

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY

Regular Council Meeting  
Thursday, January 12, 2017

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

## MINUTES

- I CALLED TO ORDER:** 8:32 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 **Candice Loupe** (*Governor Appointed*); Secretary **Pat Alley** (*Governor Appointed*); **Michael C. Heisey** (*Circuit Juvenile Judge*); **Wayne Gent** (*Superintendent of Schools*); **Marilyn Lawless** (*Governor Appointed*); **Linda Bartz** (*County Commissioner*); and **Amy Gregory** (*Department of Children & Families*).

**COUNCIL ABSENT:** **Eric S. Finkel** (*Governor Appointed*); **Vacant Position of Jason Matson** (*Governor Appointed*).

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

**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

CSC Chair commenced public comments with a brief PowerPoint presentation from the St. Lucie County School Board on the recent progress and statistics. Superintendent Gent expressed satisfaction in the School Board making the local paper with very positive marks. Reflecting record highs in graduation rates, at 86.8%, the fourth largest gain in the state of Florida and surpassed the state average. Gains across the board in all of our high schools. Gains also reflected very well within racial groups. St. Lucie County Schools being a very diverse population and these groups reflected significant improvement in graduation rates across all St. Lucie County schools. St. Lucie County Schools placed forty-four in last year's graduation rates, and this year moved up to thirteenth in state – a very significant improvement for the county. Superintendent Gent has taken personal responsibility to gain this affect. Every staff member is accountable for a certain area of each student's academic development; custom monitoring of each student has weighed in heavily in these positive results presented today. The handling of each student as an individual, addressing everything from attendance to discipline strategies has benefited St. Lucie County Schools' stats. Custom monitoring of the student begins in freshman year and not senior year; when there is still a greater opportunity to turns things around for the student. Superintendent Gent concluded that St. Lucie Schools is on the right track and his focus is to continue on this upward trend and attempt to hit 90% graduation rates. Mr. Boyle shared a personal experience in favor of this new strategy and how it was beneficial for one student who was a senior and not on track to graduate, and due to these individual efforts the student did successfully graduate high school. This is definitely not a manipulation of numbers; however a true, very welcoming reality for the St. Lucie County School District. Ms. Lawless did express concerns about such positive information not making the media more regularly. Superintendent Gent did assure that his intent is to get this positive information out to the public on a more regular basis.

## VI CONSENT AGENDA

*Ms. Lawless motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, which includes meeting minutes, Council Attendance Record for fiscal year 2016/2017, and Financial Reports. Meeting minutes were approved with the following amendments: (1) under New Business Item A - disclosure of Ms. Alley and Ms. Hensley as serving on the HANDS board; (2) under New Business Item B - motion carried 5/2 in favor with Ms. Lawless and Ms. Hensley opposed. Ms. Loupe seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously 8/0 in favor.*

## VII EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director, Mr. Sean Boyle, reported and updated Council as necessary referencing his report which was released in advance via the Council e-Packet.

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

**RFPs Currently Released:** Mr. Boyle reminded board members there are presently three RFPs released; one of which is due next week – the Stopping Child Abuse & Building Strong Families RFP. A Community Review Team has been formed for the purposes of reviewing and providing input for this priority RFP. The Community Review Team is diverse and consists of public having expertise in this area. In this group are: a pastor and representatives from the School District, the Chamber of Commerce, the Guardian ad Litem and the United Way. This RFP was released in October 2016 with proposals due in January and recommendations to the board scheduled for March. The Continuing RFP was released in December 2016; with a Bidders' Conference event having occurred this past Tuesday. This Continuing RFP is due in March with recommendations to the board scheduled for May. The Summer Learning RFP was released in December 2016 as well with a Bidders' Conference scheduled for Friday. Proposals are due in February and recommendations to the board scheduled for March. This is a very busy season for CSC with several proposals overlapping in review process.

**Delegation Day, January 5th:** Mr. Boyle informed CSC board members that he had the opportunity to present at Delegation Day. There was a very positive conversation that resulted after this session with State House Representative Grall and Mr. Loupe from Early Learning Coalition. The conversation addressed the state's need to properly clarify the definition of quality early childhood care and education, or allow the locals to measure and implement early childhood care. In summary, a productive conversation resulted from this Delegation Day. Our FCC Executive Director and Representative Grall recently met on this subject and will be producing a House Bill to address this issue in the near future.

**FCC Grant Awarded:** Mr. Boyle informed board members that the FCC will be applying for funding in the amount of \$2M to provide for a pilot program which will solicit 100 low income families for a three year period who are presently climbing the career ladder in salary growth. This grant will target to fill in the areas of subsidized assistance that these families tend to lose from the state as they climb the ladder and produce a more tiered reduction of funding to facilitate the adjustments in income; one of the largest hit areas of concern being child care where there is an average of \$5,000 annually expended. This grant is intended to help families across the CSC communities to increase workforce mobility and achieve economic security. Our share in St. Lucie County, would equate to about 10 families participating with a total funding amount of approximately \$48,000 over three years specifically dedicated to child care. CSC is in communication with its local partners CareerSource of Research Coast and Early Learning Coalition of St. Lucie County. CareerSource of the Research Coast is presently undergoing some organizational changes with the CEO retiring the end of the month. Presently, there are certain logistics CSC is reconciling with in reference to outcomes and case management.

**CSC Funding Inquiries Form:** Mr. Boyle informed board members that much of our RFP exposure is done via social media, and due to the broad spectrum of requests often times the key players that are required to be at the exploratory interview with the requestor are not, and those not needing to be present are. In order to streamline this process and be more productive with manpower, CSC is in the process of developing a very brief online survey to filter out the unknowns and get the right team members involved from the beginning of the funding process. This brief survey is not intended as an obstacle by any means; it is intended to expedite this process and have the right team members at the table.

**St Lucie Reads Meeting:** Mr. Boyle reminded board members there is a St. Lucie Reads meeting scheduled for January 31<sup>st</sup>. The statewide coordinator for the grade level reading campaign is scheduled to be onsite to participate in this meeting, as well as conduct a training directly following the meeting. Embedding Literacy Activities in Out of School Time training has over thirty people registered.

**CSC "Our Stories" Flyer:** Mr. Boyle informed board members about a CSC "Our Stories" flyer which depicts a personal experience of participants that have used our funded programs' services. These stories are also posted on social media and serve as a method of exposing CSC to the community. Mr. Boyle encourages all to take the flyer and share it with others.

## VIII OLD BUSINESS

*(None for this meeting agenda)*

## IX NEW BUSINESS

### **A) Budget Transfer Request: St. Lucie County Health Department School Nurses Program**

Ms. DiToro provided a brief synopsis of the Council Action Item, known as attachment #2 of the e-Packet contents. Ms. DiToro explained that CSC began funding St. Lucie County Health Department School Nurses Program in year 2006. This program's mission is to keep children healthy, fit and ready to learn. The current year's funding amount is at \$150,000. The School Nurses Program did request an additional \$75,000 in CSC funding for three new school nurse positions for fiscal year 2016/2017, \$25,000 for each new position. This additional funding was intended to double the number of school nurse positions for this fiscal year. The additional funding was also used to leverage in \$75,000 from the

BOCC. In a recent review, it was discovered that the additional funding from CSC and BOCC would only support two new additional nurse positions; not three as originally intended. Consequently the School Nurses Program would like to split the \$75,000 between two nursing positions at \$37,500 each. The board is being asked to transfer \$25,000 between the two nurse positions as described in the CAI. The transfer will cover the restructuring of the budget for the two nurses, however the lack of funding for the third nurse position will impact the number of students served. CSC Team recommends approval of the budget transfer request. There was some concern expressed about the loss of school nurse position; however we are hopeful to bridge that gap in the future. There are presently nine nurses staffed with a tenth nurse in the process of being hired. By Best Practice standards, there is supposed to be one nurse ratio per 750 students; presently there is one nurse per 5,500 students. These nurses rotate between four to five schools each. On a positive, there is a Health Aid stationed at each school location. Due to a significant loss in state funding for the Department of Health, this is the present reality.

*Superintendent Gent motioned to approve the Budget Transfer Request for the St. Lucie County School Nurses Program in the amount of \$25,000.00, as presented in the Council Action Item. Ms. Alley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously 8/0 in favor.*

**X COUNCIL & STAFF COMMENTS**

Ms. Hensley reminded board members that at last month's board meeting the CSC Executive Director's evaluation was summarized, however no merit increase was rewarded. Ms. Hensley explained that Mr. Boyle's salary will increase 3%, as was the average reflected for all other team members. Although, Mr. Boyle was offered a higher increase in salary he declined; requesting the average as acceptable. Ms. Hensley thanked Mr. Boyle for his service, dedication and commitment to CSC and the Team. Accordingly, Mr. Torcivia will amend the Executive Director Contract to reflect the 3% increase for execution.

**XI FUTURE MEETINGS**

CSC Monthly Meeting – February 9, 2017

**XII ADJOURNMENT: 9:02 a.m.**

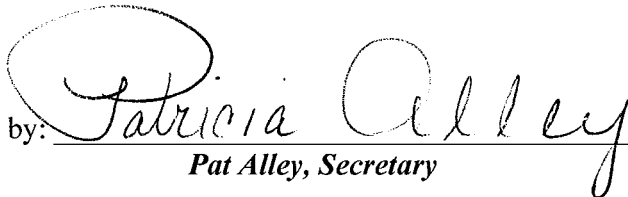
**CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**January 12, 2017**

**MOTIONS PASSED**

1. **APPROVED** the **January 12, 2017 Consent Agenda**, which includes the following:
  - A. *The Agenda for January 12, 2017.*
  - B. *The **Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes** for December 8, 2016; approved with amendments as outlined in minutes.*
  - C. *The **CSC Council Attendance Record for FY 2016/2017**– as of December 2016.*
  - D. *Cumulative Financial Report **FY 2015/16** – as of December 31, 2016.*
  - E. *Program Allocations Report **FY 2015/16** – as of December 31, 2016.*
  - F. *Transactions Report – as of December 31, 2016.*
  - G. *Summary of Fund Balance – as of December 31, 2016.*
  - H. *Cumulative Financial Report **FY 2016/17** – as of December 31, 2016.*
  - I. *Program Allocations Report **FY 2016/17** – as of December 31, 2016.*
  
2. **APPROVED** the Budget Transfer Request for the St. Lucie County School Nurses Program in the amount of \$25,000.00, as presented in the Council Action Item.

Approved by:

  
*Pat Alley, Secretary*

Date:

