers, and noted the recommended amounts are based on the tiers and scores.

Manatee Children's Services - Child Advocacy Center (Rank 2)

A motion was made by Member Tapp and seconded by Member Garafola to recommend the requested funding increase of \$64,553, for a total amount of \$986,745, for the Manatee Children's Services - Child Advocacy Center. Rationale: High scoring agency in Tier one.

There being no public comments, Chairman Shingledecker closed public comments.

The motion carried 9-0 with Members Miller Kelly, Charles-Logan, and Messenger absent.

Manatee Children's Services - Residential (Rank 3)

A motion was made by Member Garafola and seconded by Member Miner to recommend the requested funding increase of \$26,460, for a total amount of \$404,460, for the Manatee Children's Services - Residential. Rational: Only using 24 percent of the millage, 95 percent success rate, and serving a critical need for foster children.

There being no public comments, Chairman Shingledecker closed public comments.
The motion carried 9-0 with Members Miller Kelly, Charles-Logan, and Messenger absent.

Parenting Matters - Parent Partner Program (Rank 4)

A motion was made by Member Pierce and seconded by Member Smith to recommend the requested funding increase of \$19,950, for a total amount of \$304,950, for the Parenting Matters - Parent Partner Program. Rationale: Retain staff, address cost of living and improve program results.

There being no public comments, Chairman Shingledecker closed public comments.

The motion carried 9-0, with Members Kelly, Charles-Logan and Messenger absent.

Safe Children Coalition, Inc. - Child Welfare Prevention Program (Rank 7)

A motion was made by Member Bailey and seconded by Member Tapp to recommend the requested funding increase of \$58,811, for a total amount of \$426,377, for the Safe Children Coalition, Inc - Child Welfare Prevention Program. Rationale: Important priority, high scoring, and the increase will add half a position for staff.

There being no public comments, Chairman Shingledecker closed public comments.

The motion carried 9-0, with Members Miller Kelly, Charles-Logan, and Messenger absent.

(Enter Member Miller Kelly)

Safe Children Coalition, Inc - Family Preservation and Reunification Program (Rank 8)

A motion was made by Member Leslie and seconded by Member Garafola to recommend the requested funding increase of \$23,800, for a total amount of \$363,800, for the Safe Children Coalition, Inc - Family Preservation and Reunification Program. Rationale: Priority program and scored well.

There being no public comments, Chairman Shingledecker closed public comments.

The motion carried 10-0, with Members Charles-Logan and Messenger absent.

Centerstone of Florida- Children's Community Action Treatment Team (CAT) (Rank 9)

A motion was made by Member Pierce and seconded by Member Smith to recommend the requested funding increase of \$24,761, for a total amount of \$823,511, for the Centerstone of Florida- Children's Community Action Treatment Team (CAT). Rationale: Funds used to retain staff, combat inflationary matter, and priority program.

Dierdra Deatone, Centerstone, thanked staff and noted the increased funding will allow them to serve more clients.

There being no further public comments, Chairman Shingledecker closed public comments.

The motion carried 10-0, with Members Charles-Logan and Messenger absent.

Foundation for Dreams - Dream Oaks Camp (Rank 10)

Chairman Shingledecker explained there were scores that were left out, but are now available, and with a Score of 88.1, they qualify. Members were given the opportunity to review the request. The initial request last year was lower than it should have been.

A motion was made by Member Garafola and seconded by Member Miller Kelly to recommend the requested funding increase of \$20,000, for a total amount of \$270,000, for the Foundation for Dreams - Dream Oaks Camp. Rationale: Need to retain staff, specific program to help disabled children, local program, and serves people from all over the State.

There being no public comments, Chairman Shingledecker closed public comments.

The motion carried 10-0, with Members Charles-Logan and Messenger absent.

Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County, Inc. - Early Care and Education Child Care Subsidy and Match Program (Rank 11)

A motion was made by Member Bailey and seconded by Member Pierce to recommend the requested funding increase of \$427,950, for a total amount of \$2,612,950, for the Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County, Inc. - Early Care and Education Child Care Subsidy and Match Program. Rationale: Much needed program that works well with other agencies, and have not had an increase in five years.

There being no public comments, Chairman Shingledecker closed public comments.

The motion carried 10-0, with Members Charles-Logan and Messenger absent.

Step Up Suncoast - Head Start/Early Head Start (Rank 12)

A motion was made by Member Tapp and seconded by Member Miner to recommend the requested funding increase of \$63,000, for a total amount of \$963,000 for the Step Up Suncoast - Head Start/Early Head Start. Rationale: Above average score, increase to retain staff, and they have been providing Pre-K services for years.

