

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR MANATEE ROOM
1112 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida
March 12, 2025**

Present were:

Xtavia Bailey, Chairman
Jannon Pierce, Vice-Chairman
Hon. Scott Brownell
Barbara Byrne (entered during meeting)
Constance Charles-Logan
Heather Felton
Carolann Garafola
Nina Romeu (entered during meeting)
Connie Shingledecker
Rita Smith
Debbie Tapp

Absent was:

Patricia Miner

One seat is vacant.

Also present were:

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

1. Chairman Bailey called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

AGENDA and SIGN-IN SHEET

BC20250312DOC001

2. ROLL CALL

A quorum was declared.

3. MINUTES

A motion was made by Member Charles-Logan, seconded by Member Shingledecker, and carried 9-0, with Members Byrne, Miner, and Romeu absent to approve the minutes of March 5, 2025.

4. HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START, STEP UP SUNCOAST

Program claimed priority status B: Education and literacy, children develop literacy skills necessary to be successful in school. Program is requesting a funding increase and eligible for tier three level.

5. COLLABORATIVE ACTION THERAPY FOR CHILDREN'S HEALTH, STEP UP SUNCOAST

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

6. **HEALTHY FAMILIES, STEP UP SUNCOAST**

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 eligible for tier one level.

7. **HOME INSTRUCTION FOR PARENTS OF PRESCHOOL YOUNGSTERS, STEP UP SUNCOAST**

Program claimed priority status B: Education and Literacy, Children develop literacy skills necessary to be successful in school. Program is requesting a funding increase and eligible for tier one level.

8. **PARENTS AS TEACHERS, STEP UP SUNCOAST**

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 eligible for tier three level.

9. **WHOLE CHILD MANATEE, STEP UP SUNCOAST**

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

10. **MENTORING MATTERS: IMPACT OVER OBSTACLES, TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN OF MANATEE COUNTY**

Program did not claim a priority, and is not requesting a funding increase.

11. **STAFF UPDATES**

Brenda Marquez Facio, Human Services Analyst, had no updates

Melissa Bomar, Human Services Analyst, conducted a site visit at Just for Girls, and there are no issues.

Johanna Beville, Senior Human Services Analyst, had no updates.

Kristi Hagen, Children's Services Coordinator, reminded Members to submit their preliminary scores on the Monday prior to the meeting. Final scores need to be submitted by Friday.

Discussion ensued to submit scores after public comment, because questions may be answered.

12. **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/UPDATES**

There were no Commissioner comments or updates.

13. **NEW/OLD BUSINESS**

Member Tapp requested assistance on scoring for essential partners regarding letters of commitment, when the letter submitted only says support.

Discussion ensued regarding needing partners to participate, need more information and discuss in the beginning meeting, scores can be low, letter of support is not the same as providing assistance, and some programs must have partners to continue providing services.

14. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Peter Murawski, Step Up Suncoast, addressed questions, and noted they must have a match in funding, and they are fearful, if there is no local match, they will lose federal dollars. The requested increase meets requirements.

Kathy Patreka, Step Up Suncoast, responded to questions and addressed parent involvement and waiting lists for infants and toddlers.

Claudia Glover, Step Up Suncoast, Catch, responded to questions and addressed the increase requested for various therapies.

Linda Hedrick, Healthy Families, Step Up Suncoast, explained they review sleep habits numerous times with families. She also addressed letters of support.

Anna Cismesia, Step Up Suncoast, Parents as Teachers, responded to questions and explained requirements, staff training, and the need for a budget to provide training. They have to provide safety features to families if they are needed.

Kim Ross, Whole Child Manatee, responded to questions and noted there was an increase in families, because they assist families with applications to other service providers.

Michael Higley, Take Stock Manatee, thanked Members who have been mentors, noted demographics of students, post-secondary education, assistance with applying for scholarships, scholarships Take Stock Manatee provides, and other resources. They encourage students to have at least a 2.5 GPA, but those who plan on attending college, on average, have a 3.48 GPA.

Anne LaBaron, Take Stock Manatee, addressed budget questions, and expounded on assistance provided to students. They offer technical school and college scholarships.

Rachel Spivey, Sleep Baby Sleep, Early Learning Coalition, recognized the input from the Committee, and proposed creating a sub-committee to assist her with making the program more successful.

Amy Yount, Step Up Suncoast, thanked the Committee for their dedication, and ensured they will respond to all questions.

Marisa Knight Step Up Suncoast, provided further information regarding goals, and noted the success rate is for children meeting one goal in their therapy plan. She continued to expound on therapeutic goals, and the results.

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

15. **MEETING SCHEDULE**

The next meeting will take place March 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 5:06 p.m.
Minutes Approved:

