

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR MANATEE ROOM  
1112 Manatee Avenue West  
Bradenton, Florida  
June 19, 2024**

Present were:

Connie Shingledecker, Chairman  
Hon. Scott Brownell  
Dr. Constance Charles-Logan  
Carolann Garafola  
Melissa Leslie  
Susan Miller Kelly  
Debbie Tapp

Absent were:

Xtavia Bailey, Vice-Chairman  
Gina Messenger  
Patricia Miner  
Jannon Pierce  
Rita Smith

Also present were:

Amanda Ballard, County Commissioner  
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, Board Records Supervisor, Clerk of the Circuit Court

Chairman Shingledecker called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Johanna Beville, Senior Human Services Analyst, read opening comments regarding the procedures for the meeting.

1. **AGENDA and SIGN-IN SHEET** BC20240619DOC001
2. **ROLL CALL**  
Roll Call was completed and a quorum was declared.
3. **MINUTES**  
A motion was made by Member Miller Kelly, seconded by Member Leslie, and carried 7-0 with Members Bailey, Messenger, Miner, Pierce and Smith absent, to approve the minutes of May 20 and May 22, 2024.
4. **SYSTEMS ADVOCATE PROGRAM UPDATE**  
Nathan Scott, Child and Family Well-Being System Coordinator, Florida Department of Health, used a slide presentation to review updates including the investigations transitioned to the Department of Children and Families from the Manatee Sheriff's Office, focus on Family Safety Alliance, increase in cases, work groups for prevention, and intervention/treatment.

Discussion ensued regarding the drivers for mental health behavior, and there is a report on trends once the kids come in with high needs.

Mr. Scott continued the slides to review core service expenditures by category, more being spent on group care, prevention and diversion, emergency response assessment team, after abuse report, youth prevention services, Child and Parent Together Always Program, Youth Intervention Services, and child fatality prevention.

Chairman Shingledecker explained the difference between SIDS and sleep related deaths. She is the Chairman of the Child Abuse Death Review Committee.

Mr. Scott continued the slides to address hotline reports, investigations, protective supervision, most counties are similar in numbers, 61 percent of reports go on to an investigation, training staff to vet the calls, removal numbers decreasing due to prevention and diversion teams, 24/7 call line filtered to an entity in each County, hotline calls have decreased, entries into Out of Home Care (OHC), entries-exits-OHC, biggest system issue is High Risk/High Need, High Utilizer Youth, parents and caregivers abandoning youth to foster care, percentage of children in OHC has increased, 11 percent going into group care, permanency as goal is to get kids back in their homes, juvenile justice system, arrests are slowly increasing after COVID, school arrests, Child Protection Investigations, case workers have fewer cases than before and they have seen the turnover rate for case managers decrease, although case managers are leaving due to issues with the children, incorporating role playing in trainings, repercussions for parents who abandon their children, Parents for Parents (P4P) statistics, P4P engagement in Manatee beginning in Summer/Fall 2024, with implementation in 2025.

Discussion ensued regarding national numbers, comparison with other counties, salaries, Children and Families uses the programs funded by Manatee County to assist families in the system, removal rates and prevention services are used, and need to focus on kids over 12 years old.

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5. **JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES – IGNITE FATHERHOOD PROGRAM**

Eric Carrera and Carl Hayes, Jewish Family Services, used slides and distributed flyers to review the Ignite Fatherhood Program, encourage and support fathers to have a positive impact on families, and various events for fathers to engage with their children.

Discussion ensued regarding not requesting funding at this time, but to present their program, they are looking to hold events in Manatee County, and the program has been in existence since 2007.

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6. **EMERGENCY FUNDING REQUESTS**

Chairman Shingledecker noted there are photographs to share.