There being no public comments, Chairman Shingledecker closed public comments.

The motion carried 10-0, with Members Charles-Logan and Messenger absent.

Manatee Children's Services - Kids Personal Safety (Rank 15)

A motion was made by Member Tapp and seconded by Member Smith to recommend the requested funding increase of \$76,832, for a total amount of \$157,582, for the Manatee Children's Services - Kids Personal Safety. Rationale: Increase for hiring staff to add five schools that have been on the waitlist, high scoring, and a needed program.

Discussion ensued there was no commitment letter included in the application.

There being no public comments, Chairman Shingledecker closed public comments.

The motion carried 10-0, with Members Charles-Logan and Messenger absent.

Boys and Girls Clubs of Manatee County - The Club Teen Program (Ages 13-17 years old) (Rank 16)

A motion was made by Member Pierce and seconded by Member Tapp to recommend the requested funding increase of \$22,500, for a total amount of \$247,500, for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Manatee County - The Club Teen Program (Ages 13-17 years old). Rationale: Supports two new positions to implement the workforce ready program, new program manager, and leads toward better outcomes.

Discussion ensued regarding there are other revenues increasing, and applaud them for entering into the career exploration and experience program, and using less than 50 percent of the millage.

There being no public comments, Chairman Shingledecker closed public comments.

The motion carried 10-0, with Members Charles-Logan and Messenger absent.

Step Up Suncoast - Healthy Families Manatee (Rank 17)

A motion was made by Member Tapp and seconded by Member Miner to recommend the requested funding increase of \$17,358, for a total amount of \$450,687 for the Step Up Suncoast - Healthy Families Manatee. Rationale: Much needed, excellent service, and evidence based.

Discussion ensued that 34 percent of their funding comes from the millage.

There being no public comments, Chairman Shingledecker closed public comments.

The motion carried 10-0, with Members Charles-Logan and Messenger absent.

Centerstone of Florida - Sexual Assault (Rape Crisis) Child Advocacy and Child Therapy (Rank 18)

A motion was made by Member Garafola and seconded by Member Leslie to recommend the requested funding increase of \$3,627 (three percent) for a total amount of \$120,613 for the Centerstone of Florida - Sexual Assault (Rape Crisis) Child Advocacy and Child Therapy. Rationale: Need the increase, which is small, to attract and retain staff, and they have a 24-hour help line.

Tari Allan, Centerstone of Florida, expressed gratitude, and noted victims have a right to work with advocates for support.

There being no public comments, Chairman Shingledecker closed public comments.

The motion carried 10-0, with Members Charles-Logan and Messenger absent.

Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County, Inc. - Nemours Reading Brightstart! (Rank 19)

A motion was made by Member Kelly and seconded by Member Pierce to recommend the requested funding of \$16,100, for a total amount of \$246,100, for the Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County, Inc. - Nemours Reading Brightstart!: Rationale: To increase results for clients, use funds to increase quality of service, and the program has been successful in the past.

Discussion ensued regarding their newsletter and parents working with children at home, helps with success.

There being no public comments, Chairman Shingledecker closed public comments.

The motion carried 10-0, with Members Charles-Logan and Messenger absent.

Boys and Girls Clubs of Manatee County - Great Futures Start Here (Ages 5-12 years old) (Rank 22)

A motion was made by Member Pierce and seconded by Member Smith to recommend the requested funding increase of \$92,500, for a total amount of \$1,017,500, for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Manatee County - Great Futures Start Here (Ages 5-12 years old). Rationale: Increase number of clients and results first targets, and behavioral targets.

Discussion ensued regarding also extending hours, and other budget line items have other supports, resource leveraging by using other agencies.

Dawn Stanhope, President of Boys and Girls Club, thanked the Board for their support, and they needed to stretch their budget to afford a director and to attract talented staff.

There being no further public comments, Chairman Shingledecker closed public comments.

The motion carried 10-0, with Members Charles-Logan and Messenger absent.

Healthy Teens, Inc. - Teen Health Educators (Rank 23)

A motion was made by Member Brownell and seconded by Member Miller-Kelly to recommend the requested funding increase of \$8,606, for a total amount of \$152,056, for the Healthy Teens, Inc. - Teen Health Educators. Rationale: Tier 1, and needed expenses to maintain service.

Discussion ensued regarding many students involved and highly effected the teen health educators, and this is a great program.

Jonathan Edwards, thanked the Board for their support, and stressed the need for additional funds due to increased rent, and needing to support staff.

There being no further public comments, Chairman Shingledecker closed public comments.

The motion carried 10-0, with Members Charles-Logan and Messenger absent.

Family Resources, Inc. - CERTAIN (Community Effort to Reduce Truancy by Assessing Individualized Needs (Rank 25)

A motion was made by Member Leslie, and seconded by Member Pierce to recommend the requested funding increase of \$21,027, for a total amount of \$371,482, for the Family Resources, Inc. - CERTAIN (Community Effort to Reduce Truancy by Assessing Individualized Needs. Rationale: Need for key staff and increased salaries.

Discussion ensued regarding this is a necessary program and kids cannot learn and graduate if they are not in school.

Dr. Lisa Davis, Family Resources, Inc., stated the Board has been a provider for Manatee County regarding truancy. They have exceeded their numbers for this year.

There being further no public comments, Chairman Shingledecker closed public comments.

The motion carried 10-0, with Members Charles-Logan and Messenger absent.

The Florida Center - Early Childhood Court (Rank 26)

A motion was made by Member Garafola and seconded by Member Miller Kelly to recommend the requested funding increase of \$49,713 (15 percent) for a total amount of \$379,000 for The Florida Center - Early Childhood Court. Rationale: Critically needed program, funds for

increasing staff and a satellite office, only 50 percent of funding comes from the millage, and this is for at-risk children who have been removed from their homes.

Discussion ensued regarding the satellite office allows staff more time to spend with children.

Pamala Hodge, Program Leader, noted they are looking forward to working with more clients, and this is an important mission to help young children.

There being no further public comments, Chairman Shingledecker closed public comments.

The motion carried 10-0, with Members Charles-Logan and Messenger absent.

Palmetto Youth Center - Helping Young People Excel (HYPE) (Rank 29)

Chairman Shingledecker noted the maximum the program can receive is \$30,316.

A motion was made by Member Bailey and seconded by Member Smith to recommend a funding increase of \$30,316 (Tier 2) for a total amount of \$181,899, for the Palmetto Youth Center - Helping Young People Excel (HYPE). Rationale: Maintain staff, improve results, and scored well.

Discussion ensued regarding concerned when the full amount is not granted, but they are close, and the program is funded 100 percent by millage.

Reggie Bellamy, Palmetto Youth Center, thanked the Board for their support.

There being no further public comments, Chairman Shingledecker closed public comments.

The motion carried 10-0, with Members Charles-Logan and Messenger absent.

Feeding Empty Little Tum mies, Inc. – Weekend Meals (Rank 30)

A motion was made by Member Pierce and seconded by Member Miner to recommend a funding increase of \$25,000, (Tier 2), for a total amount of \$150,000 for the Feeding Empty Little Tum mies, Inc. – Weekend Meals. Rationale: Serving more children, and serves a good purpose.

Discussion ensued regarding concern for not providing the full funding, and they will not be able to feed all who need assistance, they work very hard to raise funds, need to feed the entire family for the weekend, great cause, prices are continuing to go up, and agency needs to be very clear on their program.

There being no public comments, Chairman Shingledecker closed public comments.

The motion carried 10-0, with Members Charles-Logan and Messenger absent.

Step Up Suncoast - Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) (Rank 31)

A motion was made by Member Tapp and seconded by Member Bailey to recommend the requested funding increase of \$9,933, for a total amount of \$211,359, for the Step Up Suncoast - Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY). Rationale: Increase for staff for retention, valued staff that works day to day with children, and glad to add this funding.

Discussion ensued that the COLA is not retroactive, and program will get with County staff. There may need to be some rewording for the application.

Amy Yount clarified the funding can be complex since there are other funding sources, and County funding can only be used for fiscal year.

There being no further public comments, Chairman Shingledecker closed public comments.

The motion carried 10-0, with Members Charles-Logan and Messenger absent.

Step Up Suncoast - Parents as Teachers (PAT) (Rank 32)

A motion was made by Member Garafola and seconded by Member Bailey to recommend the requested funding increase of \$5,956, for a total amount of \$136,146, for the Step Up

Suncoast - Parents as Teachers (PAT): good status, only get 16 percent from millage, and program is supported by research.

There being no public comments, Chairman Shingledecker closed public comments.

The motion carried 10-0, with Members Charles-Logan and Messenger absent.


Centerstone of Florida- Mental Health Evaluation - Baker Act Youth (Rank 34)

A motion was made by Member Bailey and seconded by Member Garafola to recommend the requested funding increase of \$4,307, for a total amount of \$143,227, for Centerstone of Florida – Mental Health Evaluation, Baker Act Youth. Rationale: Requires matching fund and this is the agency for this purpose.

