

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR MANATEE ROOM
1112 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida
May 19, 2025**

Present were:

Debbie Tapp - Chairman
Jannon Pierce, Vice-Chairman
Hon. Scott Brownell
Constance Charles-Logan
Heather Felton
Carolann Garafola
Connie Shingledecker
Rita Smith

Two seats are vacant.

Absent were:

Xtavia Bailey, Chairman
Patricia Miner
Nina Romeu

Also present were:

Tracie Adams, Deputy Director, Community and Veteran's Services
Kristi Hagen, Children's Services Coordinator
Johanna Beville, Program Analyst
Melissa Bomar, Senior Human Services Analyst
Brenda Marquez Facio, Human Services Analyst
Mark Dillon, Senior Human Services Analyst
Lorrie Ruggiero, Administrative Specialist Temp
Hannah Bishop, Deputy Clerk, Clerk of the Circuit Court

Member Tapp opened the meeting, due to Chairman Bailey being out, and Vice-Chairman Pierce arriving late. Member Tapp served as Chairman.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**



Chairman Tapp called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

AGENDA and SIGN-IN SHEET

CS20250519DOC001

2. **ROLL CALL**




Brenda Marquez Facio, Human Services Analyst, read opening comments regarding the procedures for the meeting and declared a quorum.

3. **CSAB RECOMMENDATIONS**



Chairman Tapp reviewed the documents provided to the Children Services Advisory Board (CSAB) Members including the ranking of the scores, introduced the option for any program scoring 85 and above, to be considered as a high score, which can be included in rationale for funding.


Florida Department of Health Sarasota, Child and Family Well-Being System Coordinator, - Score: N/A

 A motion was made by Member Smith and seconded by Member Pierce, to recommend investment in the amount of \$62,817 for Florida Department of Health Sarasota, Child and Family Well-Being System Coordinator. Rationale: Important program for the community.

There being no public comments, Chairman Tapp closed public comments.

 The motion carried 8-0, with Chairman Bailey, and Members Miner and Romeu absent.


Centerstone of Florida, Inc., Mental Health Evaluation - Baker Act Youth - Score: 94.10

 A motion was made by Member Felton and seconded by Member Pierce, to recommend investment in the amount of \$153,253 for Centerstone of Florida, Inc., Mental Health Evaluation - Baker Act Youth. Rationale: Vital need for program services in community, high score, and important program for the community.

There being no public comments, Chairman Tapp closed public comments.

 The motion carried 8-0, with Chairman Bailey, and Members Miner and Romeu absent.


Parenting Matters, Chosen Families - Score: 92.90

 A motion was made by Member Garafola and seconded by Member Shingledecker, to recommend investment in the amount of \$412,650 for Parenting Matters, Chosen Families. Rationale: Vital need for program services in community and important program for the community.

There being no public comments, Chairman Tapp closed public comments.

 The motion carried 8-0, with Chairman Bailey, and Members Miner and Romeu absent.


Family Resources, Inc., Safeplace2B - Score: 92.80

 A motion was made by Member Shingledecker and seconded by Member Pierce, to recommend investment in the amount of \$107,000 for Family Resources, Inc., Safeplace2B. Rationale: Provides critical service, high score, and important program for the community.

There being no public comments, Chairman Tapp closed public comments.

 The motion carried 8-0, with Chairman Bailey, and Members Miner and Romeu absent.


Manatee Children's Services, Kids Personal Safety - Score: 91.40

 A motion was made by Member Shingledecker and seconded by Member Garafola, to recommend requested level of funding in the amount of \$168,613 for Manatee Children's Services, Kids Personal Safety. Rationale: Important program for the community.

There being no public comments, Chairman Tapp closed public comments.

 The motion carried 8-0, with Chairman Bailey, and Member Miner absent.


Manatee Children's Services, Child Advocacy Center - Score: 91.20

 A motion was made by Member Smith and seconded by Member Garafola, to recommend investment in the amount of \$1,184,094 for Child Advocacy Center. Rationale: Important program for the community.

There being no public comments, Chairman Tapp closed public comments.

 The motion carried 8-0, with Chairman Bailey, and Members Miner and Romeu absent.


Manatee Children's Services Residential - Score: 90.50

 A motion was made by Member Shingledecker and seconded by Member Pierce, to recommend requested level of funding in the amount of \$485,292 for Manatee Children's Services, Residential. Rationale: Provides critical service, history of success (Results), high score, and important program for the community.

