



Children's Services Advisory Board Meeting

April 13, 2022

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 April 13, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Also Present: County Staff: (In Person), Kristi Hagen, LaWanda Timmons, Charles Lee, Chris Handy-Honeycutt, and Johanna Beville; Members of the Public: (In Person) Drena Green, Jonathan Evans, Michael Wood, Char Young, Laurel Lynch, Dawn Stanhope, Catrese Estuallen, Pam Hodge, Dawn Bryant, Charmain Miller, (Virtually) Susan Ford, Pepper Sellars, Jennifer Radebach, Renee Simon, Kimberly Treharne, Carolyn McBean, Becky Canesse, Maria Gumina, Joy Mahler, Katrina Bellemare, Denise Jordan, Ashley Williams, Zoya-no last name, unidentified staff member from Next Generation Academics, and an unidentified staff from Parenting Matters.

Call to Order/Welcome

Debbie Tapp, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Minutes for April 6, 2022, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Kimberly Kutch, **Seconded by** Charlie Kennedy **Vote:** Motion passed (**Summary:** Yes = 7, No = 0, Abstain = 0). (In Person): Debbie Tapp, Jennifer Hamey, Charlie Kennedy, Kimberly Kutch, Kelly Hunt, Jannon Pierce, and Xtavia Bailey.

Discussion of Investment Applications

The CSAB Members had an open discussion on the review process and scoring. Eight programs reviewed and listed below.

- Boys & Girls Club– Teen Program – The Club: *Initial CSAB Members scores were reviewed.*
 - *Program claimed priority: Youth decrease symptoms of behavioral health issues as identified objectively by a measure of level of functioning as determined by the program. CSAB will consider as a priority by member consensus.*
 - *Program is not requesting a funding increase.*
- Boys & Girls Club– Great Futures Start Here: *Initial CSAB Members scores were reviewed.*
 - *Program claimed priority: Youth reduce their existing literacy gap towards developmentally appropriate literacy skills as determined through use of an objective method. CSAB will consider as a priority by member consensus.*
 - *Program is requesting a funding increase and may be considered for an increase.*

Rita Smith entered at 3:12pm

George VanBuren entered at 3:12pm

- Myakka City Community Center– Before School, After School & Camp Myakka: *Initial CSAB Members scores were reviewed.*
 - *Program claimed priority: Youth reduce their existing literacy gap towards developmentally appropriate literacy skills as determined through use of an objective method. CSAB will consider as a priority by member consensus.*
 - *Program is not requesting a funding increase.*
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Suncoast– One to One Mentoring Program: *Initial CSAB Members scores were reviewed.*
 - *Program claimed priority: Youth decrease symptoms of behavioral health issues as identified objectively by a measure of level of functioning as determined by the program. CSAB will consider as a priority by member consensus.*
 - *Program is requesting a funding increase and may be considered for an increase.*
- Just for Girls– Stepping Up To Success (SUS): *Initial CSAB Members scores were reviewed.*
 - *Program claimed priority: Youth decrease symptoms of behavioral health issues as identified objectively by a measure of level of functioning as determined by the program. CSAB will consider as a priority by member consensus.*
 - *Program is not requesting a funding increase.*
- Just for Girls– Girls Alternative Program for Success (GAPS): *Initial CSAB Members scores were reviewed.*
 - *Program claimed priority: Youth decrease symptoms of behavioral health issues as identified objectively by a measure of level of functioning as determined by the program. CSAB will consider as a priority by member consensus.*
 - *Program is not requesting a funding increase.*
- AMIKids Academy– AMIKids Manatee Prevention Program: *Initial CSAB Members scores were reviewed.*
 - *Program claimed priority: Decrease the number of incidents of referrals for aggression, bullying/harassment, and out of school suspensions. CSAB will not consider as a priority by member vote. **Motion:** Deny the priority status for AMI kids as their result does not specifically speak to behavior change, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Kimberly Kutch, **Seconded by** Xtavia Bailey, **Vote:** Motion passed (**Summary:** Yes = 9, No = 1, Abstain = 0). (In Person): Debbie Tapp, Jennifer Hamey, Charlie Kennedy, Kimberly Kutch, Susan Miller Kelly, Kelly Hunt, Jannon Pierce, Xtavia Bailey, Rita Smith (Virtually): George VanBuren. **Public Comment:** Maria Gumina, AMI Kids Manatee: Addressed concerns Members have regarding the behavioral outcomes for the program's clients. Spoke on why clients are referred to the program and the ultimate measure of behavioral success is clients returning to, and remaining at, their traditional schools. Provided an overview of the milestones and they are designed to demonstrate progressive improvements in client's behaviors on a day-to-day basis. Maria welcomes Member's feedback. Carolyn McBean, AMI Kids Manatee: Spoke on the personal growth model the program utilizes and it's 3 components, with 1 component being behavior modification and the other 2 are educational. Explained how the behavioral modification and educational goals are linked to milestones. Carolyn reviewed how the individual service plans involve both behavioral and educational goals, assessments utilized to determine client's progress to determine if the clients need to remain at the school or if they have made enough progress to return to their traditional school. Clients are followed for a year after completing the program to ascertain if they have made lasting changes.*
 - *Program is not requesting a funding increase.*

Susan Miller Kelly entered at 4:11pm

- Next Generation Academics (formerly New Path Academy)– Alternative Path to Success (APS): Initial CSAB Members scores were reviewed.
 - Program claimed priority: Decrease the number of incidents of referrals for aggression, bullying/harassment, and out of school suspensions. CSAB will consider as a priority by member consensus.
 - Program is not requesting a funding increase.
- The Florida Center-Early Childhood Court: Initial CSAB Members scores were reviewed.
 - Program claimed priority: Children in foster care exit to a permanent home within 12 months or less of entering care. CSAB will consider as a priority by member consensus.
 - Program is not requesting a funding increase.

Staff Updates

Kristi Hagen provided the following updates:

- Batch 4 Final Scores due Friday, April 15, 2022
- Batch 5 Initial Scores due today, April 13, 2022
- Batch 5 CSAB Questions to Agencies due today, April 13, 2022
- Batch 6 Released tomorrow, April 14, 2022
- Children's Services team is participating in the Party in the Park at Palmetto's 10th Street/Sutton Park on Friday, March 15, 2022.

Johanna Beville provided the following updates:

- The Manatee County Children's Services Department and the CSAB were recognized for continued support of child abuse prevention and intervention programs provided through the CSAB and were provided with the Child Abuse Prevention Month in Florida Proclamation.
- On Monday, April 11, 2022, Children's Services hosted the Child Abuse Prevention Trainings Protective Factors and True Colors. Both trainings went smoothly and attendees report enjoying both sessions to learn about Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and their True Colors Characteristics.
- Fiscal Reviews are ongoing with Early Learning Coalition's programs current being requested for review:
 - Subsidy and Match
 - Child, Family, and Provider (PALs, NEMOURS, and CATCH)
- Discussed recent fiscal reviews completed for Step Up Suncoast's HIPPY and PATs programs with no recommendations provided as they met the requirements of the funding agreement
- Reviewed recent compliance visits for the following programs and there was nothing of concern noted during the observations:
 - Step Up Suncoast
 - Head Start/Early Head Start
 - Early Learning Coalition
 - CATCH
 - PALS

LaWanda Timmons provided the following updates:

- Discussed recent fiscal reviews completed for the following programs with no recommendations provided as all agencies and programs met the requirements of the funding agreement:
 - Centerstone Rape Crisis

- Pace Center for Girls
- Parenting Matters PIES
- Safe Children's Coalition
 - In-home Child Welfare Preservation
 - Diversion Program
 - Family Preservation and Reunification Program
- Feeding Empty Little Tum mies
- HOPE Family Services
- Meals on Wheels
 - Also had a compliance visit conducted and nothing of concern noted during the observation.

New/Old Business

Charlie Kennedy addressed the question put forth in a previous CSAB meeting requesting clarification on the use of the universal identification number for children in Manatee County's early learning programs. Charlie reports there are some children being assigned the universal identification numbers and the number is being used by children participating in Early Learning Coalition programs. Charlie and staff will be working to further determine status and provide an update in future meetings.

Public Comment

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

(In Person): Dawn Stanhope, Catrese Estuallen, Drena Green; (Virtually): Jennifer Radebach, Becky Canesse, and Joy Mahler.

- Dawn Stanhope, Boys and Girls Clubs: Thanked the Members for their ongoing support for the children in the community. Spoke on the \$3.2 million dollar grant agency was selected to receive as a one-time gift and reviewed how the money will be allocated. Dawn reviewed ways the agency will continue to seek ways to deepen the impact their programs provide, their ongoing work to close the opportunity gap, and ways to utilize trauma informed work for their clients.
- Catrese Estuallen, Boys and Girls Clubs: Addressed the questions the Members had during review of programs. Educated Members on the Teen program's randomization of their clients for the results and the program's requirements for the tracked clients to attend 3 times a week. Spoke on Great Futures program adding a location at Samoset. The type of site will depend on if it will be a site-based program or of the clients will be transported to DeSoto club for programming. Trauma informed care will go to all direct staff to equip them to work directly with clients. Reviewed technology and software used for the literacy aspect of the programs.
- Drena Green, Just for Girls: Thanked the Members for their time to review applications for the better futures of the children on the county. Addressed the Member's concerns for the milestone timelines for their related results. Spoke on many of the girls have many barriers and the broad window of time allows for the clients with many and unique barriers having the opportunity to achieve the milestones. Drena shared how staffings are utilized by program staff to reviewed and discuss those cases where clients are having struggling or having difficulty making progress toward milestones and how staff can modify program delivery to meet those client's needs. Drena also provided a brief summary on the behavior rubrics and point sheets and how they are utilized by their respective programs.

- Jennifer Radebach, New Path Academy: Thanked the members for their words and feedback. Jennifer shared she is retiring and Denise Jordan will be stepping into the role.
- Becky Canesse, Just for Girls: Thanked the Members for their time and recommendations. Spoke on the Stepping Up to Success program that wraps around the Girls Alternative Program for Success and how the programs work independently and in tandem to serve the clients. Reviewed the academics, behavior, and character aspects of both programs. Also reviewed the assessments the elementary Girls Alternative Program for Success uses (KidzLit and iReady) and measurements and results observed.
- Joy Mahler, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Suncoast: Spoke on pride of the program's partnership with the CSAB and is appreciative of the ongoing support. Reviewed the program is facilitated in a face-to-face model. The mentoring program is seeing an increase in mentors returning post-COVID and the positive impact this has on services and the clients.

Next Meeting

April 27, 2022 – 3:00 pm, Manatee County Administration Building, 1112 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, Florida, Manatee/Osprey Rooms, 5th floor.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Approved

Debbie Tapp, Chair

Date