There being no public comments, Chairman Shingledecker closed public comments.

The motion carried 10-0, with Members Charles-Logan and Messenger absent.

Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County, Inc. - Coordinated Approach to Child Health (CATCH) (Rank 35)

 A motion was made by Member Miller Kelly and seconded by Member Leslie to recommend the requested funding increase of \$10,500, for a total amount of \$160,500, for the Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County, Inc. - Coordinated Approach to Child Health (CATCH). Rationale: Committed to increase results for clients, increase quality of service, and matches with other programs.

Discussion ensued regarding funding covers increased expenses, Happy Feet is a for-profit organization, other non-profits use for-profits to provide services, reference to working with at-risk children, budget decreased, skills developed through sports programs are worthwhile, level funding was approved, support program, but not the increase, and the program is for preschoolers.

Rachel Spivey, Early Learning Coalition spoke to the program, and noted Happy Feet joined the program to help children develop by strengthening physical skills.

There being no further public comments, Chairman Shingledecker closed public comments.

The motion carried 8-2, with Members Bailey and Pierce voting nay and Members Charles-Logan and Messenger absent.

RECESS/RECONVENE: 4:33 p.m. – 4:48 p.m. All Members present except Members Charles-Logan, and Messenger.

Just for Girls - Girls Alternative Program for Success (GAPS) (Rank 36)

A motion was made by Member Miner and seconded by Member Brownell to recommend the requested funding increase of \$46,805, for a total amount of \$715,450, for the Just for Girls - Girls Alternative Program for Success (GAPS). Rationale: Excellent success, priority program, addresses behavioral health and teen pregnancy prevention.

There being no public comments, Chairman Shingledecker closed public comments.

The motion carried 10-0, with Members Charles-Logan and Messenger absent.

Just for Girls – Stepping Up to Success (SUS) (Rank 37)

A motion was made by Member Leslie and seconded by Member Pierce to recommend the requested funding increase of \$59,463, for a total amount of \$908,929, for the Just for Girls – Stepping Up to Success (SUS). Rationale: Funding assists with rising costs, insurance, and finding qualified staff.

There being no public comments, Chairman Shingledecker closed public comments.

The motion carried 10-0, with Members Charles-Logan and Messenger absent.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast - One to One Mentoring Program (Rank 38)

A motion was made by Member Tapp and seconded by Member Miller-Kelly to recommend a funding increase in the amount of \$21,000, (Tier 2) for a total amount of \$126,000, for the Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast – One to One Mentoring Program. Rationale: Adding new programs, revenues are increasing, and others entities support the increase.

Discussion ensued that there are new programs and sites and these could be prioritized, and receive less than 25 percent from millage.

There being no public comments, Chairman Shingledecker closed public comments.

The motion carried 10-0, with Members Charles-Logan and Messenger absent.

United Community Centers, Inc. - Before and After School, Summer Enrichment Plus (BASE+) (Rank 40)

A motion was made by Member Garafola and seconded by Member Smith to recommend a funding increase of \$69,065 (Tier 2), for a total amount of \$414,391, for the United Community Centers, Inc. - Before and After School, Summer Enrichment Plus (BASE+). Rationale: High score, priority program, working on behavioral health issues, extending hours, and part of the focus is on sports.

Discussion ensued regarding staff needed to run evening programs and feel they need the full amount requested, wonderful program, and not granting the full amount could affect the program.

Dr. Derrick Randall thanked the Board for their funding, addressed the program offerings, and the importance of giving positive feedback to children. Sports is a way to get the children to come to the Community Center, and he understands the funding.

There being no further public comments, Chairman Shingledecker closed public comments.

The motion carried 8-2, with Members Leslie and Tapp voting nay, and Members Charles-Logan and Messenger absent.

Educational Consultants Consortium Inc. Program – Iron Sharpening Iron (Rank 41)

A motion was made by Member Brownell and seconded by Member Smith to recommend the requested funding increase of \$32,800, for a total amount of \$196,800 for the Educational Consultants Consortium Inc. Program – Iron Sharpening Iron. Rationale: Hire additional staff, good work, expanding horizons, and adding more programs.

Discussion ensued regarding parts of the program not being in good standing.

Lawanda Timmons, Senior Human Services Analyst, clarified all the levels reviewed are in good standing.

Sharon Crosby thanked staff for assisting with site visits, and they are working to make necessary adjustments. They are instilling a new case management system.

There being no further public comments, Chairman Shingledecker closed public comments.

The motion carried 10-0, with Members Charles-Logan and Messenger absent.

