

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR MANATEE ROOM
1112 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida
MAY 18, 2026**

Present were:

Xtavia Bailey, Chairperson (entered during meeting)
Jannon Pierce, Vice-Chairperson
Hon. Scott Brownell
Heather Felton
Kristin Gallagher
Carolann Garafola
Cassandra Mitchell (entered during meeting)
Michelle Laughrey
Connie Shingledecker
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
Brenda Marquez Facio, Human Services Analyst
Amanda Ballard, Board of County Commissioner
Johanna Beville, Program Analyst
Mark Dillon, Senior Human Services Analyst
Vicki Tessmer, Board Records Supervisor, Deputy Clerk, Clerk of the Circuit Court
Caitlin Dixon, Board Records Clerk, Clerk of the Circuit Court

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Vice-Chairperson Pierce called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

AGENDA and SIGN-IN SHEET

CS202605183DOC001

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Vice-Chairperson Pierce led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **ROLL CALL**

A quorum was declared.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Member Garafola, seconded by Member Tapp, and carried 7-0, with Chairperson Bailey, and Members Smith and Mitchell absent, to approve the minutes of May 6, 2026.

5. **FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP**

Mark Dillon, Senior Human Services Analyst, informed the Children's Services Advisory Board (CSAB) that he has accepted another position within the County. He also shared a

spreadsheet outlining the programs and their annual costs and encouraged the CSAB to review the information when making future decisions.

Staff Updates

Tracie Adams, Deputy Director, Community and Veteran's Services, informed the CSAB of new updates regarding programs.

Johanna Beville, Program Analyst, provided a financial summary for the Just for Girls program and reported that the program is currently not in compliance.

Member Felton, noted that the School District of Manatee County Superintendent did not provide a letter of support for the Just for Girls program.

Ms. Adams shared information from Sarasota County regarding its work with Rocket Phonics.

(Enter Member Mitchell)

6. **CHILDREN'S SERVICES DEDICATED MILLAGE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEVEL FUNDING – ALL PROGRAMS**

Melissa Bomar, Interim Children's Services Coordinator, reviewed the documents provided to the CSAB including the recommendation meeting book and motion template. Increases will be considered with the initial recommendation.

(Enter Chairperson Bailey)

Child And Family Well-Being System Coordination Program, Florida Department Of Health- Sarasota (Rank N/A)

Member Tapp made a motion to recommend requested funding in the amount of \$62,817 for program standing N/A, Florida Department of Health- Sarasota, Child and Family Well-Being System Coordination Program. Rationale for recommendation: Vital program. Motion was seconded by Member Shingledecker.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Child Advocacy Center, Manatee Children's Services, (Rank 1)

Member Garafola made a motion to recommend the requested increase in the amount of \$1,266,981 for program standing 1, Manatee Children's Services, Child Advocacy Center. Rationale for recommendation: High Score Program, priority program, long standing program. Motion was seconded by Member Tapp.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Residential, Manatee Children's Services (Rank 2)

Member Shingledecker made a motion to recommend the requested increase in the amount of \$519,262 for program standing 2, Manatee Children's Services, Residential. Rationale for recommendation: High score program. Motion was seconded by Member Garafola.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Baker Act-Youth, Centerstone of Florida, Inc (Rank 3)

Member Felton made a motion to recommend the requested increase in the amount of \$159,383 for program standing 3, Centerstone of Florida, Inc., Child Baker Act-Youth. Rationale for recommendation: High scoring and high priority program. Motion was seconded by Member Shingledecker.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Dream Oaks Camp, Foundation for Dreams (Rank 4)

Member Garafola made a motion to recommend the requested funding in the amount of \$270,000 for program standing 4, Foundation for Dreams, Dream Oaks Camp. Rationale for recommendation: High score program, Motion was seconded by Member Pierce.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Children's Therapy, Easter Seals Southwest Florida (Rank 5)

Member Felton made a motion to recommend the requested increase in the amount of \$120,600 for program standing 5, Easter Seals Southwest Florida, Children's Therapy. Rationale for recommendation: High performing program, provides critical service. Motion was seconded by Member Pierce.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Kid's Personal Safety, Manatee Children's Services (6)

Member Felton made a motion to recommend the requested increase in the amount of \$180,416 for program standing 6, Manatee Children's Services, Kid's Personal Safety. Rationale for recommendation: High score program. Motion was seconded by Member Shingledecker.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Family Support Services, Easter Seals Southwest Florida (7)

Member Pierce made a motion to recommend the requested increase in the amount of \$66,700 for program standing 7, Easter Seals Southwest Florida, Family Support Services. Rationale for recommendation: High score program, important program for the community, priority program. Motion was seconded by Member Garafola.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Safeplace2B, Family Resources, Inc. (8)

Member Shingledecker made a motion to recommend the requested increase in the amount of \$111,280 for program standing 8, Family Resources, Inc, Safeplace2B. Rationale for recommendation: High score program, provides critical service. Motion was seconded by Member Felton.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Project, Pace Center For Girls, Manatee (9)

Member Garafola made a motion to recommend the requested increase in the amount of \$278,373 for program standing 9, Pace Center for Girls, Manatee, Teenage Pregnancy

Prevention Project. Rationale for recommendation: Priority program, provides critical service. Motion was seconded by Member Tapp.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Child Welfare and Prevention Program, Safe Children Coalition (10)

Member Shingledecker made a motion to recommend the requested increase in the amount of \$479,034 for program standing 10, Safe Children Coalition, Child Welfare and Prevention Program. Rationale for recommendation: High score program, helps keep children out of foster care. Motion was seconded by Member Gallagher.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Nemours Reading BrightStart! Early Learning Coalition (11)

Member Felton made a motion to recommend the requested increase in the amount of \$263,327 for program standing 11, Early Children Coalition, Nemours Reading BrightStart! Rationale for recommendation: Priority program, strong Results. Motion was seconded by Member Pierce.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Chosen Families, Parenting Matters (12)

Member Gallagher made a motion to recommend the requested funding in the amount of \$412,650 for program standing 12, Parenting Matters, Chosen Families. Rationale for recommendation: One-of-a-kind program, high success rate. Motion was seconded by Member Pierce.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Sexual Assault (Rape Crisis) Advocacy and Child Therapy, Centerstone of Florida, Inc. (13)

Member Shingledecker made a motion to recommend the requested increase in the amount of \$134,218 for program standing 13, Centerstone of Florida, Inc., Sexual Assault (Rape crisis) Advocacy and Child Therapy. Rationale for recommendation: High score program, provides critical services. Motion was seconded by Member Brownell.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Parent Partner Program, Parenting Matters (14)

Member Garafola made a motion to recommend the requested increase in the amount of \$336,085 for program standing 14, Parenting Matters, Parent Partner Program. Rationale for recommendation: Priority program, high score program. Motion was seconded by Member Tapp.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Healthy Families' Manatee, Step Up Suncoast (15)

Member Felton made a motion to recommend the requested increase in the amount of \$515,992 for program standing 15, Step Up Suncoast, Healthy Families. Rationale for

recommendation: Priority program, strong results. Motion was seconded by Member Garafola.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Alternative Path to Success (Aps), Next Generation Academics, Inc. (16)

Member Pierce made a motion to recommend funding in the amount of \$95,000 for program standing 16, Next Generation Academics, Inc., Alternative Path to Success (APS). Rationale for recommendation: Unique program, long standing program. Motion was seconded by Member Shingledecker.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Family Preservation and Reunification Program, Safe Children Coalition (17)

Member Gallagher made a motion to recommend the requested increase in the amount of \$408,729 for program standing 17, Safe Children Coalition, Family Preservation and Reunification Program. Rationale for recommendation: High score program, success in returning families. Motion was seconded by Member Shingledecker.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Morning Care, After School, Camp, Myakka, Myakka City Community Center (18)

Member Felton, made a motion to recommend requested funding in the amount of \$132,002 for program standing 18, Myakka City Community Center, Morning Care, After School, Camp Myakka. Rationale for recommendation: Services are unique to the community. Motion was seconded by Member Tapp.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Family Shelter Service with Case Management, The Salvation Army (19)

Member Tapp made a motion to recommend requested level funding in the amount of \$110,210 for program standing 19, The Salvation Army, Family Shelter Service with Case Management. Rationale for recommendation: Only family shelter in Manatee County, high score program. Motion was seconded by Member Shingledecker.

The motion carried 10 -0, with Member Smith absent.

