

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
John H. Marble Recreation Center, 3675 53rd Avenue East  
Bradenton, Florida  
February 18, 2026**

Present were:

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

Absent was:

Rita Smith

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

**AGENDA and SIGN-IN SHEET**

CS20260218DOC001

2. **ROLL CALL**

A quorum was declared.

3. **MINUTES**

There were no minutes for approval.

4. **SLEEP BABY SAFELY BI-ANNUAL REPORT**

(Enter Member Shingledecker)

Rachel Spivey, Early Learning Coalition (ELC), and Kelly Beavers, CATCH, utilized a slide presentation to review Sleepy Baby Safely, program start up, launch, emergency funding received, regular cycle, goal, leading the program, operations, materials made to enhance the message, campaign touchpoints, preventable child deaths by type, zip codes for 43 unsafe sleep deaths, tips include following safe sleep ABCS (alone, back, crib), share a room, not a bed, stay alert while feeding, hold the bottle, don't prop, and have a designated caregiver, impact data to date, community collaborations, Manatee County infant unsafe sleep-related deaths by calendar year, what you can do, together we can make a difference, and safe sleep is as easy as ABC.

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(Enter Chairperson Bailey, Presiding)

5. **CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING SYSTEM COORDINATION PROGRAM- FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
Program claimed priority A, Children are safe in their homes, free from abuse or neglect. Program is not requesting a funding increase.
6. **MUSICAL MOTION, PARENTING MATTERS**  
Program claimed priority C, Children have the skills necessary to function appropriately in all environments. Program is not requesting a funding increase.
7. **PARENT PARTNER PROGRAM, PARENTING MATTERS**  
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 one.
8. **CHOSEN FAMILIES, PARENTING MATTERS**  
Program claimed priority A, Children are safe in their homes, free from abuse or neglect. Program is not requesting a funding increase.
9. **SLEEP BABY SAFELY, EARLY LEARNING COALITION**  
Program claimed priority D, Parents and caregivers have the skills and resources needed to stop preventable child death. Program is not requesting a funding increase.
10. **EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION CHILD CARE SUBSIDY AND MATCH PROGRAM, EARLY LEARNING COALITION**  
Program claimed no priority. Program is requesting a funding increase, and eligible for tier one.
11. **NEMOURS READING BRIGHTSTAR, EARLY LEARNING COALITION**  
Program claimed priority B, Children develop literacy skills necessary to be successful in school. Program is requesting a funding increase, and eligible for tier one.
12. **THE COORDINATED APPROACH TO CHILD HEALTH, EARLY LEARNING COALITION**  
Program claimed no priority. Program is requesting a funding increase, and eligible for tier one.
13. **STAFF UPDATES**  
Brenda Marquez Facio, Human Services Analyst, noted she is now overseeing 25 programs due to staff departures, stated that she has begun completing Results First program reviews and reported no concerns to date, continuing to schedule remaining site visits upon Results First report completion, provided an update on drowning prevention efforts, stating that a new form has been created, staff is working with the Information Outreach team to develop new informational flyers, May is Water Safety Month, staff will participate in the Manatee County Health and Wellness Expo on April 7, 2026, where water safety materials will be distributed, and upcoming meetings held in the Chambers will not include a virtual attendance option.  
  
Mark Dillon, Senior Human Services Analyst, reported reviews are completed for Jewish Family and Children's Services of Suncoast, Adolescent Diversion and Assistance Program, Jewish Family and Children's Services of Suncoast, Community Youth Response Services, Suncoast Youth for Christ, Juvenile Justice, Family Resources, and Feeding Empty Little Tummys - Weekend Program, with no concerns found. Concerns for Palmetto Youth

Center, Foundation for Excellence are related to inadequate tracking and documentation of milestones.

Melissa Bomar, Interim Children's Services Coordinator, reported reviews are complete for Insight Counseling, and Avenue941 with no concerns found. Concerns were identified for Creative Arts Academy, including lack of results tracking, untimely submission of required documentation, and noncompliance with documentation requirements, and two follow-up reviews were conducted, but no corrective changes were observed. An official notice of noncompliance was issued, and the program has been terminated.

Tracie Adams, Deputy Director, Community and Veteran's Services, explained Manatee County has a hiring freeze, and thanked the Children's Services team for their efforts in maintaining operations while short staffed.

14. **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/UPDATES**

There were no Commissioner comments or updates.

15. **NEW/OLD BUSINESS**

Member Felton reported on the recent session in Tallahassee related to the Manatee County School Board.

Member Tapp inquired whether Batch Two, Meals on Wheels, is being considered a new program.

A motion was made by Member Tapp and seconded by Member Felton, to approve Meals on Wheels new program, for Results as Service application submission.

Following a brief discussion, The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Melissa Bomar, Interim Children's Services Coordinator, provided an update regarding the retreat scheduled for October and informed the Board that all future meetings will be held in the Manatee Room of the Administrative Building.

Discussion ensued regarding a work session versus a retreat purpose, and reviewed the retreat agenda as set by the Chairperson.

Chairperson Bailey discussed the possibility of amending the CSAB Ordinance.

Discussion ensued regarding CSAB Ordinance, and adult services.

Member Garafola requested the next meeting include a discussion on allocating larger funding amounts to fewer agencies.

Ms. Bomar, announced Member Arter resigned.

16. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Nathan Scott, Florida Department of Health, stated he can provide data regarding youth aging out of the foster system.

Katie Becker, Parenting Matters, clarified the purpose of the program, reviewed the application with the CSAB Board, and thanked County staff for their efforts.

Rachel Spivey, ELC, provided an update on staff training and outreach, and reviewed the application and screening process.

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

17. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will occur February 25, 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 4:55 p.m.

Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