There being no public comments, Chairman Tapp closed public comments.

The motion carried 8-0, with Chairman Bailey, and Members Miner and Romeu absent.


Next Generation Academics, Inc., Alternative Path to Success (APS) - Score: 90.40

 A motion was made by Member Pierce and seconded by Member Garafola, to recommend investment in the amount of \$95,000 for Next Generation Academics, Inc., Alternative Path to Success (APS). Rationale: Provides critical service, history of success (results), high score, and important program for the community.

There being no public comments, Chairman Tapp closed public comments.

 The motion carried 8-0, with Chairman Bailey, and Members Miner and Romeu absent.


Myakka City Community Center, MAC Morning Care, After School, Camp Myakka - Score: 90.30

 A motion was made by Member Felton and seconded by Member Shingledecker, to recommend investment in the amount of \$132,002 for Myakka City Community Center, MAC Morning Care, After School, Camp Myakka. Rationale: High score, and serves a unique population or community.

There being no public comments, Chairman Tapp closed public comments.


 The motion carried 8-0, with Chairman Bailey, and Members Miner and Romeu absent.

Centerstone of Florida, Inc., Children's Community Action Treatment (CAT) Team - Score: 90.20


 A motion was made by Member Smith and seconded by Member Shingledecker, to recommend investment in the amount of \$881,157 for Centerstone of Florida, Inc., Children's Community Action Treatment (CAT) Team. Rationale: Priority program, Vital

need for program services in community, history of success (results), high score, program brings in match funds, and important program for the community.

There being no public comments, Chairman Tapp closed public comments.

 The motion carried 8-0, with Chairman Bailey, and Members Miner and Romeu absent.


Parenting Matters, Parent Partner Program - Score: 90.10

 A motion was made by Member Garafola and seconded by Member Felton, to recommend investment in the amount of \$326,296 for Parenting Matters, Parent Partner Program. Rationale: Important program for the community.


There being no public comments, Chairman Tapp closed public comments.

 The motion carried 8-0, with Chairman Bailey, and Members Miner and Romeu absent.


Pace Center for Girls Manatee, Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Project - Score: 89.80

 A motion was made by Member Pierce and seconded by Member Shingledecker, to recommend investment in the amount of \$260,162 for Pace Center for Girls Manatee, Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Project. Rationale: Priority program, quality/strong results, and high score.

There being no public comments, Chairman Tapp closed public comments.


 The motion carried 7-0, with Member Charles-Logan having a conflict of interest, and Chairman Bailey, and Members Miner and Romeu absent.

Step Up Suncoast, Head Start/Early Head Start - Score: 89.60


 A motion was made by Member Smith and seconded by Member Pierce, to recommend investment in the amount of \$1,526,193 for Step Up Suncoast, Head Start/Early Head Start. Rationale: Vital need for program services in community, program brings in match funds, and important program for the community.

 Amy Yount, President and CEO of Step Up Suncoast, provided a summary of the program.


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

 The motion carried 8-0, with Chairman Bailey, and Members Miner and Romeu absent.
(Depart Member Brownell)

Meals On Wheels PLUS of Manatee, Inc., Emergency Family Food and Baby Baskets - Score: 89.50


 A motion was made by Member Felton and seconded by Member Shingledecker, to recommend investment in the amount of \$36,300 for Meals On Wheels PLUS of Manatee, Inc., Emergency Family Food and Baby Baskets. Rationale: Provides critical service, cost effective, and important program for the community.

There being no public comments, Chairman Tapp closed public comments.

 The motion carried 7-0, with Chairman Bailey, and Members Brownell, Miner and Romeu absent.

(Enter Member Brownell)


United Community Centers Inc., Before and After School, Summer Enrichment Plus (BASE+) - Score: 89.40


 A motion was made by Member Pierce and seconded by Member Garafola, to recommend investment in the amount of \$545,346 for United Community Centers Inc, Before and After School, Summer Enrichment Plus (BASE+). Rationale: Quality/strong result, and history of success (results).

There being no public comments, Chairman Tapp closed public comments.

 The motion carried 8-0, with Chairman Bailey, and Members Miner and Romeu absent.

