

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR MANATEE ROOM
1112 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida
February 25, 2026**

Present were:

Xtavia Bailey, Chairperson, (Entered during meeting)
Jannon Pierce, Vice-Chairperson
Hon. Scott Brownell
Kristin Gallagher
Carolann Garafola
Cassandra Mitchell
Connie Shingledecker
Rita Smith, (Entered during meeting)
Debbie Tapp

Absent were:

Heather Felton
Michelle Laughrey

Two seats are vacant.

Also present were:

Tracie Adams, Deputy Director, Community and Veteran's Services
Melissa Bomar, Interim Children's Services Coordinator
Mark Dillon, Senior Human Services Analyst
Brenda Marquez Facio, Human Services Analyst
Hannah Bishop, Deputy Clerk, Clerk of the Circuit Court

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Vice-Chairperson Pierce called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice-Chairperson Pierce.

AGENDA and SIGN-IN SHEET

CS20260225DOC001

2. **ROLL CALL**

A quorum was declared.
(Enter Chairperson Bailey, Presiding)

3. **MINUTES**

A motion was made by Member Garafola, seconded by Member Gallagher, and carried 8-0, with Members Felton and Laughrey absent, to approve the minutes of January 21 and February 18, 2026.

4. **DREAM OAKS CAMP, FOUNDATION FOR DREAMS**

Program claimed no priority. Program is not requesting a funding increase.

5. **ADAPTIVE RIDING AND EQUINE ASSISTED SERVICES, SARASOTA MANATEE ASSOCIATION FOR RIDING THERAPIES (SMART)**

Program claimed B, Children develop literacy skills necessary to be successful in school and C, Children have the skills necessary to function appropriately in all environments. Program is requesting a funding increase, and eligible for tier three.

(Enter Member Smith)

Discussion ensued regarding procedures for programs requesting funding increases.

6. **CHILDREN'S THERAPY, EASTER SEALS SOUTHWEST FLORIDA**
Program claimed C, Children have the skills necessary to function appropriately in all environments. Program is requesting a funding increase, and eligible for tier one.
7. **FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES, EASTER SEALS SOUTHWEST FLORIDA**
Program claimed A, Children are safe in their homes, free from abuse or neglect. Program is requesting a funding increase, and eligible for tier two.
8. **WEEKEND MEALS, FEEDING EMPTY LITTLE TUMMIES (FELT)**
Program claimed no priority. Program is requesting a funding increase, and eligible for tier one.
9. **FOOD4FAMILIES, MEALS ON WHEELS OF MANATEE**
Program claimed no priority. This is a new program requesting funding.
10. **EMERGENCY FAMILY FOOD AND BABY BASKETS, MEALS ON WHEELS OF MANATEE**
Program claimed no priority. Program is not requesting a funding increase.
11. **FAMILY SHELTER SERVICES WITH CASE MANAGEMENT, THE SALVATION ARMY**
Program claimed no priority.

Brenda Marquez Facio, Human Services Analyst, stated a non-compliance notice has been sent to the program.

Program is requesting a funding increase, but is not eligible for tier three due to non-compliance. The request will be discussed at the May recommendation meeting to see if program is eligible for a different tier.

12. **STAFF UPDATES**
Brenda Marquez Facio, Human Services Analyst, observed Centerstone Baker Act and Easter Seals Children's Therapy, no concerns were identified. She noted Easter Seals is expanding their location to serve all clients, with a projected opening date of 2027.

Melissa Bomar, Interim Children's Services Coordinator, reminded Board Members to submit program scores on time, as delays impact the review process. She noted that Batch Two final scores are due Friday, and that Batch Three preliminary scores and Batch Four questions are due by March 3, 2026.

Mark Dillon, Senior Human Services Analyst, completed Results First Review for Parenting Matters, Chosen Families and no concerns were identified.

13. **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/UPDATES**
There were no Commissioner comments or updates.

14. **NEW/OLD BUSINESS**

There was no new or old business.

15. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Daniel Curtis, SMART, provided an update on the program's status.

Caitlin Chostla, SMART, discussed the purpose of the program's reading component.

Jessica Ryherd, FELT, provided an overview of the program.

Matt Eichel, FELT, clarified the program's purpose.

Dana Maassen, Meals on Wheels, provided an overview of the program and the purpose.

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

16. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will occur March 4, 2026, 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 Rahn adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

Minutes Approved: _____



