

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR MANATEE ROOM
1112 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida
June 17, 2026**

Present were:

Xtavia Bailey, Chairperson
Heather Felton
Carolann Garafola, (Via Zoom)
Michelle Laughrey
Cassandra Mitchell
Connie Shingledecker
Debbie Tapp

Absent were:

Jannon Pierce, Vice-Chairperson
Hon. Scott Brownell
Kristin Gallagher
Rita Smith

Two seats are vacant.

Also present were:

Melissa Bomar, Children's Services Section Manager
Johanna Beville, Program Analyst
Brenda Marquez Facio, Human Services Analyst
Hannah Bishop, Deputy Clerk, Clerk of the Circuit Court

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
Chairperson Bailey called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairperson Bailey.

AGENDA/SIGN-IN SHEET

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3. **ROLL CALL**
A quorum was declared.
4. **MINUTES**
A motion was made by Member Felton, seconded by Member Shingledecker, and carried 7-0, with members Brownell, Gallagher, Pierce, and Smith absent, to approve the minutes of May 18, 2026.

A motion was made by Member Felton, seconded by Member Laughrey, and carried 7-0, with Members Brownell, Gallagher, Pierce, and Smith absent, to approve the minutes of May 20, 2026.

5. **FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING SYSTEM COORDINATOR ANNUAL UPDATE**

Nathan Scott, Florida Department of Health, utilized a slide presentation to review Manatee County's Child and Family Well-Being system, system of care roadmap, child fatalities, prevention and diversion, abuse hotline, removals, out-of-home care, staffing capacity, performance snapshot, safety and permanency, stability and timeliness, Parents for Parents (P4P), Manatee County care team, Adverse Child Experience (ACEs) in "Community" kids, Florida Safety Alliance (FSA) priorities, "lockouts" and high-acuity youth, and potential solutions for future consideration.

Discussion ensued regarding the system of care roadmap, deaths categorized as other or undetermined, prevention and diversion, living circumstances throughout the County, abuse hotline services, child drug abuse statistics, staffing capacity and caseloads, P4P program outcomes, concerns related to "lockouts" and high-acuity youth, County mental health programs, early intervention and prevention efforts, adoption services, programs for parents of middle school-aged children, resource center locations, free community resources, and the utilization of mental health interns.

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6. **EMERGENCY FUNDING REQUEST**

Melissa Bomar, Children's Services Coordinator, stated the funding request for the Suncoast Workforce Board's Summer Youth Employment Program required Board approval prior to submission of the emergency funding application, and noted this is a new program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026.

Discussion ensued regarding justification for the emergency funding, anticipated timing of the funding, the recommendation meetings have occurred, and the program missed the deadline to complete the application review process.

Ms. Bomar explained the programs operations and timeline.

A motion was made by Member Tapp, seconded by Member Shingledecker, and carried 7-0, with Members Brownell, Gallagher, Pierce, and Smith absent, to deny the emergency funding application request.

7. **STAFF UPDATES**

Brenda Marquez Facio, Human Services Analyst, reported drowning prevention posters have been distributed to all County libraries. She noted the highest level of distribution has occurred at the Rocky Bluff location, and a second set of alarms have been delivered to that branch, and reported Sleep Baby Safely is now available on Unite Us and is prepared to receive referrals from any provider utilizing the platform.

Melissa Bomar, Children's Services Section Manager, had no updates.

Johanna Beville, Program Analyst, reported counseling standards were completed for HOPE and Tidewell with no concerns identified. She stated she met with Jewish Family Services and All Star to review the requirements and have scheduled follow up visits to review their counseling standards binder, and the ribbon-cutting ceremony took place today for the Animal Welfare Resource Center.

(Depart Chairperson Bailey, Gavel passed to Member Shingledecker)

8. **COMMISSIONER UPDATES**

Commissioner Ballard commented on the grand opening of the Animal Welfare Resource Center and highlighted the significance to the community.

Discussion ensued regarding staff vacancies, the County's hiring freeze, and the potential impact on property taxes.

9. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Anthony Gagliano, Suncoast, Career Source, thanked the Board for consideration of the emergency funding request.

There being no further public comment, Member Shingledecker closed public comment.

10. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place August 19, 2026, at 3:00 p.m., at the Manatee County Administrative Building, 1112 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, in the 5th Floor Manatee Room.

ADJOURN

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

Minutes Approved: _____