James McCloud, President and CEO of Genesis Health Services, thanked the Board for allowing him to present for emergency funding. There were questions regarding their funding request. There is a need for funding at the Rubonia Community Center as there are 36 children enrolled in summer programming, and the nearby schools do not offer summer programming. They are funding the summer program for one month, out of reserves. Genesis Health Services staff believes there has been a decrease in student performance since the other program left the Rubonia Community Center. The before school programs are very important as it is easy for parents to drop children off, the children will be fed breakfast and the program offers homework assistance. Genesis will provide academic enrichment to children at the Community Center.

Discussion ensued regarding seeking \$73,920 for programming between July 6 and September 30, they have in-kind donations of \$9,000, willing to entertain a summer program, there is no scoring available, this emergency funding does not need to have a score since it is

not apart of the current CSAB Emergency Funding Process, DL Randall closed their youth program at the Community Center, the same number of children can attend the entire summer, they are waiting to hear from more community sponsors, priority was behavioral and reading, transportation was also provided, there was other funding, and this counts as an emergency since the kids in the area do not have other options.

Melissa Bomar shared the funding amounts DL Randall was awarded in FY23 and FY24.

Discussion ensued regarding Avenue 941, partner agencies can create issues with programing, going forward when school years begins, Genesis can take over the program, since they have more flexibility, Avenue 941 does not work on Fridays, Genesis is better at providing academic enrichment, it is important for children to attend activities, what they have already provided is a gift, three classroom monitors, one counselor, and a volunteer bus driver, three tutors cost approximately \$17,000. The request for \$232,000 is for the FY24/25 school year and summer of 2025, in-kind cash donation is what Genesis will spend on the program, \$73,920 is for summer and finishing out the fiscal year, all funding is emergency, because Genesis did not have a chance to present during the regular process, Board needs to review and score, and \$68,420 is the actual amount needed.

A motion was made by Honorable Judge Brownell, and seconded by Member Tapp, to complete summer program and provide emergency funding of \$68,420 for the grant application, to cover dates from July 6 to September 30.

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

The motion failed 3-4, with Members Leslie, Garafola, Miller Kelly, and Dr. Charles-Logan voting nay, and with Members Bailey, Messenger, Miner, Pierce and Smith absent.

A motion was made by Member Garafola and seconded by Honorable Judge Brownell to allow the application to be submitted to review over the next month or so and score it. Both Member Garafola and Honorable Judge Brownell amended the motion to specify this is for FY24/25.

Discussion ensued that this is an emergency, funding was provided in the past, and they were not able to get the application in on time, if another program comes in with a similar situation the application can be submitted, need a way to process emergency funding, good idea to look at clarity of process that is fair to everyone, have a subcommittee this summer, and feeding empty little tummies was an emergency application.

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

The motion carried 7-0, with Members Bailey, Messenger, Miner, Pierce and Smith absent.

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7. **APPLICATION AND REVIEW MEETINGS**

Chairman Shingledecker reminded everyone to review the survey results. A subcommittee will respond to concerns and Members can send their comments to staff.

Member Leslie explained this is her last committee meeting, and she has enjoyed being on the Board.

Discussion ensued regarding a survey for Board members regarding the process.

8. **STAFF UPDATES**

Melissa Bomar, Human Services Analyst, completed some fiscal audits and compliance visits, and there were no issues.

Lawanda Timmons, Senior Human Services Analyst, conducted site visits and there were no concerns.

Johanna Beville, Senior Human Services Analyst, conducted half of her compliance visits and there were no issues.

Kristi Hagen, Children's Services Program Coordinator, explained staff is doing their own fiscal compliances. She noted Gina Messenger submitted her resignation. Board Member applications will open in July and close in August for Board appointments in September. There is a need for a Department of Children and Families representative who lives in Manatee County. Board Members are welcome to contact staff and shadow site visits. There is a mandated reporter training on August 28.

9. **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/UPDATES**

There were no updates.

10. **NEW/OLD BUSINESS**



Member Tapp stated the subcommittee on Children's Health and Safety is meeting and they are seeking information on the issues that lead to drowning.

11. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

12. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be August 21, 2024, at the Manatee County Administration Building, Manatee Room, 5th Floor.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Chairman Shingledecker adjourned the meeting at 5:43 p.m.

Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_