Children's Community Action Treatment (CAT) Team, Centerstone of Florida, Inc. (20)

Member Shingledecker made a motion to recommend the requested increase in the amount of \$916,403 for program standing 20, Centerstone of Florida Inc., Children's Community Action Treatment (CAT) Team. Rationale for recommendation: High score program, provides critical service. Motion was seconded by Member Felton.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

One To One Mentoring Program, Big Brother Big Sister of the Suncoast (21)

Motion

Member Felton made a motion to recommend the requested increase in the amount of \$337,500 for program standing 21, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Suncoast, One to One

Mentoring Program. Rationale for recommendation: Priority program, well received in community. Motion was seconded by Member Garafola. Discussion ensued regarding the reason for a large increase is additional staff and additional children to serve, expanding the program, adding new programs, and cost per child.

The motion carried 6-4, with Members Laughrey, Pierce, Shingledecker, and Chairperson Bailey voting nay, and Member Smith absent.

Motion to Reconsider

Member Gallagher made a motion to reconsider the recommendation for the requested increase in the amount of \$337,500 for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Suncoast, One to One Mentoring Program. Motion was seconded by Chairperson Bailey and carried 10-0 with Member Smith absent.

Motion

Motion was amended by Member Gallagher and seconded by Member Shingledecker, to recommend level funding with a 7 percent increase in the amount of \$235,935 and not the amount of increase requested by the agency. Rationale: High score program, needed in the community.

The motion carried 6-4, with Members Brownell, Mitchell, Felton and Garafola voting nay, and Member Smith absent.

Children's Counseling Program, HOPE Family Services, Inc. (22)

Member Pierce made a motion to recommend the requested funding amount of \$255,025 for program standing 22, HOPE Family Services Inc., Children's Counseling Program. Rationale for recommendation: Unique program, high score program. Motion was seconded by Member Shingledecker.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Parents As Teachers, Step Up Suncoast (23)

Member Felton made a motion to recommend the requested increase amount of \$212,869 for program standing 23, Step Up Suncoast, Parents as Teachers. Rationale for recommendation: unique program, high scoring program, works well with other agencies. Motion was seconded by Member Garafola.

(Depart Member Shingledecker)

The motion carried 9-0, with Members Smith and Shingledecker absent.

RECESS/RECOVENE: 3:36 p.m. – 3:55 p.m. All members present and Member Smith absent.
(Depart Commissioner Ballard)

Head Start Preschool/Early Head Start, Step Up Suncoast (24)

Member Tapp made a motion to recommend the requested increase amount of \$1,587,240 for program standing 24, Step Up Suncoast, Head Start Preschool/ Early Head Start. Rationale for recommendation: Vital for early education. Motion was seconded by Member Garafola.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Before and After School, Summer Enrichment Plus (BASE+), United Community Centers, Inc. (25)

Member Tapp made a motion to recommend the requested funding amount of \$545,346 for program standing 25, United Community Centers Inc., Before and After School, Summer Enrichment Plus (BASE+). Rationale for recommendation: high score program, helps many children. Motion was seconded by Member Pierce.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Youth Healthcare Court, Centerstone of Florida, Inc. (26)

Member Felton made a motion to recommend the requested funding amount of \$248,722 for program standing 26, Centerstone of Florida, Inc., Youth Healthcare Court. Rationale for recommendation: Priority Program, unique program. Motion was seconded by Member Garafola.

Discussion ensued regarding concern that out of four families, only two families were successful, and the program is proposing serving more children.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY), Step Up Suncoast (27)

Member Pierce made a motion to recommend the requested increase amount of \$241,996 for program standing 27, Step Up Suncoast, Hope Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY). Rationale for recommendation: Solid program. Motion was seconded by Member Laughrey.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Weekend Meals, Feeding Empty Little Tummys (28)

Member Felton made a motion to recommend the requested increase amount of \$187,250 for program standing 28, Feeding Empty Little Tummys, Weekend Meals. Rationale for recommendation: Provides Critical Service, important program for the community. Motion was seconded by Member Shingledecker.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Collaborative Action Therapy for Children's Health (CATCH), Step Up Suncoast (29)

Member Garafola made a motion to recommend the requested increase amount of \$267,472 for program standing 29, Step Up Suncoast Collaborative Action Therapy for Children's Health (CATCH). Rationale for recommendation: Priority program, high score program, high success rate. Motion was seconded by Member Shingledecker.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Mentoring Matters: Impacts Over Obstacles, Take Stock in Children of Manatee County (30)

Member Felton made a motion to recommend the requested increase amount of \$107,000 for program standing 30, Take Stock in Children of Manatee County, Mentoring Matters:

Impacts over Obstacles. Rationale for recommendation: strong program with a history of consistently meeting their results. Motion was seconded by Member Garafola.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Community Effort To Reduce Truancy by Assessing Individualized Needs (CERTAIN), Family Resources, Inc. (31)

Member Pierce made a motion to recommend the requested increase amount of \$413,385 for program standing 31 Family Recourses Inc., Community Effort to Reduce Truancy by Assessing Individualized Needs (CERTAIN). Rationale for recommendation: strong results. Motion was seconded by Member Shingledecker.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

The Coordinated Approach to Child Health (CATCH), Early Learning Coalition (32)

Member Felton made a motion to recommend the requested increase amount of \$171,735 for program standing 32, Early Learning Coalition, The Coordinated Approach to Child Health (CATCH). Rationale for recommendation: Important program for the community, unique program. Motion was seconded by Member Shingledecker.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Early Care and Education Child Care Subsidy and Match Program, Early Learning Coalition (33)

Member Pierce made a motion to recommend the requested increase amount of \$2,717,468 for program standing 33, Early Learning Coalition, Early Care and Education Child Care Subsidy and Match Program. Rationale for recommendation: Outstanding program, providing subsidized childcare. Motion was seconded by Member Tapp.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

The Club Teen Programs (Ages 13-17), Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County (34)

Member Felton made a motion to recommend the requested increase amount of \$272,250 for program standing 34, Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County, The Club Teen Program (Ages 13-17). Rationale for recommendation: Staple program in Manatee County. Motion was seconded by Member Shingledecker.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Sexual Offense & Abused Rehabilitation, Insight Counseling Services (35)

Member Shingledecker made a motion to recommend the requested increase in the amount of \$140,769 for program standing 35, Insight Counseling Services, Sexual Offense & Abuse Rehabilitation. Rationale for recommendation: High score program, Strong program with a history of consistently meeting their results. Motion was seconded by Member Felton.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Musical Motion, Parenting Matters (36)

Member Felton made a motion to recommend requested funding in the amount of \$90,000 for program standing 36, Parenting Matters, Musical Motion. Rationale for recommendation: priority program, engages families. Motion was seconded by Member Garafola.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Great Futures Start Here (Ages 5-12), Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County (37)

Member Felton made a motion to recommend the requested increase amount of \$1,499,788 for program standing 37, Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County, Great Futures Start Here. Rationale for recommendation: Important program for the community. Motion was seconded by Member Shingledecker.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Early Childhood Court, The Florida Center for Early Childhood, Inc. (38)

Member Gallagher made a motion to recommend the requested increase amount of \$416,900 for program standing 38, The Florida Center for Early Childhood, Inc., Early Childhood Court Rationale for recommendation: One-of-a kind program. Motion was seconded by Member Shingledecker.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

NAMI Parents for Parents, NAMI Sarasota and Manatee County, Inc. (39)

Member Gallagher made a motion to recommend the requested funding amount of \$150,000 for program standing at 39 NAMI Sarasota and Manatee County, Nami Parents for Parents. Rationale for recommendation: Model programing. Motion was seconded by Member Pierce.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Whole Child, Step Up Suncoast (40)

Member Garafola made a motion to recommend the requested increase amount of \$171,297 for program standing 40, Step Up Suncoast, Whole Child. Rationale for recommendation: High score program, met goals. Motion was seconded by Member Shingledecker.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Foundation for Excellence, Palmetto Youth Center (41)

Member Brownell made a motion to recommend the requested increase amount of \$355,781 for program standing 41, Palmetto Youth Center, Foundation for Excellence. Rationale for recommendation: High score program, service a unique population. Motion was seconded by Member Felton.

The motion carried 8-2, with Members Pierce and Shingledecker voting nay and Member Smith absent.

Helping Young People Excel- HYPE, Palmetto Youth Center (42)

Member Tapp made a motion to recommend the requested funding amount of \$214,651 for program standing 42, Palmetto Youth Center, Helping Young People Excel- HYPE. Rationale for recommendation: Important program for the community. Motion was seconded by Member Felton.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Emergency Baby Baskets, Meals on Wheels of Manatee (43)

Member Shingledecker made a motion to recommend the requested funding amount of \$36,300 for program standing 43, Meals on Wheels of Manatee, Emergency Baby Baskets. Rationale for recommendation: Important program for the community, provides critical service for infants. Motion was seconded by Member Laughrey.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Connected Manatee, Community Coalition on Homelessness Corporation, Turning Points (44)

Member Pierce made a motion to recommend the requested funding in the amount of \$69,269 for program standing 43, Community Coalition on Homelessness Corporation, Turning Points, Connected Manatee. Rationale for recommendation: Serves a unique community. Motion was seconded by Member Felton.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Blue Butterfly Family Grief Program (School Based), Tidewell Foundation, Inc. (45)

Member Gallagher made a motion to recommend the requested funding amount of \$28,627 for program standing 45, Tidewell Foundation, Inc., Blue Butterfly Family Grief Program (GAPS). Rationale for recommendation: Unique program, one of the only programs for grieving children. Motion was seconded by Member Garafola

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Girls Alternative Program for Success (GAPS), Just For Girls (46)

Member Garafola made a motion to recommend requested level funding in the amount of \$858,540 for program standing 46, Just for Girls, Girls Alternative Program for Success (GAPS). Rationale for recommendation: Priority program. Motion was seconded by Member Pierce.

Discussion ensued regarding concerns with finances, program being out of compliance, increases year after year, at risk girls with behavior health issues, lack of communication.

The motion failed 1-9, with Members Pierce, Felton, Gallagher, Garafola, Laughrey, Mitchell, Shingledecker, Tapp, and Chairperson Bailey voting nay, and Member Smith absent.

Youth Intervention Services, Safe Children Coalition (47)

Member Shingledecker made a motion to recommend the requested increase amount of \$308,796 for program standing 47, Safe Children Coalition, Youth Intervention Services. Rationale for recommendation: Priority program, unique program. Motion was seconded by Member Felton.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Teen Health Educators -Results First, Healthy Teens, Inc. (48)

Member Garafola made a motion to recommend the requested increase amount of \$195,238 for program standing 48, Healthy Teens Inc, Teen Health Educators- Results First. Rationale for recommendation: Unique program Motion was seconded by Member Felton.

The motion carried 9-1, with Member Pierce voting nay, and Member Smith absent.

Adolescent Diversion and Assistance Program, Jewish Family and Children's Service of the Suncoast (49)

Member Felton made a motion to recommend the requested funding amount of \$200,000 for program standing 48, Jewish Family and Children's Service of the Suncoast, Adolescent Diversion and Assistance Program. Rationale for recommendation: Priority program, ensure young people stay out of trouble. Motion was seconded by Member Gallagher.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Mental Health Therapy, All Star Children's Foundation (50)

Member Pierce made a motion to recommend the requested funding amount of \$80,000 for program standing 50, All Star Children's Foundation, Mental Health Therapy. Rationale for recommendation: Provides Critical Service. Motion was seconded by Member Laughrey.

The motion carried 10-0, with Member Smith absent.

Rocket Phonics One-To – One Literacy Tutoring Program, Rocket Phonics Foundation, Inc. (51)

Member Garafola made a motion to recommend the requested funding amount amount of \$89,147 for program standing 51, Rocket Phonics Foundation, Rocket Phonics One- to-One Literacy Tutoring Program. Rationale for recommendation: High score program. Motion was seconded by Member Felton.

Discussion ensued regarding a lack of communication and not getting documentation in on time.

The motion failed 0-10, with all Members voting nay, and Member Smith absent.

7. **COMMISSIONER UPDATES**

Commissioner Ballard announced that a flower arranging workshop will be held at the Palmetto Historical Commission Building on May 20, 2026, and a cleanup day for the Old Memphis Cemetery is scheduled for May 23, 2026.

8. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jeanie Baik, Big Brother Big Sister of the Suncoast, addressed concerns regarding the application and increase request.

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(Continued)

Rebekah Prieto, Parenting Matters, thanked the CSAB for everything they do, and invited them to the IMPACT celebration on June 18, 2026, free to attend.

Drena Green, Just for Girls, provided a statement from the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) regarding the program's history and application.

Stephen Guffanti, CEO, Rocket Phonics, addressed concerns regarding the program.

Becky Canesse, CEO Just for Girls, addressed the issues the Board has regarding compliance.

Lawrence Rose, Replay Outreach, invited the CSAB to graduation for Bradenton Bay High School on May 28, 2026, and to come tour the school.

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

9. **MEETINGS**

The next meeting will take place May 20, 2026, at 2:30 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 5:29 p.m.

Minutes Approved:

