

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR MANATEE ROOM
1112 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida
MAY 20, 2026**

Present were:

Xtavia Bailey, Chairperson
Jannon Pierce, Vice-Chairperson
Heather Felton
Hon. Scott Brownell
Kristin Gallagher
Carolann Garafola
Michelle Laughrey
Cassandra Mitchell
Connie Shingledecker
Debbie Tapp

Absent were:

Rita Smith

Two seats are vacant.

Also present were:

Tracie Adams, Deputy Director, Community and Veteran's Services
Melissa Bomar, Interim Children's Service Coordinator
Johanna Beville, Program Analyst
Brenda Marquez Facio, Human Services 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**

Chairperson Bailey called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairperson Bailey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA and SIGN-IN SHEET

CS20260520DOC001

3. **ROLL CALL**

A quorum was declared.

5. **CSAB RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED**

Family Support Team, The Florida Center for Early Childhood, Inc. (52)

Member Garafola made a motion to recommend requested funding in the amount of \$212,769 for program standing 52, The Florida Center for Early Childhood, Inc., Family Support Team. Rationale for recommendation: Priority program, maintain stable housing, fight homelessness. Motion was seconded by Member Felton.

(Enter Member Mitchell)

Discussion ensued regarding similarities to other programs, cost per child, income coming from billing insurance companies, selection for programs, flow chart, and measurable outcomes.

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

Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health- Outpatient, The Florida Center for Early Childhood, Inc. (53)

Member Brownell made a motion to recommend the requested funding amount of \$99,557 for program standing 53, The Florida Center for Early Childhood, Inc., Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health- Outpatient. Rationale for recommendation: Provides critical service, early intervention. Motion was seconded by Member Gallagher.

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

Food4Families, Meals on Wheels of Manatee (54)

Member Pierce made a motion to recommend the requested funding amount of \$150,000 for program standing 54, Meals on Wheels of Manatee, Food4families. Rationale for recommendation: Meets critical needs. Motion was seconded by Member Felton.

Discussion ensued regarding concerns over budget, funding coming from donations, grants, and fundraisers.

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

Juvenile Justice Ministry, Suncoast Youth for Christ (55)

Member Pierce made a motion to recommend the requested funding in the amount of \$150,000 for program standing 55, Suncoast Youth for Christ, Juvenile Justice Ministry. Rationale for recommendation: Unique program, service a unique population. Motion was seconded by Member Shingledecker.

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

Level Up 360 Youth Program, Genesis Health Services (56)

Member Laughrey made a motion to recommend the requested funding in the amount of \$241,055 for program standing 56, Genesis Health Services, Level Up 360 Youth Program. Rationale for recommendation: Provides Critical Service, works Well with Community Agencies. Motion was seconded by Member Garafola.

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

Community Youth Response Service, Jewish Family and Children's Services of the Suncoast (57)

Member Garafola made a motion to recommend requested funding in the amount of \$200,000 for program standing 57, Jewish Family and Children's Services of the Suncoast, Community Youth Response Service. Rationale for recommendation: Priority program, exceptional reserve. Motion was seconded by Member Felton.

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

Sleep Baby Safely, Early Learning Coalition (58)

Member Shingledecker made a motion to recommend the requested increase amount of \$242,250 for program standing 58, Early Learning Coalition, Sleep Baby Safely. Rationale for recommendation: Priority program, works well with community agencies, service a vulnerable population. Motion was seconded by Member Pierce.

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

Stepping Up to Success (SUS), Just for Girls (59)

Member Felton made a motion (for point of discussion) for the funding of Just for Girls, Stepping Up to Success in the amount of \$1,090,715. Motion was seconded by Member Brownell.

Discussion ensued regarding no literacy gains were made, financial stability, organization in debt, budgeting, and overspending.

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

RECESS/RECOVENE: 3:40 p.m. – 3:56, All members present, with Member Smith absent.

Relay Outreach, Success4Life (60)

Member Tapp made a motion to recommend the requested increase amount of \$120,000 for program standing 60, Success4Life, Relay Outreach. Rationale for recommendation: Service to a unique population, good results. Motion was seconded by Member Pierce.

Discussion ensued regarding concerns with improvement needed in communication and with tracking, engagement, and fiscal responsibility.

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

Iron Sharpening Iron, Educational Consultants Consortium, Inc. (61)

Member Pierce made a motion to recommend the requested funding in the amount of \$208,000 for program standing 61, Educational Consultants Consortium, Inc., Iron Sharpening Iron. Rationale for recommendation: Service to a unique community. Motion was seconded by Member Shingledecker.

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

Trauma Assessment and Developmental Screenings, All Star Children's Foundation (62)

Member Felton made a motion to recommend the requested funding in the amount of \$73,500 for program standing 62, All Star Children's Foundation, Trauma Assessment and Developmental Screenings. Rationale for recommendation: Provides Critical Service. Motion was seconded by Member Shingledecker.

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

Future Leaders' Academy, UnidosNow (63)

Member Pierce made a motion to recommend the requested increase in the amount of \$86,400 for program standing 63, UnidosNow, Future Leaders Academy. Rationale for

recommendation: Important program for the community. Motion was seconded by Member Felton.

Discussion ensued regarding Tier 2 requires an increase request to be 20 percent or less, and the UnidosNow requested a 25 percent increase.

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

The State of the Manatee Girl- Pilot Initiative, Girls Scouts of the Gulfcoast Florida (64)
Member Garafola made a motion to not recommend funding for the program standing 64, Girls Scouts of the Gulfcoast, and the State of the Manatee Girl- Pilot Initiative. Rationale for not recommending: Not verifiable, unmeasurable. Motion was seconded by Member Shingledecker.

Discussion ensued regarding application is confusing, different focuses, and County funding.

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

School Year Program, Avenue941 (65)

Member Pierce made a motion to recommend the requested funding in the amount of \$100,000 for program standing 65, Avenue941, School Year Program. Rationale for recommendation: Works well within the community. Motion was seconded by Member Brownell.

Discussion ensued regarding commitment letters, verbiage in proposed results, budget, confusion with tracking behavior, subject focus, low attendance, and specific goals.

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

Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation, The Florida Center for Early Childhood, Inc. (66)

Member Gallagher made a motion to recommend the requested funding in the amount of \$117,673 for program standing 66, The Florida Center for Early Childhood, Inc., Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation. Rationale for recommendation: Unique program works well with Community agencies. Motion was seconded by Member Felton.

Discussion ensued regarding if the result is adequately measurable, no letters of support, and low score.

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

I Am Academy, Truly Valued, Inc. (67)

Member Felton made a motion to recommend the requested funding in the amount of \$100,000 for program standing 67, Truly Values, Inc., I AM Academy. Rationale for recommendation: Priority program, works well with schools. Motion was seconded by Member Shingledecker.

Discussion ensued regarding unclear if the result is adequately measurable, and commitment letters are important.

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

(Gavel to Vice Chairman Pierce, presiding)

Replay Outreach, Replay Mentoring (68)

Chairperson Bailey made a motion to recommend the requested funding in the amount of \$100,000 for program standing 68, Replay Mentoring, Replay Outreach. Rationale for recommendation: Good mentoring program. Motion was seconded by Member Gallagher.

Discussion ensued regarding the confusing application, and measurable results.

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

(Gavel to Chairperson Bailey presiding)

Adaptive Riding and Equine Assisted Services, Sarasota Manatee Association for Riding Therapy (69)

Member Shingledecker made a motion to recommend the requested funding in the amount of \$23,540 for program standing 69, Sarasota Manatee Association for Riding Therapy, Adaptive riding and Equine Assisted Services. Rationale for recommendation: Priority program, service a unique population. Motion was seconded by Member Garafola.

Discussion ensued regarding concerns over key leadership changes, and trying to meet priority.

The motion failed 4-6, with Members Pierce, Tapp, Gallagher, Felton, Laughrey, and Chairperson Bailey voting nay, and with Member Smith absent.

Replay Outreach, The Ascend Project (70)

Member Felton made a motion to recommend the requested funding in the amount of \$175,000 for program standing 70, The Ascend Project, Replay Outreach. Rationale for recommendation: Priority Program, engages high risk children. Motion was seconded by Member Gallagher.

(Depart Member Brownell)

Discussion ensued regarding confusing application, and there are similar programs.

The motion carried 6-3, with Members Shingledecker, Pierce, and Tapp voting nay, and Members Smith and Brownell absent.

Y-Reads, YMCA of Southwest Florida (71)

Member Felton made a motion to not recommend funding for the program standing 71, YMCA of Southwest Florida, Y-Reads . Rationale for recommendation: Not verifiable, unmeasurable results. Motion was seconded by Member Shingledecker.

The motion carried 9-0, with Member Smith and Member Brownell absent.

Manatee County Summer Blast Camp Scholarship Program, Manatee County Government (72)

Member Shingledecker made a motion to recommend the requested increase amount of \$67,500 for program standing 72, Manatee County Government, Manatee County Summer Blast Camp Scholarship Program. Rationale for recommendation: Priority program. Motion was seconded by Member Felton.

Discussion ensued regarding concerns with meeting requirements, and the budget.

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

Chairperson Bailey, announced the total recommended amount of funding is \$20,486,602, with a reserve of \$4,600,000.

FINAL RECOMMENDATION

Member Shingledecker made a motion to approve and adopt the Children's Services Advisory Board recommendations for FY27 investment that were made during their publicly held meetings on May 18,2026 and May 20,2026 totaling \$20,486,602. Motion was seconded by Member Garafola.

(Depart Member Felton)

The motion carried 8-0, with Members Smith, Felton, and Brownell absent.

6. **COMMISSIONER UPDATES**

There were no Commissioner updates.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Drena Green, Just for Girls, requested the CSAB reconsider funding.

(Enter Member Felton)

Dee Ralph, Just for Girls, shared a speech from a former student.

Lawrence Rose, Replay Outreach, reviewed the history of the program.

Becky Canesse, CEO of Just for Girls, explained why the program is beneficial throughout the years.

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

8. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place June 17, 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 5:40 p.m.

Minutes Approved:

