

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY

Regular Council Meeting
Thursday, May 9, 2013

Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County
546 NW University Boulevard, Suite 201 -- Board Room
Port Saint Lucie, Florida 34986
Meeting time: 8:30 a.m.

MINUTES

- I CALLED TO ORDER: 8:30 a.m.** by Chairperson Kathryn Hensley.
- II PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- III MISSION STATEMENT** Read by Chairperson Kathryn Hensley; *"The mission of the Children's Services Council is to improve the quality of life for all children in St. Lucie County."*
- IV ROLL CALL:** Quorum established.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Chairperson **Kathryn Hensley** (*School Board Member*); Vice Chair **Queen Townsend** (*Governor Appointed*); Secretary **Garry Wilson** (*Governor Appointed*); **Michael J. Lannon** (*Superintendent of Schools*); **Paula A. Lewis** (*County Commissioner*); **Pat Alley** (*Governor Appointed*); **Candice Loupe** (*Governor Appointed*) and **Marilyn Lawless** (*Governor Appointed*).

COUNCIL ABSENT: **Mark W. Klingensmith** (*Circuit Judge*); and **Lorrene Egan** (*Department of Children & Families*).

OTHERS PRESENT: **Sean Boyle** (*Executive Director*); **Dori DiToro** (*Director of Finance & Human Resources*); **Jim Dwyer** (*Director of Programs*); **Tonya Andreacchio** (*Capacity Building Coordinator*); **Erin Craig** (*Fiscal/Human Resources Specialist*); **Sandy Mack** (*Program Specialist*); **Paula Rivera** (*Office Manager/Transcriber*); **Dee Torres** (*Administrative Assistant*); and 1 member of Public in attendance. Reference attendance sheet for specifics.

OTHERS ABSENT: **Ashley Mock** (*Communications Coordinator*); and **Glen Torcivia** (*CSC Attorney*).

NOTICE: *The Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County maintains an audio record of all monthly Council meetings and public hearings. The written summarized minutes of the meetings are concise and become the official minutes after approval by the Council. Any person seeking to appeal any decision by the Children's Services Council, with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, is advised that a record of the proceeding is required in any such appeal and that such person may need to insure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.*

V PUBLIC COMMENTS

No input received from the public in attendance.

VI CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Townsend motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, which includes minutes from the Regular Monthly meeting and financials for the month of April 2013. Ms. Candice Loupe seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously 7/0.

Mr. Michael Lannon arrived at 8:38 a.m. during the Executive Director report. Final quorum of eight established.

VII EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director, Mr. Sean Boyle, reported and updated Council as necessary referencing his report (Attachment 2 of Council Packet) which is included in the Council Packet.

Item(s) new to Mr. Boyle's report and/or requiring updates:

CSC Outstanding Youth Awards Dinner: Mr. Boyle reminded Council of CSC's signature awards dinner scheduled for this coming Monday evening, May 13th. There are approximately 80 registered to attend this event. Event will commence promptly at 6 p.m. and we will attempt to have it concluded prior to 9 p.m. that evening.

Community Based Care Contract: Mr. Boyle reminded Council that he mentioned at the last meeting the Department of Children and Families was releasing the ITN (invitations to negotiate) for the community-based care contract soon. Since last month's Council meeting the ITN has officially been released. Mr. Boyle was advocating for community member representation on the ITN Review Committee, and he happily reported that Ms. Chris Epps, Roundtable of St Lucie County has been assigned to that role.

Legislative Session: Mr. Boyle informed Council that recent legislative session is coming to close. Good news to report is there was continued funding reported for PACE, Healthy Start, Healthy Families and slight increase in Healthy Kids – getting more slots. There will be an increase in funding for Early Childhood/Early Learning Coalition, considered a victory as this is a first in ten years; and increase in funding for Early Steps. There has been some restructuring and governance language added to provide Early Education a stable ground in future legislation. Merit having to go to the statewide Children's Services Council, Ms. Brittany Birken, who was both influential and instrumental in the crafting the language that was formally adopted and approved as a passing bill. Also, Representative Lee's Literacy Project – although not written in law – has been inserted in the budget via provisional language and awaiting the governor's signature. On the flip side and not so good news is the Presumptive Eligibility for Kidcare did not pass; either did the removal of the five-year waiting list for children of illegal immigrants. Presently, children of legal immigrants default to a five year waiting period prior to acceptance to Kidcare eligibility. Still pending is Medicaid expansion, as there is no Senate and House of Representatives agreement on this issue. As it stands presently, the State of Florida will not be eligible to draw down federal funds for this purpose.

Target Funding: School Suspension Program: Mr. Boyle informed CSC Council members that the targeted funding proposal for the present Project ROCK North School Suspension program is deadline for RFP submissions is tomorrow, May 10th. CSC has received four RFPs to date; with a few more expected by tomorrow.

CSC Coffee Connections: Mr. Boyle reminded Council of the CSC Coffee Connections event happening Friday, May 10th. CSC invites in our funded programs to participate in an informational networking with other agencies. Starbucks is our coffee sponsor.

Special Speaker: Mr. Boyle informed CSC Council members that the author of the book “Dear Lilly” will be coming to speak at CSC’s funded Parent Teen Community Connection program and relay a positive message experience of a parent’s influence on his child. This is a special privilege and honor as he is doing this speaking engagement for free in advance of his upcoming book tour.

Community Events on the Calendar: Mr. Boyle informed CSC Council members on Tuesday morning CSC will be sponsoring the SLC Chamber’s Networking Breakfast, then heading off to the weekly radio show at WIRA 1400 am and ending the day with a CSC presentation to Kiwanis members.

Agency Site Visits: Mr. Boyle informed CSC Council members that site visits to our funded agencies have been scheduled in the past at the request of Council members wanting to participate and view the programs in action. However, Council members’ attendance has been lacking at past visits, although notice was given of the date it was apparent that calendar conflicts may have been an issue. Mr. Boyle will continue to attempt reaching out to Council Members to locate more suitable dates for future agency visits.

CSC Funded Program Recommendations: Mr. Boyle reminded Council members of the drastic transformations in budget since 2008, and how significantly reductions have been made in administrative budget to avoid at all costs any significant impact to our CSC funded programs. Mr. Boyle provided a brief history of the budget decrease stating in 2008 there was a budget revenue of \$9.6M versus today a budget revenue of \$6.7M with most reductions being made in administration; a total decline in revenue of 30% and \$1M dollar decrease in total budget. Throughout this period of time, CSC funded agencies have been minimally impacted and none received more than a 5% total reduction for that entire period. The being said, it is to be acknowledged that the CSC Team has devoted much time and consideration to the RFP submittals and their respective budgets versus the CSC budget dollars available. There is no enthusiasm relayed in providing these program recommendations to Council today. It is unfortunate that the economic state CSC is in presently has resulted in such measures to keep as many programs in tact with restricted funding available. With this said, Mr. Boyle summarized the fact that the burden of impact taken thus far has been on the administrative end of the budget, however the reality for the future lies in possible greater reductions affecting CSC funded programs. CSC Chair highlighted that without the smart thinking of building a substantial funding reserve with adequate funding for such unstable critical times as having experienced in these past years, CSC would be far worse in a detrimental state. Thankfully due to this funding reserve, CSC has not had to reduce programs by 30% of budget loss; in comparison just minimal reduction has been made to date. In summary, CSC is doing everything within its power to keep its funded programs shielded as much as possible; keeping aware that if this climate continues more dramatic measures may need to be taken inclusive of program deletions.

Legislative Session: Prior to continuing with CSC standard business and upon completion of the Executive Director Report, the CSC Chair chose to share an additional two pieces of positive news as it relates to legislation. The approval of the normalcy bill where the foster parent(s) is permitted to make limited decisions with respect to their foster child(ren) without obtaining the authorization of government agencies. Similar to a normal household, the foster parent is allowed to make decisions as it relates to dating, driving a car, etc. The second positive note relates to foster children who are approaching the ‘age out’ of the system (eighteen years of age) prior to graduation of high school. The release of foster children from the system at this age while still in school is counterintuitive and sets them out for failure in adulthood. Legislation was passed that foster children will be permitted to stay in foster care until twenty-one of age. Two very positive pieces of legislation that are a win for our children.

VIII OLD BUSINESS

A) (none)

IX NEW BUSINESS

A) Budget Transfer Request: Catholic Charities Strengthening Families Program

Ms. DiToro provided a synopsis of the Council Action Item (Attachment 3) of the CSC E-Packet. Catholic Charities Strengthening Families Program is one of five sites that offer this Best Practice Program of family skill building. Due to a change in federal law with which they were required to comply they have had to hire as employees two counselors who were formerly independent contractors. Originally, these counselors had been budgeted for in the 'professional fees' line item, however due to the hiring of these positions the funding will now need to be allocated from the Salaries and FICA line items. Other minor changes included in this request are to move funds from various other line items which incurred lower anticipated expenses to line items 'Food and Nutrition' and 'Books/Educational Materials' for client services expenses. The CSC team sees no concerns in this request, accordingly recommends the approval of this reallocation in budget dollars.

Ms. Pat Alley motioned to approve the Budget Transfer Request for Catholic Charities Strengthening Families Program in the amount of \$7,210.28 as detailed on Attachment 3 of the E-Packet. Chief Garry Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously 8/0.

B) Budget Transfer Request: Catholic Charities Treasure Coast Kids

Ms. DiToro provided a synopsis of the Council Action Item (Attachment 4) of the CSC E-Packet. This program provides for professional counseling for children and families to assist them in meeting the challenges life presents mentally and physically. The services are provided on a sliding scale fee basis. Due to the inability to fill a vacant position, the Director is conducting more counseling. Thus, this budget request reallocates funds from the unfilled position to the Director's position to allow reimbursement to the program for the additional work hours being provided by the Director. The CSC team's only concern would be if the open position is filled then the funds would have to be reallocated for that position. However, CSC team does recommend the approval of this reallocation in budget dollars. Mr. Lannon had concerns with the Director receiving an augmentation to her current salary, which Mr. Dwyer clarified this is not the case.

Ms. Marilyn Lawless motioned to approve the Budget Transfer Request for Catholic Charities Treasure Coast Kids in the amount of \$11,315.00 as detailed on Attachment 4 of the E-Packet. Ms. Queen Townsend seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously 8/0.

C) Budget Transfer Request: Catholic Charities Healthy Start Teen Case Management

Mr. Dwyer provided a synopsis of the Council Action Item (Attachment 5) of the CSC E-Packet. Mr. Dwyer explained the funding history CSC has had with the Healthy Start program. Teen Case Management's primary goal is the prevention of teen pregnancy and the promotion of healthy lifestyles. The primary reason for this request is to split available funding from a vacant Human Services Counselor position to provide funding for a Health Educator position and to establish a TCM Supervisor position. CSC team sees no concerns with this request, accordingly recommends the approval of this reallocation in budget dollars.

Chief Garry Wilson motioned to approve the Budget Transfer Request for Healthy Start Teen Case Management Program in the amount of \$27,048.00, as detailed in Attachment 5 of the E-Packet. Mr. Michael Lannon seconded the motion. Council Member Pat Alley disclosed her position on the Healthy Start board of members; however receiving no financial gain or incentives in this respect was included in quorum vote. Motion carried unanimously 8/0.

D) 2013/2014 Program Proposal Recommendations Presentation

Mr. Dwyer referenced the two handouts in each respective Council Folder for reference during this recommendation presentation. The handouts provide for different snapshots of the same information, basically the preference of the document-holder. Mr. Boyle provided Council members with a general picture of this presentation and Mr. Dwyer concurred with his stance on the labor and time intensive effort taken by all team members to provide for the truest and fairest review of these proposals. Mr. Dwyer volunteered to be available at the convenience of Council members if they required further information, or had additional inquiries. These proposal recommendations will also be released to CSC's funded agencies permitting them the opportunity to review, and present any appeals to the Staff recommendations before the next Council meeting in the month of June. Mr. Lannon requested another snapshot review, that is of funding by Agency so as to get a better picture of the 'grand total' dollar amount each agency is receiving from CSC. This snapshot is available immediately, as it is in place as a tool for the CSC review team.

XI COUNCIL & STAFF COMMENTS

- Ms. Hensley reported we should keep vigilant of some Castle organizational restructuring and if that will in any way impact our other funded agencies services. Also how current state and federal changes may impact our agencies negatively or positively – i.e., BBBS may have available state funding coming their way.
- Mr. Boyle advised CSC Council members of the CSC attorney, Glen Torcivia's father not being physically well; hence his unexpected absence at today's meeting.
- Mr. Boyle mentioned that within the next month the CSC Program Accountability Report will be released to Council members – a six month look of how our funded programs are performing – which will assist as a supplement to the proposal recommendation documentation you have received and be an aid in your voting decision.
- Mr. Lannon appreciated Mr. Boyle's context in the briefing of the CSC budget. He added that there is \$15M total that needs to be cut from the School Board budget. One measure being implemented to assist in the reduction of School Board budget is that private contractor services currently in place will be evaluated and when possible removed. Services will not be forfeited, however assumed by current school board workers. This change in School Board contractor services will impact CSC funded agencies, such as Daniel M. Foundation.

XI FUTURE MEETINGS

- CSC Monthly Meeting – June 13, 2013.

XII ADJOURNMENT: 9:04 a.m.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

May 9, 2013

MOTIONS PASSED

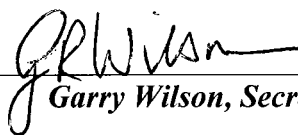
1. **APPROVED** the **May 9, 2013 Consent Agenda**, which includes the following:
 - A. *The Agenda for May 11, 2013.*
 - B. *The Regular Meeting Minutes for April 11, 2013.*
 - C. *The CSC Council Attendance Record – as of April 11, 2013.*
 - D. *The Cumulative Financial Report for CSC FY 2012/13 as of April 30, 2013.*
 - E. *The Program Allocations Report for CSC FY 2012/13 – as of April 30, 2013.*
 - F. *The Summary of Fund Balance for CSC, as of April 30, 2013.*
 - G. *The Transactions Report for CSC, as of April 30, 2013.*

2. **APPROVED** *the Budget Transfer Request for Catholic Charities Strengthening Families Program in the amount of \$7,210.28 as detailed on Attachment 3 of the E-Packet.*

3. **APPROVED** *the Budget Transfer Request for Catholic Charities Treasure Coast Kids in the amount of \$11,315.00 as detailed on Attachment 4 of the E-Packet.*

4. **APPROVED** *the Budget Transfer Request for Healthy Start Teen Case Management Program in the amount of \$27,048.00, as detailed in Attachment 5 of the E-Packet.*

Approved by: _____


Garry Wilson, Secretary

Date: _____

6-13-13