# CHILDREN'S SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING LAKEWOOD RANCH LIBRARY, MEETING ROOM A 16410 Rangeland Pkwy Bradenton, Florida February 19, 2025

#### Present were:

Xtavia Bailey, Chairman, (Entered during meeting)
Jannon Pierce, Vice-Chairman
Hon. Scott Brownell
Heather Felton, (Entered during meeting)
Carolann Garafola
Emily Gault
Patricia Miner
Nina Romeu, (Entered during meeting)
Rita Smith, (Entered during meeting)
Debbie Tapp

### Absent were:

Barbara Byrne Connie Shingledecker Constance Charles-Logan

### 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 Brenda Marquez Facio, Human Services Analyst Hannah Bishop, Deputy Clerk, Clerk of the Circuit Court

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Pierce called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

### **AGENDA and SIGN-IN SHEET**

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### 2. ROLL CALL

A quorum was declared, with members Byrne, Shingledecker, and Charles-Logan absent.

### 3. **MINUTES**

There were no minutes for approval.

### 4. **NEW PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS**

Healthy Habits to Success, Pace Center for Girls

(Entered Members Felton, Smith, and Romeu)

Christi Haley, Development Director, and Amy Wick Mavis, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Pace Center for Girls, provided a brief summary regarding the program, the purpose, mission, philosophy, the three pillars, work alongside with schools, the Pace Center building should be completed this Spring, offer classes on nutrition, the girls will learn life skills in the program, the age range is from 11 to 17 years of age, and shared the requirements of the program.

Discussion ensued regarding the age of the girls in the program, Home Economics being in the schools, understanding funding for the program, and cooking meals at home and at the center.

Summer Youth Employment Program, Suncoast Workforce Board

Karima Habity, Workforce Development Director, provided a brief summary regarding the program, Students shadow employers, provide job fair opportunities, receive job descriptions from each employer, partnered with Manatee County for Summer internships, provides an opportunity for students to find their long-term career, partner with State College of Florida (SCF), provide a class to help with financial literacy, and the program currently has 177 students.

Discussion ensued regarding the age limit, learning any long-term skills with the employer, long-term employment for the teens, partner with Career Source, an understanding of the jobs the teens are engaged in, an understanding of the purpose of the funding, and questioned the length of the program.

## (Enter Chairman Bailey, Vice-Chairman Pierce handed off the gavel) School-Year Program, Avenue941

Brenda Critchfield, Founder and Director of Avenue941, provided a brief summary, the requested funding is for afternoon programs, the program is academically focused, spiritually driven after school program for K-12 students, empower churches to open their doors throughout the week to support the next generation, building confidence, growing spiritually, and improving behavior, a safe place for Students to go after school, currently have 14 locations, only program serving the community, and partner with churches.

Discussion ensued regarding the churches providing the site, measuring the growth of behavior, and providing feedback with the students.

<u>Autism Spectrum Disorder Continuum of Care, Family Initiative</u> There was no representative for this program.

### AQUAlibrium Drowning Prevention Program, Big Dreams Through Small Steps

Misty Rich, Big Dreams Through Small Steps, provided a brief summary of the program to help better families through community and connections, shared the risks of all types of water, created a pilot program to offer swimming lessons to kids to help prevent drowning, provide the program to all-three to five years old in the County, to teach water safety, and market to Pre-Schools.

Discussion ensued regarding the understanding of the connections, the involvement with the parents in the classes, parents receiving information on drowning prevention, an understanding of the class, questioned the funding being requested, collaboration with Early Learning and Childcare (ELC), partnering with Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) or G.T. Bray Park, an explanation of the pilot program mentioned, permission slips and waivers to be signed by the parents, and a risk assessment on children.

