

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR MANATEE ROOM
1112 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida
APRIL 22, 2026**

Present were:

Xtavia Bailey, Chairperson
Hon. Scott Brownell
Heather Felton
Kristin Gallagher
Carolann Garafola
Michelle Laughrey
Cassandra Mitchell
Connie Shingledecker
Debbie Tapp

Absent was:

Jannon Pierce, Vice-Chairperson

Two seats are vacant.

Also present were:

Tracie Adams, Deputy Director, Community and Veteran's Services
Melissa Bomar, Interim Children's Services Coordinator
Brenda Marquez Facio, Human Services Analyst
Johanna Beville, Program Analyst
Mark Dillon, Senior Human Services Analyst
Vicki Tessmer, Board Records Supervisor, Deputy Clerk, Clerk of the Circuit Court

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
Chairman Bailey called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairperson Bailey

AGENDA and SIGN-IN SHEET

CS202604DOC001

3. **ROLL CALL**
A quorum was declared
4. **MINUTES**
A motion was made by Member Garafola, seconded by Member Felton, and carried 10-0, with Member Pierce absent, to approve the minutes of April 15, 2026.
5. **THE FLORIDA CENTER FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD, EARLY CHILDHOOD COURT**
Program claimed Priority A, Children are safe in their homes, free from abuse or neglect. Program is requesting a funding increase, and eligible for Tier 2.

6. **THE FLORIDA CENTER FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD, FAMILY SUPPORT TEAM**
Program claimed Priority C, Children have the skills necessary to function appropriately in all environments. This is a new program.

RECESS/RECONVENE: 3:23 p.m. – 3:25 p.m. All Members present except Member Pierce.

7. **THE FLORIDA CENTER FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD, EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH COSULTATION**
Program claimed Priority C, Children have the skills necessary to function appropriately in all environments. This is a new program.
8. **THE FLORIDA CENTER FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD, INFANT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH – OUTPATIENT**
Program claimed Priority C, Children have the skills necessary to function appropriately in all environments. This is a new program.
9. **SAFE CHILDREN COALITION, CHILD WELFARE AND PREVENTION PROGRAM**
Program claimed Priority A, Children are safe in their homes, free from abuse or neglect. Program is requesting a funding increase, and eligible for tier 1.
10. **SAFE CHILDREN COALITION, FAMILY PRESERVATION AND REUNIFICATION PROGRAM**
Program claimed Priority A, Children are safe in their homes, free from abuse or neglect. Program is requesting a funding increase, and eligible for tier 1.
11. **SAFE CHILDREN COALITION, YOUTH INTERVENTION SERVICES**
Program claimed Priority C, Children have the skills necessary to function appropriately in all environments. Program is requesting a funding increase, and eligible for tier 1.
12. **STAFF UPDATES**
Brenda Marquez Facio, Human Services Analyst, had no updates.

Mark Dillon, Senior Human Services Analyst, conducted a follow-up compliance visit for Foundation for Excellence, and the program addressed all identified concerns.

Johanna Beville, Program Analyst, had no updates.

Melissa Bomar, Interim Children’s Services Coordinator, noted the Boys and Girls Club in Rubonia launched with 25 participants. The recommendation meetings will begin at 2:30 p.m., and the buffer meeting will be held in Chambers on May 6.
13. **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/UPDATES**
There were no comments.
14. **NEW/OLD BUSINESS**
There was no new or old business.

15. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Melissa Robinson, Family Support Team, responded to questions posed by Members.

Pam Hodge, Early Childhood Court, responded to questions regarding other funding and contracted staff.

Kimberly Trahone, Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation, responded to questions, and stressed the importance of finding the services to meet each child's needs.

Lisa Eckley, Child Welfare, responded to questions by Members. Acuity has increased and the time cases remain with their agency has increased.

Sean Staffieri, Safe Children's Coalition, noted they met their measures the past three years, and responded to questions by the Members.

Jennifer Dyer, Safe Children's Coalition, Reunification Team, relayed assistance provided to clients.

Latif Matt, Safe Children's Coalition, Reunification Team, relayed assistance provided to clients.

Michelle Gaines, Safe Children's Coalition, referred to the staff report and clarified enrollment in the program.

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

16. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will occur April 29, 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, Chairperson Bailey adjourned the meeting at 4:49 p.m.

Minutes Approved: 