Step Up Suncoast- Whole Child Manatee (Rank 43)

A motion was made by Member Pierce and seconded by Member Tapp to recommend the requested funding increase of \$5,448, for a total amount of \$156,135, for the Step Up Suncoast- Whole Child Manatee. Rationale: Retain staff.

Discussion ensued that 100 percent of funding comes from the millage.

There being no public comments, Chairman Shingledecker closed public comments.

The motion carried 9-1 with Member Miller Kelly voting nay, and Members Charles-Logan and Messenger absent.

Step Up Suncoast - Collaborative Action Therapy for Children's Health (CATCH) (Rank 44)

A motion was made by Member Bailey and seconded by Member Garafola to recommend a funding increase of \$28,612, (Tier 2) for a total amount of \$171,672, for the Step Up Suncoast - Collaborative Action Therapy for Children's Health (CATCH). Rationale: Serving more children with additional hours.

Discussion ensued regarding concerned with not funding the full request, need funding to support staff, and would have served eight additional children with therapy.

There being no public comments, Chairman Shingledecker closed public comments.

The motion carried 10-0, with Members Charles-Logan and Messenger absent.

Palmetto Youth Center - Foundation for Excellence (Rank 45)

A motion was made by Member Bailey and seconded by Member Leslie to recommend the requested funding increase of \$41,002 (18 percent) for a total amount of \$271,011 for the Palmetto Youth Center - Foundation for Excellence: Rationale: Extension of hours and a priority program.

(Depart Member Miner)

Discussion ensued regarding extending hours helps keep children off the streets, and interested to see data on extra hours.

Reggie Bellamy, Executive Director, noted he is a product of programs with extended hours, and the problem in the community is having a place to go for young black males. It is important to help children work with conflict.

There being no further public comments, Chairman Shingledecker closed public comments.

The motion carried 9-0, with Members Miner, Charles-Logan, and Messenger absent.

The Salvation Army - Housing - Focused Shelter for Families (Rank 48)

A motion was made by Member Leslie and seconded by Member Pierce to recommend the requested funding increase of \$7,000, for a total amount of \$107,000, The Salvation Army Housing - Focused Shelter for Families. Rationale: Important to have a safe place for families.

There being no public comments, Chairman Shingledecker closed public comments.

The motion carried 9-0, with Members Miner, Charles-Logan and Messenger absent.

Tidewell Foundation - Blue Butterfly Family Grief Program (Rank 50)

A motion was made by Member Garafola and seconded by Member Miller Kelly to recommend a funding increase of \$3,976, (Tier 2) for a total amount of \$23,856, for the Tidewell Foundation - Blue Butterfly Family Grief Program. Rationale: Program proven to be supportive when children lose someone of importance in their life.

Discussion ensued the funding is miniscule to what was requested, what exactly is being funded, funding for Ellenton office, does the program go to schools, this funding will not cover what they want to do, if there is not enough funding, how will they pay for staff, Children's Services staff is meeting with them, and they can turn down the funding and change the request, Tier approach for increases, this is a new program within Tidewell, originally requested a 328 percent, and the program has a below average score.

Danielle Wondrak, Blue Butterfly, confirmed this is a new program, and the request is for funding for the grief counselling at the Ellenton Grief Center. Any school or child can come to the Ellenton Center for grief counselling. They will have to seek additional funding.

There being no further public comments, Chairman Shingledecker closed public comments. The motion carried 7-2, with Members Tapp and Leslie voting nay, and Members Miner, Charles-Logan, and Messenger absent.

(Depart Member Garafola)

Children's Home Society of Florida - Focus on Literacy After School and Summer Program (Rank 50)

The requested funding increase is \$5,600, Tier 1, for a total amount of \$85,000, for the Children's Home Society of Florida - Focus on Literacy After School and Summer Program.

There was no motion to recommend an increase in funding.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There being no public comment, Chairman Shingledecker closed public comment.

(Depart Member Bailey)

FINAL RECOMMENDATION

A motion was made by Member Pierce and seconded by Member Tapp to approve and adopt the Children's Services Advisory Board recommendations for FY25 investment that were made during their publicly held meetings on May 20, 2024, and May 22, 2024, totaling \$16,911,977, and programs claiming one or more priorities shall include such wording in the results statement.

There being no public comment, Chairman Shingledecker closed public comment.

The motion carried 8-0, with Members Bailey, Charles-Logan, Garafola, and Messenger absent.

MEETINGS

The next meeting on June 19, 2024.

Members thanked staff for their hard work.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chairman Shingledecker adjourned the meeting at 5:36 p.m.

Minutes Approved: _____