### All Star Children's Foundation

Denise Marzullo and Stephen Francher, All Star Children's Foundation, shared a brief explanation of the program, the location is on 17th Street in Sarasota, the mission is to build a brighter future for children in foster care through innovation, science, and compassion,

evidence-based, trauma-informed practices that recognize the intergenerational nature of trauma among children in foster care and address their complex and diverse needs, focus on educating, supporting, and empowering the adults around a child to promote safe, trusting adult-child relationships within which children can thrive, licensed psychologist to perform screening on children, the funding request is to provide an outpatient mental health service and to be able to conduct the psychological screenings, create a treatment plan and recommendations for each child, meals are provided to the students who are at the foundation all day, partner with schools to help each child be successful, and provide on-site therapy and housing.

Discussion ensued regarding an understanding of the assessment and the turnaround for each assessment, continuing treatment with each child's family life, questioned schooling for the children staying on the campus or part of the program, partnering with the public schools in Manatee County, an explanation of the process, assessments taking place at the schools, and the application has been submitted to the Children Services Advisory Board (CSAB) for review.

### 5. FEEDING EMPTY LITTLE TUMMIES

Program did not claim a priority status, and does not need to claim a priority due to being a Results as Service application Program is requesting a funding increase and is eligible for tier two level.

6. CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

Program claimed priority status A - Child Welfare: Children are safe in their homes, free from abuse or neglect. Program is requesting a funding increase, and is eligible for tier two level.

7. KIDS PERSONAL SAFETY

Program did not claim a priority status, and does not need to claim a priority due to being a Results as Service application. Program is requesting a funding increase and eligible for tier one level.

8. RESIDENTIAL

Program did not claim a priority status. Program is requesting a funding increase and eligible for tier two level.

9. EMERGENCY FOOD & BABY BASKETS

Program did not claim a priority status. Program is requesting a funding increase and eligible for tier two level.

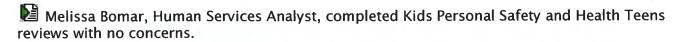
10. THE SALVATION ARMY FAMILY SHELTER

Program did not claim a priority status. Program is requesting a funding increase and eligible for tier one level.

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- 11. STAFF UPDATES
  - Johanna Beville, Senior Human Services Analyst, went to Genesis Health Rubonia Community Center to follow up on action plan and saw no concerns.
  - Brenda Marquez Facio, Human Services Analyst, had no staff updates.

### February 19, 2025



Kristi Hagen, Children's Services Coordinator, stated if any members have conflicts, please fill out the required form, Boys and Girls Club funding for Opioid education was approved through Public Safety, and the March 5, 2025, meeting will be held at the County Administrative Building.

### 13. **NEW/OLD BUSINESS**

Member Garafola noted Advisory Boards can make comments at regular Board of County Commissioner meetings.

Chairman Bailey shared her experience at the multi-Cultural event, and welcomed new members.

### 14. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Wiles, Juvenile Justice Ministry, thanked the Board for all accomplished.

Jessica Ryherd, Executive Director, Feeding Empty Little Tummies (FELT), provided feedback regarding the questions, possibility of hiring contract employees, depending on the need, it cost the program \$500 a year to feed children, stated the budget requested does not cover the yearly budget, due to the amount of children needing to be fed, and thanked the Board for all is done.

Julia Robertson, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Manatee Children's Services, spoke on the questions regarding the financials, not requesting a nurse for residential, a Gala to be held in the Fall dependent upon weather, and spoke on the administrative fee being higher.

Kimberly Griffin, Manatee Children's Services, shared a brief explanation of the program's services, and explained the purpose of the funding being requested.

Pam Burden, Paul Fowler, and Julia Showers, The Salvation Army, responded to the questions by the Board, provided a brief summary of the programs being offered, and explained the purpose of the funding being requested.

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

### 15. **MEETING SCHEDULE**

The next meeting will occur February 26, 2025, at 3:00 p.m., in the Manatee County Administrative Building, 1112 Manatee Avenue W, Bradenton, in the 5th Floor Manatee Room.

### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Chairman Bailey adjourned the meeting at 5:25 p.m.

Minutes Approved: