



Children's Services Advisory Board Meeting

July 20, 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 July 20, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Also Present: County Staff: (In Person), Kristi Hagen, LaWanda Timmons, Chris Handy-Honeycutt, Johanna Beville, Melissa Bomar (Virtual) Lee Washington; Members of the Public: (In Person) Isis LaRose, Jessica Ryherd, and Beth Clark (Virtually) Becky Canesse, Renee Simon, Sue Cappiello, and Drena Green.

Call to Order/Welcome

Debbie Tapp, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Minutes for June 16, 2022, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Susan Miller Kelly, **Seconded by** Connie Shingledecker, **Vote:** Motion passed (**Summary:** Yes = 7, No = 0, Abstain = 0) (In Person): Debbie Tapp, Connie Shingledecker, Hon. Scott Brownell, Jennifer Hamey, Charlie Kennedy, Susan Miller Kelly, Kelly Hunt, Xtavia Bailey, (Virtually): Jannon Pierce. **Absent/Excused:** Kimberly Kutch and Carolann Garafola; **Absent/Unexcused:** George VanBuren and Rita Smith.

Better Together Presentation

Isis LaRose provided a presentation on Better Together for the CSAB Members. Isis provided a review of their services provided through the Better Families and Better Jobs programs, their target demographics, and their impact in the communities they serve. The agency and its programs are 100% privately funded and has a 98% success rate. Agency began operating programs in 2015 expanding to Manatee County in February 2020. Between Manatee and Sarasota Counties a combined total of 400 children have been served. Isis fielded questions from CSAB Members.

Rita Smith entered at 3:31pm

Review of F.E.L.T. FY22/23 Application

CSAB Members discussed the program and reviewed the application. CSAB members discussed the final average score of 75 for the application, the information and budgets submitted with the application, and the reason for the program declining the emergency funding the CSAB members had approved during the June 22, 2022, meeting.

Motion: Recommend requested level funding in the amount of \$100,000 for Feeding Empty Little Tummys, Inc. (F.E.L.T.), Weekend Meals Program, **Action:** To Approve **Moved by** Jannon Pierce **Seconded by** Charlie Kennedy, **Vote:** Motion amended.

Motion: Amended motion for recommendation requested funding in the amount of \$125,000 for Feeding Empty Little Tummys, Inc. (F.E.L.T.), Weekend Meals Program, **Action:** To Approve **Moved by** Jannon Pierce **Seconded by** Charlie Kennedy, **Vote:** Motion passed unanimously (**Summary:** Yes = 12- Debbie Tapp, Connie Shingledecker, Xtavia Bailey, Charlie Kennedy, Kelly Hunt, Jannon Pierce, Rita Smith, Scott Brownell, Jennifer Hamey, and Susan Miller Kelly, No= 0, Abstain= 0). **Present** (In Person): Debbie Tapp, Connie Shingledecker, Hon. Scott Brownell, Jennifer Hamey, Charlie Kennedy, Susan Miller Kelly, Kelly Hunt, Xtavia Bailey (Virtually): Jannon Pierce and Rita Smith. **Conflicts:** None declared. **Rationale:** Desperately needed program to support feeding the children in our community. **Public Comment:** Jessica Ryherd, Feeding Empty Little Tummys, provided explanation for additional application questions/concerns, voiced her appreciation for the CSAB members support, and provided an update on the recent fundraising efforts and food donations increasing.

Staff Updates

LaWanda Timmons provided the following updates:

- Reviewed recent work with Educational Consultants Consortium to strengthen their results, milestones, and verifications for FY23.
- Reviewed compliance visit completed with no issues or findings for The Florida Center's Early Childhood Court program.

Chris Handy-Honeycutt provided the following updates:

- AMIKids are working to submit their 2nd quarter requirements, with a site visit scheduled for tomorrow to provide them with assistance and education on submitting the requirements in the portal.
- Reviewed recent compliance visits conducted with no concerns noted during the observations:
 - Easter Seals' Family Support Services program
 - United Community Center's BASE+ program

Johanna Beville provided the following updates:

- Quarter 3 Results are currently being submitted by programs, due July 30
- All programs have had their third compliance observation visit completed. All were found to be in compliance. However, the following programs require a follow-up visit to be conducted before the end of July to determine if they followed recommendations provided addressing potential concerns:
 - Healthy Teens' Teen Health Educator program
 - Replay Outreach's Success4Life program
 - Just for Girls' Stepping up to Success program

Kristi Hagen provided the following updates:

- CSAB's Funding Recommendations will not be going before Board of County Commissioner on July 26, 2022. Tentatively scheduled for the work session scheduled on August 3, 2022.
- Introduced new Human Services Analyst, Melissa Bomar.
- Nathan Scott previously presented to the CSAB and provided answers to some members' questions:
 - There are 210 "Active-Regular" or "Approved" foster homes Manatee County with 235 children at an average of 1.12 children per home.
 - 130 of the afore mentioned homes are Level I (relatives or non-relatives)
 - 50 have no placements
 - For the 80 who do have placements, there are 112 children with an average of 1.4 children pre home
 - 80 are not Level I homes and are licensed family foster homes
 - 18 have no placements

- For the 62 who do have placements, there are 1230 children with an average of 1.98 children per home.

Melissa Bomar introduced herself to the CSAB Members and provided background on her previous working experience.

New/Old Business

None.

Public Comment

None.

Next Meeting

August 17, 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 4:17 p.m.

Approved

Debbie Tapp, Chair

Date