

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR MANATEE ROOM
1112 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida
March 11, 2026**

Present were:

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

Absent was:

Kristin Gallagher

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**
Chairperson Bailey called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairperson Bailey.

AGENDA and SIGN-IN SHEET

CS20260311DOC001

3. **ROLL CALL**
A quorum was declared.
4. **MINUTES**
A motion was made by Member Garafola, seconded by Vice-Chairperson, and carried 9-0, with Member Gallagher absent, to approve the minutes of March 4, 2026.
(Entered Member Mitchell)
5. **JUST FOR GIRLS, GIRLS ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM FOR SUCCESS (GAPS)**
Program claimed C, Children have the skills necessary to function appropriately in all environments. Program is requesting a funding increase and eligible for tier one.

March 11, 2026

(Continued)

6. **JUST FOR GIRLS, STEPPING UP TO SUCCESS (SUS)**
Program claimed B, Children develop literacy skills necessary to be successful in school. Program is requesting a funding increase and eligible for tier one.
7. **NEXT GENERATION ACADEMICS, ALTERNATIVE PATH TO SUCCESS (APS)**
Program claimed B, Children develop literacy skills necessary to be successful in school. Program is not requesting a funding increase.
8. **PACE CENTER FOR GIRLS, TEENAGE PREGNANCY PREVENTION PROJECT**
Program claimed C, Children have the skills necessary to function appropriately in all environments. Program is requesting a funding increase and eligible for tier one.
9. **ROCKET PHONICS FOUNDATION, ROCKET PHONICS ONE-TO-ONE LITERACY TUTORING PROGRAM**
Program claimed B, Children develop literacy skills necessary to be successful in school. This is a new program requesting funding.
10. **EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANTS CONSORTIUM, IRON SHARPENING IRON**
Program claimed C, Children have the skills necessary to function appropriately in all environments. Program is not requesting a funding increase.
11. **NAMI SARASOTA AND MANATEE COUNTIES, NAMI PARENTS FOR PARENTS**
Program claimed A, Children are safe in their homes, free from abuse or neglect. Program is not requesting a funding increase.
12. **STAFF UPDATES**
Brenda Marquez Facio, Human Services Analyst, observed the Early Learning Coalition, Subsidy and Match Program, no concerns were identified. The Salvation Army remains out of compliance, the required documents were received, however the first quarter report is still incomplete, due to missing documentation. She will continue to update the Board on the status of this program.

Melissa Bomar, Interim Children's Services Coordinator, shared Manatee County will host a Health and Wellness Expo on April 7, 2026, from 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Staff will represent the water safety table for Children's Services, and invited the Board to be present at the event. April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and Members should wear blue at the March 25, 2026, meeting for the annual photo. New pinwheels will be distributed at the next meeting and Members should provide a specific count of pinwheels needed to distribute in the community. The Dream Oaks Camp official first day of camp at their new location is this weekend, March 14, 2026, and there is no meeting next week.

Mark Dillon, Senior Human Services Analyst, completed a Results First Review for Parenting Matters, Parent Partner program, no concerns identified. He completed a compliance observation visit for Genesis, Level Up 360 Program, and identified a concern regarding documentation and the timing of programming elements. He will follow up with the agency to verify corrections have been made.

Tracie Adams, Deputy Director, Community and Veteran's Services, addressed the financial concerns related to Just for Girls.

March 11, 2026

(Continued)

Johanna Beville, Program Analyst, stated the Bishop-Parker Foundation engaged a financial consultant to conduct due diligence with Just for Girls (JFG), including a review of the organization's financial information. The consultant initially contacted JFG in late 2025, at that time, JFG indicated that January and February are particularly busy months, and would be unable to provide the requested documentation during that period. This was the most recent update provided to the Foundation by the consultant.

13. **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/UPDATES**

There were no Commissioner comments or updates.

14. **NEW/OLD BUSINESS**

Chairperson Bailey addressed the need for foster parents throughout Manatee County and emphasized the importance of partnering with agencies.

15. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Alexandra Green, Just for Girls, addressed safety and security and reviewed the program's client base goals.

Amy Mavis, Pace Center for Girls, reviewed program statistics, including the number of participants and their length of stay.

Christi Haley, Pace Center for Girls, reviewed program results and data with the Board.

Stephen Guffanti, Rocket Phonics Foundation, reviewed student reading statistics with the Board.

(Departed Member Garafola)

Diane Buck, Rocket Phonics Foundation, provided a brief overview of the program.

Sandy Druist, Cynthia Martens, Eileen Settineri, Bill Nease, Leslie Chislett, and Pamela Gavette, Rocket Phonics Foundation, provided an overview of the program, volunteer experiences, the vision, and curriculum for the program.

Sonya Johnson, Leticia Rubio, and Nathan Scott, NAMI, discussed parent engagement in the program and presented the data and selection criteria to the Board, and overview, purpose and vision for the program.

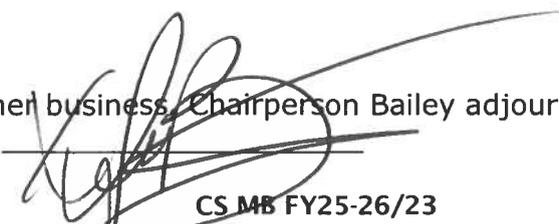
Becky Canesse and Livie Dillahay, Just for Girls, provided an overview of the program's finances and shared stories of how the program fulfills its purpose.

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

16. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will occur March 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 5:23 p.m.
Minutes Approved: 

CS MB FY25-26/23



Handwritten scribbles or faint text at the bottom of the page.