

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR MANATEE ROOM
1112 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida
May 21, 2025**

Present were:

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

Two seats are vacant.

Absent were:

Xtavia Bailey, Chairman
Nina Romeu
Patricia Miner

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 Pierce called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

AGENDA and SIGN-IN SHEET

CS20250521DOC001

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 CONTINUED**

Step Up Suncoast, Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) - Score: 83.90

A motion was made by Member Smith and seconded by Member Tapp, to recommend investment in the amount of \$226,154 for Step Up Suncoast, Home Instruction for

Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPIY). Rationale: History of success (results), high score, and important program for the community.

There being no public comments, Chairman Pierce closed public comments.
The motion carried 7-0, with Chairman Bailey, and Members Romeu and Miner absent.

NAMI Sarasota and Manatee Counties, Inc., NAMI Parents for Parents - Score: 83.80

A motion was made by Member Brownell and seconded by Member Garafola, to recommend investment in the amount of \$150,000 for NAMI Sarasota and Manatee Counties, Inc., NAMI Parents for Parents. Rationale: Vital need for program services in community, and important program for the community.

Sonia Johnson, NAMI Sarasota and Manatee Counties Inc, thanked the Board for all their efforts.

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

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

Tidewell Foundation, Inc., Blue Butterfly School-Based Grief Program - Score: 83.10

A motion was made by Member Garafola and seconded by Member Charles Logan, to recommend investment in the amount of \$28,627 for Tidewell Foundation, Inc, Blue Butterfly School-Based Grief Program. Rationale: Unique or one-of-a-kind program.

Rebecca Blitz, Tidewell Foundation Inc., shared a summary of the program.

Jenna Lank, Blue Butterfly School-Based Grief Program, shared a summary of the program.

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

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

UnidosNow, Future Leaders Academy - Score: 83.10

A motion was made by Member Smith and seconded by Member Garafola, to recommend investment in the amount of \$72,000 for UnidosNow, Future Leaders Academy. Rationale: Unique or one-of-a-kind program, and high score.

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

The motion carried 7-0, with Chairman Bailey, and Members Romeu and Miner absent.
(Enter Member Shingledecker)

Step Up Suncoast, Whole Child Manatee Score: 82.10

A motion was made by Member Tapp and seconded by Member Garafola, to recommend investment in the amount of \$166,300 for Step Up Suncoast, Whole Child Manatee. Rationale: Unique or one-of-a-kind program, and works well with community agencies.

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

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

Suncoast Youth for Christ, Juvenile Justice Ministry - Score: 81.00

A motion was made by Member Garafola and seconded by Member Shingledecker, to recommend investment in the amount of \$150,000 for Suncoast Youth For Christ, Juvenile Justice Ministry. Rationale: Unique or one-of-a-kind program, and serves a unique population or community.

Carlos Portillo, Youth for Christ, spoke on the purpose of the funding.

Mark Wiles, Youth for Christ, spoke on the purpose of the funding.

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

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

RECESS/RECOVENE: 3:55 p.m. – 4:01 p.m. All Members Present except Chairman Bailey, and Members Romeu and Miner.

Palmetto Youth Center, Foundation for Excellence - Score: 82.80

A motion was made by Member Tapp and seconded by Member Brownell, to recommend investment in the amount of \$319,793 for Palmetto Youth Center, Foundation for Excellence. Rationale: Serves a unique population or community.

Reggie Bellamy, Palmetto Youth Center, spoke on the concerns regarding the program.

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

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

Palmetto Youth Center, Helping Young People Excel – HYPE - Score: 84.40

A motion was made by Member Tapp and seconded by Member Felton, to recommend investment in the amount of \$214,651 for Palmetto Youth Center, Helping Young People Excel – HYPE. Rationale: Serves a unique population or community.

Reggie Bellamy, Palmetto Youth Center, shared a summary of the program.

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

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

Suncoast Workforce Board, Inc., (dba CareerSource Suncoast), Summer Youth Employment Program - Score: 79.80

A motion was made by Member Felton and seconded by Member Shingledecker, to recommend investment in the amount of \$150,000 for Suncoast Workforce Board, Inc. (dba CareerSource Suncoast), Summer Youth Employment Program. Rationale: Unique or one-of-a-kind program, serves a unique population or community, and important program for the community.

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

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

Educational Consultants Consortium, Inc., Iron Sharpening Iron Score: 79.40

A motion was made by Member Smith and seconded by Member Garafola, to recommend investment in the amount of \$208,000 for Educational Consultants Consortium, Inc., Iron Sharpening Iron. Rationale: Important program for the community.

Barbara Harvey, Educational Consultants Consortium, Inc., spoke on the results of the program.

Ciara Cosby, Educational Consultants Consortium, Inc., spoke on the results of the program.

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

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

Jewish Family and Children's Service of the Suncoast, Adolescent Diversion and Assistance Program (ADAP) - Score: 79.30

A motion was made by Member Brownell and seconded by Member Felton, to recommend investment in the amount of \$200,000 for Jewish Family and Children's Service of the Suncoast, Adolescent Diversion and Assistance Program (ADAP). Rationale: Provides critical service, vital need for program services in community, serves a unique population or community, and important program for the community.

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

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

Healthy Teens Inc., Teen Health Educators - Score: 79.10

A motion was made by Member Smith and seconded by Member Felton, to recommend investment in the amount of \$182,467 for Healthy Teens, Inc., Teen Health Educators. Rationale: Priority program, and Important program for the community.

Pat Grecko, Healthy Teens, Inc., addressed concerns from the Board.

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

The motion failed 1-7, with Chairman Pierce, Vice-Chairman Tapp, and Members Brownell, Charles-Logan, Shingledecker, Felton, and Smith voting nay, and Chairman Bailey, and Members Romeu and Miner absent.

A motion was made by Member Shingledecker and seconded by Member Smith, to recommend investment in the amount of \$162,699 for Healthy Teens, Inc., Teen Health Educators. Rationale: Important program for the community.

Pat Grecko, Healthy Teens, Inc., shared the goals of the program.

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

The motion carried 5-3, with Chairman Pierce, Vice-Chairman Tapp, and Member Charles Logan voting nay, and Chairman Bailey, and Members Romeu and Miner absent.

The Florida Center, Early Childhood Court - Score: 78.70

A motion was made by Member Shingledecker and seconded by Member Tapp, to recommend investment in the amount of \$379,000 for The Florida Center, Early Childhood Court. Rationale: Unique or one-of-a-kind program, serves a unique population or community, and important program for the community.

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

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

AMIkids Manatee, AMIkids Manatee Prevention Program - Score: 78.70

A motion was made by Member Brownell and seconded by Member Garafola, to recommend investment in the amount of \$80,000 for AMIkids Manatee Prevention Program. Rationale: Important program for the community.

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

The motion failed 3-5, with Vice-Chairman Tapp, and Members Shingledecker, Felton, Garafola, and Smith voting nay, and Chairman Bailey, and Members Romeu and Miner absent.

Replay Outreach, Success4Life Training & Mentoring - Score: 78.10

A motion was made by Member Tapp and seconded by Member Smith, to recommend investment in the amount of \$114,000 for Replay Outreach, Success4Life Training & Mentoring. Rationale: Provides critical service, and serves a unique population or community.

Lawrence Rose, Replay Outreach, thanked the Board for the support, and shared a summary of the program.

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

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

Early Learning Coalition, Inc, The Coordinated Approach to Child Health (CATCH) - Score: 76.80

A motion was made by Member Felton and seconded by Member Garafola, to recommend investment in the amount of \$160,500 for Early Learning Coalition of Manatee, The Coordinated Approach to Child Health (CATCH). Rationale: Important program for the community.

Rachel Spivey, Early Learning Coalition Inc, spoke on the targets for the program.

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

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

Galatians 6:2 Inc. dba Avenue941, Avenue941 - School-Year Program - Score: 74.30

A motion was made by Chairman Pierce and seconded by Member Garafola, to recommend investment in the amount of \$100,000 for Galatians 6:2 Inc. dba Avenue941, Avenue941 - School-Year Program. Rationale: Serves a unique population or community, and important program for the community.

Paul White, Chairman of Avenue941, provided clarity regarding the purpose of the program.

Pastor Andrew Heights, Volunteer Avenue941, shared a summary of the program.

Yolanda Yeiser, Avenue 941, answered questions from the Board.

Brenda Critchfield, Executive Director Avenue941, answered questions from the Board.

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

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

RECESS/RECOVENE: 5:32 p.m. – 5:38 p.m. All Members Present except Chairman Bailey, and Members Romeu and Miner.

The Salvation Army Family Shelter Services with Case Management - Score: 73.70

A motion was made by Member Tapp and seconded by Member Shingledecker, to recommend investment in the amount of \$110,210 for The Salvation Army Family Shelter Services with Case Management. Rationale: Vital need for program services in community and serves a unique population or community.

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

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

Big Dreams Through Small Steps, AQUAlibrium Drowning Prevention Program
Creative Arts Academy, After School Enrichment - Score: 73.10

A motion was made by Member Felton and seconded by Member Smith, to recommend investment in the amount of \$300,000 for Big Dreams Through Small Steps, AQUAlibrium Drowning Prevention Program Rationale: Vital need for program services in community, and Important program for the community.

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

The motion failed 2-6, with Chairman Pierce, and Members Brownell, Charles-Logan, Shingledecker, Felton, and Garafola voting nay, and Chairman Bailey, and Members Romeu and Miner absent.

Jewish Family and Children's Service of the Suncoast, Community Youth Response Service (CYRS) - Score: 72.30

A motion was made by Member Brownell and seconded by Member Garafola, to recommend investment in the amount of \$200,000 for Jewish Family and Children's

Service of the Suncoast, Community Youth Response Service (CYRS). Rationale: Important program for the community.

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

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

Sarasota Manatee Association for Riding Therapy, Adaptive Riding and Equine Assisted Services - Score: 71.90

A motion was made by Member Shingledecker and seconded by Member Garafola, to recommend investment in the amount of \$23,540 for Sarasota Manatee Association for Riding Therapy, Adaptive Riding and Equine Assisted Services. Rationale: Provides critical service, Unique or one-of-a-kind program, and serves a unique population or community.

Lauren Merchant, Interim President Sarasota Manatee Association for Riding Therapy (SMART), provided an update on the program.

Dr. Cameron Hodges, Consultant for SMART provided an update on the program.

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

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

Selah Freedom, Inc., Empowering Youth: Prevention Education to Combat Sex Trafficking - Score: 71.70

A motion was made by Member Garafola and seconded by Member Shingledecker, to recommend investment in the amount of \$69,276 for Selah Freedom, Inc., Empowering Youth: Prevention Education to Combat Sex Trafficking. Rationale: Provides critical service, and important program for the community.

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

The motion failed 1-7, with Chairman Pierce, Vice-Chairman Tapp, and Members Brownell, Charles-Logan, Shingledecker, Felton, and Smith voting nay, and Chairman Bailey, and Members Romeu and Miner absent.

Pace Center for Girls Manatee, Healthy Habits to Success - Score: 71.60

Member Charles-Logan submitted Conflict of Interest Form 8B.

A motion was made by Member Smith and seconded by Member Shingledecker, to recommend investment in the amount of \$85,758 for Pace Center for Girls Manatee, Healthy Habits to Success. Rationale: Important program for the community.

Christi Haley, Pace Center for Girls Manatee, spoke on the concerns by the Board.

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

The motion failed 1-6, with Chairman Pierce, Vice-Chairman Tapp, and Members Brownell, Shingledecker, Felton, and Garafola voting nay, Dr. Charles-Logan abstaining, and Chairman Bailey, and Members Romeu and Miner absent.

Genesis Health Services, Inc., The Rubonia Youth Program - Score: 71.40

A motion was made by Member Brownell and seconded by Member Garafola, to recommend investment in the amount of \$285,105 for Genesis Health Services, Inc., The Rubonia Youth Program. Rationale: Serves a unique population or community, and important program for the community.

James McCloud, Genesis Health Services, Inc., spoke on the scoring for the program.

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

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

All Star Children's Foundation, Trauma Informed Services - Score: 71.30

A motion was made by Member Garafola and seconded by Member Felton, to recommend investment in the amount of \$100,000 for All Star Children's Foundation, Trauma Informed Services. Rationale: Provides critical service, and vital need for program services in community.

Denise Marzullo, All Star Children's Foundation, spoke on questions from the Board

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

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

Creative Arts Academy, After School Enrichment - Score: 69.30

A motion was made by Member Felton and seconded by Member Garafola, to recommend investment in the amount of \$117,160 for Creative Arts Academy, After School Enrichment. Rationale: Important program for the community.

Lane Ruise, Creative Arts Academy, provided clarity regarding the purpose of the program.

Adraine Kreglo, Grant Writer, requested approval for Creative Arts Academy program.

Barbara Harvey, Iron Sharpening Iron, spoke in favor of Creative Arts Academy, and shared personal experience with the program.

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

The motion carried 5-3, Chairman Pierce, Vice-Chairman Tapp, and Member Charles-Logan voting nay, and Chairman Bailey, and Members Romeu and Miner absent.

Manatee County Government, Manatee County Summer Blast Camp Scholarship Program - Score: 68.70

A motion was made by Member Felton and seconded by Member Tapp, to recommend investment in the amount of \$67,500 for Manatee County Government, Manatee County Summer Blast Camp Scholarship Program. Rationale: Important program for the community.

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

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

Prodigal Daughters, Nurturing Family Unity - Score: 68.00

There was no motion or rationale for the program.

Family initiative, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Continuum of Care - Score: 62.80

A motion was made by Member Smith and seconded by Member Garafola, to recommend investment in the amount of \$250,000 for Family initiative, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Continuum of Care. Rationale: Provides critical service, and serves a unique population or community.

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

The motion failed 0-8, with Chairman Pierce, Vice-Chairman Tapp, and Members Brownell, Charles-Logan, Shingledecker, Felton, Garafola, and Smith voting nay, and Chairman Bailey, and Members Romeu and Miner absent.

4. **CSAB FUNDING APPROVAL**

A motion was made by Member Felton and seconded by Member Shingledecker, to approve and adopt the Children's Services Advisory Board recommendations for FY26 investment that were made during their publicly held meetings on May 19, 2025, and May 21, 2025, totaling \$20,415,073, and programs claiming one or more priorities shall include such wording in the results statement.

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

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

5. **STAFF UPDATES**

Johanna Beville, Program Analyst, completed a Counseling Standards Review for Hope Family Services for Children's Counseling Program with no findings of concern, and conducted Compliance reviews for Parenting Matters for Chosen Families and Musical Motion Programs without any findings of concern.

Brenda Marquez Facio, Human Services Analyst, had no updates.

Melissa Bomar, Senior Human Services Analyst, had no updates.

Mark Dillon, Senior Human Services Analyst, had no updates.

Kristi Hagen, Children's Services Coordinator, had no updates.

6. **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/UPDATES**

There were no Commissioner comments or updates.

7. **NEW/OLD BUSINESS**

There was no new or old business.

8. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

9. **MEETINGS**

The next meeting will occur June 25, 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 Pierce adjourned the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

Minutes Approved: