

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR MANATEE ROOM
1112 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida
April 16, 2025**

Present were:

Jannon Pierce, Vice-Chairman
Hon. Scott Brownell
Constance Charles-Logan
Heather Felton
Carolann Garafola
Patricia Miner
Nina Romeu
Debbie Tapp
Rita Smith

Two seats are vacant.

Absent was:

Xtavia Bailey, Chairman
Connie Shingledecker

Also present were:

Tracie Adams, Deputy Director, Community and Veteran's Services
Kristi Hagen, Children's Services Coordinator
Johanna Beville, Program Analyst
Melissa Bomar, Human Services Analyst
Brenda Marquez Facio, Human Services Analyst
Julissa Santana, Deputy Clerk, Clerk of the Circuit Court

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

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

AGENDA AND SIGN-IN SHEET

CS20250416DOC001

2. **ROLL CALL**

A quorum was declared.

3. **MINUTES**

A motion was made by Member Felton, seconded by Member Garafola, and carried 8-0, with Members Bailey, Shingledecker, and Smith absent, to approve the minutes of April 9, 2025.

4. **AMIKIDS PREVENTION PROGRAM, AMIKIDS MANATEE**

Program claimed priority C – Mental and Behavioral Health/Wellbeing: Children have the skills necessary to function appropriately in relevant environments. Program is requesting a funding increase.

The Committee denied tier one level.
(Enter Member Smith)

5. **ONE TO ONE MENTORING PROGRAM, BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTER OF THE SUN COAST**

Program claimed priority C – Mental and Behavioral Health/Wellbeing: Children have the skills necessary to function appropriately in relevant environments. Program is requesting a funding increase and eligible for tier three level.

6. **RUBONIA YOUTH PROGRAM, GENESIS HEALTH SERVICES**

Program claimed priority C – Mental and Behavioral Health/Wellbeing: Children have the skills necessary to function appropriately in relevant environments. Program is requesting a funding increase and eligible for tier one level.

A motion was made by Member Brownell, seconded by Member Felton, to consider increasing the funding to seven percent (tier one). The motion carried 7-2, with Members Tapp, and Charles-Logan voting nay, and Members Bailey, and Shingledecker absent.

7. **TEEN HEALTH EDUCATORS, HEALTHY TEENS**

Program claimed priority C – Mental and Behavioral Health/Wellbeing: Children have the skills necessary to function appropriately in relevant environments. Program is requesting a funding increase and eligible for tier three level.

8. **GIRLS ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM FOR SUCCESS, JUST FOR GIRLS**

Program claimed priority C – Mental and Behavioral Health/Wellbeing: Children have the skills necessary to function appropriately in relevant environments. Program is requesting a funding increase and eligible for tier two level.

9. **STEPPING UP TO SUCCESS, JUST FOR GIRLS**

Program claimed priority B- Education and Literacy, Children develop literacy skills necessary to be successful in school, and priority C – Mental and Behavioral Health/Wellbeing: Children have the skills necessary to function appropriately in relevant environments. Program is requesting a funding increase and eligible for tier two level.

10. **ALTERNATIVE PATH TO SUCCESS, NEXT GENERATION ACADEMICS**

Program claimed priority B- Education and Literacy, Children develop literacy skills necessary to be successful in school, and priority C – Mental and Behavioral Health/Wellbeing: Children have the skills necessary to function appropriately in relevant environments. Program is not requesting a funding increase.

11. **STAFF UPDATES**

Johanna Beville, Program Analyst, stated the Genesis Health Center addition is set to open on June 2, 2025.

Brenda Marquez Facio, Human Services Analyst, observed Step Up Suncoast Head Start/Early Head Start yesterday with no issues or concerns found.

Melissa Bomar, Human Services Analyst, had no updates.

Kristi Hagen, Children's Services Coordinator, stated she is starting to get door and window alarms (drowning prevention tools) out to the community, and invited members to attend a distribution event at the University Town Center.

12. **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/UPDATES**

There were no Commissioner comments or updates.

13. **NEW/OLD BUSINESS**

There was no new/old business.

14. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jeanie Baik, Big Brothers Big Sisters, spoke on the programs funding history, and community outreach.

Brandi McArthur, Big Brothers Big Sisters, shared highlights from the program's events, including incorporating communication, professionalism, and teamwork skills.

Ilee Finocchiaro, SMART (Sarasota Manatee Association for Riding Therapy), stated they will not meet their Fiscal Year 2025 agreement due to having their program suspended, and thanked the Board for believing in the program.

Eric Reaves, Rubonia Youth Program, reviewed the program's daily schedule for students.

Pat Greco, Healthy Teens, thanked the members for their consideration, and reviewed the gamification process.

Valerie Green, Healthy Teens, shared a summary of the program.

Emma Bittar, Healthy Teens, highlighted the value of the program, and direct benefits to the community.

Drena Green, Just for Girls, provided the Board with the number of children they have served on a yearly basis, and reviewed age-appropriate curriculums the program uses.

Susan Ford, Manatee Children's Services, provided information on the upcoming County events, where door and window alarms can be distributed.

Becky Canesse, Just for Girls, discussed transportation partnerships, and ways they are utilizing charitable dollars.

Denise Shorten, Next Generation Academics, thanked the Board for their support and generosity.

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

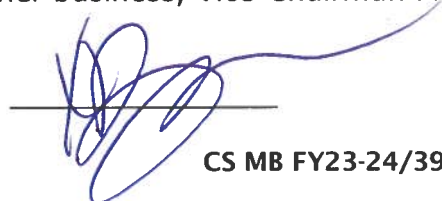
15. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2025, at 3:00 p.m., at the Manatee County Administrative Building, 5th Floor Manatee Room.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Vice-Chairman Pierce adjourned the meeting at 5:31 p.m.

Minutes Approved: _____



CS MB FY23-24/39