Safe Children Coalition, Inc., Child Welfare and Prevention Program - Score: 89.30


 A motion was made by Member Garafola and seconded by Member Shingledecker, to recommend investment in the amount of \$456,223 for Safe Children Coalition, Inc., Child Welfare and Prevention Program. Rationale: Provides critical service, vital need for program services in community, and important program for the community.

 Krystal Cook, Director of Child Welfare and Prevention Program, thanked the Board.

There being no public comments, Chairman Tapp closed public comments.

 The motion carried 8-0, with Chairman Bailey, and Members Miner and Romeu absent.


Safe Children Coalition, Inc., Family Preservation and Reunification Program - Score: 89.10

 A motion was made by Member Shingledecker and seconded by Member Pierce, to recommend investment in the amount of \$389,266 for Safe Children Coalition, Inc., Family Preservation and Reunification Program. Rationale: High score and Important program for the community.

There being no public comments, Chairman Tapp closed public comments.

 The motion carried 8-0, with Chairman Bailey, and Members Miner and Romeu absent.


Early Learning Coalition of Manatee, Early Care and Education Child Care Subsidy and Match Program - Score: 89.10

 A motion was made by Member Felton and seconded by Member Charles - Logan, to recommend investment in the amount of \$2,612,950 for Early Learning Coalition of Manatee, Early Care and Education Child Care Subsidy and Match Program. Rationale: priority program, vital need for program services in community, and program brings in match funds.

There being no public comments, Chairman Tapp closed public comments.

 The motion carried 8-0, with Chairman Bailey, and Members Miner and Romeu absent.


Just for Girls, Girls Alternative Program for Success (GAPS) - Score: 88.80

 A motion was made by Member Smith and seconded by Member Garafola, to recommend investment in the amount of \$858,540 for Just for Girls, Girls Alternative Program for Success (GAPS). Rationale: History of success (results), high score, and important program for the community.

There being no public comments, Chairman Tapp closed public comments.

 The motion carried 8-0, with Chairman Bailey, and Members Miner and Romeu absent.


Insight Counseling Services, Inc., SOAR Program (Sexual Offense & Abuse Rehabilitation) - Score: 88.70

 A motion was made by Member Shingledecker and seconded by Member Pierce, to recommend investment in the amount of \$135,355 for Insight Counseling Services, Inc., SOAR Program (Sexual Offense & Abuse Rehabilitation). Rationale: Provides critical service, unique or one-of-a-kind program, and history of success (results).

There being no public comments, Chairman Tapp closed public comments.

 The motion carried 8-0, with Chairman Bailey, and Members Miner and Romeu absent.


Family Resources, Inc., Community Effort to Reduce Truancy by Assessing Individualized Needs (CERTAIN) - Score: 88.70

 A motion was made by Member Pierce and seconded by Member Garafola, to recommend investment in the amount of \$397,486 for Family Resources, Inc., Community Effort to Reduce Truancy by Assessing Individualized Needs (CERTAIN). Rationale: Vital need for program services in community, and important program for the community.

There being no public comments, Chairman Tapp closed public comments.

 The motion carried 8-0, with Chairman Bailey, and Members Miner and Romeu absent.


Easter Seals Southwest Florida, Children's Therapy - Score: 88.40

 A motion was made by Member Pierce and seconded by Member Shingledecker, to recommend investment in the amount of \$113,240 for Easter Seals Southwest Florida, Children's Therapy. Rationale: Quality/strong result, provides critical service, and serves a unique population or community.

There being no public comments, Chairman Tapp closed public comments.

 The motion carried 8-0, with Chairman Bailey, and Members Miner and Romeu absent.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County, The Club Teen Program (Ages 13 - 17) - Score: 88.20


 A motion was made by Member Felton and seconded by Member Smith, to recommend investment in the amount of \$247,500 for Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee


County, The Club Teen Program (Ages 13 - 17). Rationale: Important program for the community.

There being no public comments, Chairman Tapp closed public comments.


 The motion carried 8-0, with Chairman Bailey, and Members Miner and Romeu absent.

Take Stock in Children of Manatee County, Inc., Mentoring Matters: Impact Over Obstacles - Score: 88.20


 A motion was made by Member Felton and seconded by Member Garafola, to recommend investment in the amount of \$100,000 for Take Stock in Children of Manatee County, Inc., Mentoring Matters: Impact Over Obstacles. Rationale: Cost effective and Important program for the community.

 Dr. Michael Higgly, Take Stock in Children of Manatee County Inc., provided a summary of the program for the Board.

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

 The motion carried 8-0, with Chairman Bailey, and Members Miner and Romeu absent.


Foundation for Dreams, Dreams Oaks Camp - Score: 88.10

 A motion was made by Member Shingledecker and seconded by Member Pierce, to recommend investment in the amount of \$270,000 for Foundation for Dreams, Dreams Oaks Camp. Rationale: Vital need for program services in community, unique or one-of-a-kind program, high score, and serves a unique population or community.

There being no public comments, Chairman Tapp closed public comments.

The motion carried 8-0, with Chairman Bailey, and Members Miner and Romeu absent.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast, One to One Mentoring Program - Score: 87.40


 A motion was made by Member Smith and seconded by Member Brownell, to recommend investment in the amount of \$220,500 for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast, One to One Mentoring Program. Rationale: History of success (results), high score, and important program for the community.


 Jeanie Baik, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast, thanked the Board.

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

 The motion carried 8-0, with Chairman Bailey, and Members Miner and Romeu absent.

Early Learning Coalition, Inc, Sleep Baby Safely - Score: 87.40


 A motion was made by Member Shingledecker and seconded by Member Felton, to recommend investment in the amount of \$242,250 for Early Learning Coalition of Manatee, Sleep Baby Safely. Rationale: Vital need for program services in community, unique or one-of-a-kind program, and important program for the community.

 Rachel Spivey, Early Learning Coalition Inc, spoke on questions regarding training.

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

 The motion carried 8-0, with Chairman Bailey, and Members Miner and Romeu absent.


Step Up Suncoast, Healthy Families Manatee - Score: 87.30

 A motion was made by Member Smith and seconded by Member Shingledecker, to recommend investment in the amount of \$482,235 for Step Up Suncoast, Healthy Families Manatee. Rationale: Unique or one-of-a-kind program, high score, and important program for the community.

There being no public comments, Chairman Tapp closed public comments.

 The motion carried 8-0, with Chairman Bailey, and Members Miner and Romeu absent.


Feeding Empty Little Tummies Inc., Weekend Meals - Score: 86.60


 A motion was made by Member Pierce and seconded by Member Shingledecker, to recommend investment in the amount of \$175,000 for Feeding Empty Little Tummies Inc. Weekend Meals. Rationale: Provides critical service, Vital need for program services in community, history of success (results), and important program for the community.

There being no public comments, Chairman Tapp closed public comments.

 The motion carried 8-0, with Chairman Bailey, and Members Miner and Romeu absent.

Step Up Suncoast, Collaborative Action Therapy for Children's Health (CATCH) - Score: 86.30


 A motion was made by Member Smith and seconded by Member Garafola, to recommend investment in the amount of \$249,985 for Step Up Suncoast, Collaborative Action Therapy for Children's Health (CATCH). Rationale: Provides critical service, vital need for program services in community, unique or one-of-a-kind, and high score.


 Amy Yount, President and CEO Step Up Suncoast provided a summary of the program.

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

 The motion carried 5-0, with Members Pierce, Shingledecker and Charles-Logan voting nay, with Chairman Bailey, and Members Miner and Romeu absent.

Centerstone of Florida, Inc, Sexual Assault (Rape Crisis) Advocacy and Child Therapy - Score: 86.10

 A motion was made by Member Shingledecker and seconded by Member Pierce, to recommend investment in the amount of \$129,055 for Centerstone of Florida, Inc, Sexual Assault (Rape Crisis) Advocacy and Child Therapy. Rationale: Provides critical service, and important program for the community.


 Tari Allan, Centerstone of Florida, thanked the Board, and provided a summary of the program.

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


 The motion carried 8-0, with Chairman Bailey, and Members Miner and Romeu absent.

RECESS/RECONVENE: 4:54 p.m. – 5:01 p.m. All Members Present except Chairman Bailey, and Member Miner and Romeu.


Parenting Matters, Musical Motion - Score: 85.80

 A motion was made by Member Brownell and seconded by Member Charles-Logan, to recommend investment in the amount of \$90,000 for Parenting Matters, Musical Motion. Rationale: Unique or one-of-a-kind program.

There being no public comments, Chairman Tapp closed public comments.

 The motion carried 8-0, with Chairman Bailey, and Members Miner and Romeu absent.


Easter Seals Southwest Florida, Family Support Services - Score: 85.80

 A motion was made by Member Pierce and seconded by Member Shingledecker, to recommend investment in the amount of \$61,700 for Easter Seals Southwest Florida, Family Support Services. Rationale: Provides critical service, vital need for program services in community, unique or one-of-a-kind program, high score, serves a unique population or community, and important program for the community.

There being no public comments, Chairman Tapp closed public comments.

 The motion carried 8-0, with Chairman Bailey, and Members Miner and Romeu absent.


Just for Girls, Stepping Up To Success (SUS) - Score: 85.70

 A motion was made by Member Garafola and seconded by Member Brownell, to recommend investment in the amount of \$1,090,715 for Just for Girls, Stepping Up To Success (SUS). Rationale: Priority program, history of success (results), cost effective, and program brings in match funds.

There being no public comments, Chairman Tapp closed public comments.

 The motion carried 8-0, with Chairman Bailey, and Members Miner and Romeu absent.


Early Learning Coalition, Inc, Nemours Reading BrightStart! - Score: 85.60


 A motion was made by Member Garafola and seconded by Member Pierce, to recommend investment in the amount of \$246,100 for Early Learning Coalition of Manatee, Nemours Reading BrightStart!. Rationale: Provides critical success, history of success (results), high score, and important program for the community.

There being no public comments, Chairman Tapp closed public comments.

 The motion carried 8-0, with Chairman Bailey, and Members Miner and Romeu absent.

Step Up Suncoast, Parents as Teachers - Score: 85.40

 A motion was made by Member Smith and seconded by Member Felton, to recommend investment in the amount of \$198,943 for Step Up Suncoast, Parents as Teachers). Rationale: Provides critical service, unique or one-of-a-kind program, serves a unique population or community, and Important program for the community.


 Anna Cismesia, Step Up Suncoast, provided a summary of the program.

 Amy Yount, Step up Suncoast, spoke on the funding.

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

 The motion carried 8-0, with Chairman Bailey, and Members Miner and Romeu absent.


HOPE Family Services, Inc., Children's Counseling Program - Score: 85.30

 A motion was made by Member Garafola and seconded by Member Shingledecker, to recommend investment in the amount of \$255,025 for HOPE Family Services, Inc., Children's Counseling Program. Rationale: Provides critical service, unique or one-of-a-kind program, cost effective, serves a unique population or community, and important program for the community.

There being no public comments, Chairman Tapp closed public comments.

 The motion carried 8-0, with Chairman Bailey, and Members Miner and Romeu absent.

Safe Children Coalition, Inc, Youth Intervention Services - Score: 84.90


 A motion was made by Member Felton and seconded by Member Pierce, to recommend investment in the amount of \$294,091 for Safe Children Coalition, Inc, Youth Intervention Services. Rationale: Unique or one-of-a-kind program, Cost effective, High score, and Serves a unique population or community.


 Michelle Gaines, Safe Children Coalition, thanked the Board.

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

 The motion carried 8-0, with Chairman Bailey, and Members Miner and Romeu absent.

Boys & Girls Club of Manatee County, Great Futures Start Here (Ages 5 - 12) - Score: 84.10

 A motion was made by Member Felton and seconded by Member Smith, to recommend investment in the amount of \$1,017,500 for Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County, Great Futures Start Here (Ages 5 - 12). Rationale: Vital need for program services in community, and important program for the community.

 Beth Clarke, Boys and Girls Club of Manatee County, thanked the Board.

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


 The motion carried 8-0, with Chairman Bailey, and Members Miner and Romeu absent.


Kristi Hagen, Children's Services Coordinator, provided the current amount to the Children's Services Advisory Board (CSAB) total recommendation for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026, currently is \$16,709,834, FY 2026 Millage budgeted is \$21,401,269, and the remaining balance and overage is \$4,691,435.


4. **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/UPDATES**

 There were no Commissioner comments or updates.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

 Danielle Curtis, Sarasota Manatee Association for Therapy Program (SMART), provided an update regarding the program.

 Lane Ruise, Creative Arts Academy, provided a summary of the program.

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

6. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will occur May 21, 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 Tapp adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Minutes Approved: