

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY

Regular Council Meeting
Thursday, October 12, 2017

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

MINUTES

- I CALLED TO ORDER:** 8:30 p.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:** Silently noted and recorded; Quorum established.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Chairperson **Kathryn Hensley** (*School Board Member*); Vice Chair **Marilyn Lawless** (*Governor Appointed*); Secretary **Pat Alley** (*Governor Appointed*); **Linda Bartz** (*County Commissioner*); **Wayne Gent** (*Superintendent of Schools*); **Amy Gregory** (*Department of Children & Families*); **Michael Heisey** (*Circuit Juvenile Judge*); **Richard Del Toro** (*Governor Appointed*); and **Carmine Izzo** (*Governor Appointed*).

COUNCIL ABSENT: **Eric Finkel** (*Governor Appointed*).

OTHERS PRESENT: **Sean Boyle** (*Executive Director*); **Dori DiToro** (*Director of Finance and Human Resources*); **Jim Dwyer** (*Director of Programs*); **Ashley Mock** (*Director of Community Engagement*); **Erin Craig** (*Fiscal/Human Resources Specialist*); **Sandy Mack** (*Program Specialist*); **Tonya Andreacchio** (*Capacity Building Coordinator*); **Paula Rivera** (*Office Manager/Transcriber*); **Dee Torres** (*Administrative Assistant*); and 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

(Public in attendance did not wish to comment; observers only)

VI CONSENT AGENDA

Prior to vote, CSC Chair read into record the voting conflict Form 8B pertinent to board member Judge Heisey's conflict in vote at the meeting of September 6, 2017.

Ms. Lawless motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, which includes meeting minutes and voting conflict form, Council Attendance Record Final Roster for fiscal year 2016/2017, and Financial Reports. Ms. Gregory seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously 8/0 in favor.

Ms. Pat Alley arrived during the Executive Director's narrative; establishing quorum at nine members.

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:

2017 Spirit of St. Lucie Award: Mr. Boyle expressed his surprise at CSC's winning the United Way's Spirit of St. Lucie Award, as CSC had originally nominated another agency who won the award as well. CSC won this award for the Education Impact category. Ms. Amy Brunjes, Regional Manager/External Affairs of Florida Power & Light was the presenter of this award category and expressed CSC's 27 years of accountability to the St. Lucie County taxpayers, and commitment and dedication in services and funding to the children and families of this county. She highlighted CSC's most recent involvement in the St. Lucie Reads initiative and its efforts to advance educational opportunities at every level in the community. She ended her presentation stating that *'the results have been remarkable and this organization is truly leading community impact in the United Way core focus area of Education.'* Some CSC board members were present for this award ceremony, including CSC Chair Hensley and Assistant Chief Del Toro.

CSC Dues: Mr. Boyle reminded board members of the following dues expenses; although they are already included as part of the CSC budget. The dues of \$45,000 for the Roundtable of St. Lucie County; and \$8,982 for the Florida Children's Council (*which is based off of CSC's budgets statewide and our pro rata share; it is a reduction from last year's amount*) were paid in the month of October. In speaking of Florida Children's Council, Mr. Boyle made mention of the 2018 Florida Children's Council Legislative Public Policy Agenda document which was left at each board member's seat location for review. The initiatives are intentionally scripted as broad in interpretation to allow for flexibility in support and presentation at the Legislative sessions.

CSC Coffee Connections: Mr. Boyle informed board members the recent Coffee Connections session held September 29th when CSC presented a screening of the documentary Resilience which aligns with our strategic direction on trauma informed care education and awareness resulted in a very successful turnout. Kudos to Ms. Andreacchio for organizing this event. We have several agencies interested in scheduling implementing these practices within their programs; and many of the agencies if not all have signed up to continue receiving more information and technical assistance on trauma informed care implementation through our partnership with Tykes and Teens.

BOCC Nominees to the Governor's Office: Mr. Boyle informed board members that the Board of County Commissioners sent three nominees' names to the Governor's office for CSC Board appointments process; BOCC all unanimous in their decision of these three: Ms. Alley; Ms. Loupe and Chief Wilson.

There is some discrepancy in the term assignment for Assistant Chief Del Toro. According to the BOCC in their recent communication with the Governor's Office they were informed that Assistant Chief Del Toro was assigned partial term and term is due to expire November 2017. Nonetheless, the certificate Assistant Chief Del Toro received from the Governor's Office Appointment Department indicates the language of full term due to expire in November 2021. Inquiries have been sent to the Governor's Office for clarification, however no response as of yet. One of the reasons we pay dues to FCC is for their diligent efforts in maintaining a full-occupied board at each of the CSCs and we are hopeful that these recent submissions to the Governor's Office will produce new appointments timely. Another reason for our dues to the FCC is that we become that much stronger in a jointed umbrella of all CSCs. FCC has made our exposure at the Tallahassee sessions that much more noticeable and a major player in child advocacy field.

CHS' Heart Gallery: Mr. Boyle informed board members Children's Home Society program founded by Kathryn Basile is closing. It was a campaign program to bring awareness and exposure to hard-to-place children available for adoption. The program has not been receiving funding in the last several months due to the coordinator, Frank Avila, having resigned his position and the position having been vacant for some time. CHS was interested in filling the position with a part time evening and weekends role. However, CSC had concerns with how the outcomes would be affected in this new adjustment, and taking ownership of a four-county service when it is the other three counties were wavering in commitment to the Heart Gallery was also an obstacle. Therefore, this program will cease to exist. Devereux, however, is presently looking at avenues to include outreach efforts in their adoption services program and may take on this role of the former Heart Gallery.

Bloomberg Mayors Challenge: Mr. Boyle informed board members that the CSC Chair and he participated with the City of Port St. Lucie in a brainstorming session in the application of the Bloomberg Mayors Challenge grant. If awarded it provides for up to \$5M in grant funds. They arrived at two prospects worth consideration. One prospect for consideration is creating an awareness of system of care by means of having innovative ways to connect the community with the resources available to them; and other prospect having to do with the NICE initiative and bring in neighborhood navigators to field the neighborhoods personally and identify and connect individuals with the specific resources in that respective neighborhood. If the grant is awarded to Port St. Lucie, CSC will obtain the funding for the neighborhood navigators and take lead in hiring those positions. It is a very competitive grant to obtain, with only five being awarded nationally.

2GEN Strategy: Mr. Boyle informed board members that there has been discussion with various community leaders with respect to closing the financial gaps in a low income household working its way up the secular ladder and abruptly losing funding resources and services (subsidies for housing, child care and health insurance) upon reaching above the 200% poverty level. That fiscal cliff experienced once the 201% poverty level is reached is a loss of \$6,000; child care being one of the most significant subsidy losses and having a great impact on a single parent household. In climbing the career ladder the individual loses more in subsidized funding than compensated in salary. FCC is applying for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation 2GEN Family Initiative grant to pilot in four communities – Broward, Palm Beach, St. Lucie, and Martin counties – identify and track the progress of 8-12 individual families that are going through a career latus and provide a tiered subsidized plan to gradually wean them from subsidized services. The first year of this monitoring is totally paid for by the grant; second and third years requires buy in from CSC of \$46,000 – an investment planned for year 2019. CSC plans to include this in its budget. CSC has spoken with both our local partners Early Learning Coalition and CareerSource; they are willing to participate. Our goal is to demonstrate that the assistance of this tier will allow families to adjust financially and ultimately remove them from the poverty level and dependency on subsidized services.

Treasure Health (formerly Treasure Coast Hospice): Mr. Boyle informed board members that CSC is receiving recognition for CSC's continued support of the Youth Bereavement Counseling program. The awards ceremony is being held at Pietro's on the River at Jensen Beach on November 15th at 5:30 pm. CSC has been provided with a table of eight, and board members are being invited to participate. RSVPs are due soon, please do inform the CSC Team as quickly as possible of your interest. Mental health services and after school programs has been a need in our community. Many of our youth having been exposed to such grievances as death and loss very early in childhood CSC has recently partnered with Treasure Health grief program to pilot at the Boys & Girls Club these grief services for children in this after school setting.

New Book: Bullying: The author of the book entitled 'Call Me Yubbie' has provided CSC with 3,000 copies of this book which relays his own personal story of bullying and the challenges and mechanisms in coping through it. Authored by Joe Wojcik (aka Joe the Biker) who also coordinates a bullying prevention program, he graciously gifted us with these books and welcomes the disbursement of the books throughout the community. CSC has provided our programs with copies and including them in the Little Libraries; a copy has also been left for each of the board members at their seat location.

File Folders: CSC received a call from a local storage provider asking if we could use pre-printed file folders. CSC gladly accepted the 20+ cases of file folders and coordinated a community effort to get them into the hands of our programs and other community partners. Mr. Boyle welcomed the board members to take as they pleased from the inventory located at the exit door. He gave kudos to Ms. Rivera in her efforts to think 'green' and get these regularly used office supplies in the hands of those who needed them at no cost.

VIII OLD BUSINESS

(None available - placeholder)

IX NEW BUSINESS

A) 2017/2018 Community Outreach Plan

Ms. Mock provided a brief synopsis and history of the Council Action Item, Attachment #2 included in the e-packet contents. Ms. Mock explained the overview of intentions for the newly started fiscal year 2017/2018 as it relates to Outreach efforts. Exposure in this effort is paramount as it serves the community in knowing our purpose for existence and the variety of programs and services that are available to them. Social media and the newspaper inserts have historically done well in this type of outreach to the community, consequently these areas have been expanded. St Lucie Reads initiative has also been included in the Outreach Plan Budget. In total, a budget of \$80,000 has been dedicated for outreach efforts in the CSC budget and a detailed version of the budget areas are included in the CAI for review, consideration and motion approval.

Ms. Alley motioned to approve the 2017-2018 Community Outreach Plan, as detailed in the Council Action Item. Ms. Lawless seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously 9/0 in favor.

X COUNCIL & STAFF COMMENTS

Superintendent Gent provided an update with regards to the School Board being displaced from its original Fort Pierce location and relocated to the Allapattah Flats K-8 School. Some programs (Mosaic Virtual School, etc.) originally at the Allapattah Flats school location have also been relocated to make the space for the School Board. Human Resources and Student Assignment departments may be relocated to another Port St. Lucie school location. School Board is looking at a new site in the St. Lucie West area for the School Board's permanent residence. The construction would take approximately 18 months for completion. Early Learning Coalition have also been displaced from the Fort Pierce location, and are temporarily housed at a CareerSource location. They have requested to break their lease and too

are looking elsewhere for their permanent home. A few other entities that were in the former Orange Blossom Mall area have also been displaced and have located temporary spaces elsewhere. The St. Lucie Schools suffered minor damage if any at all. Most damage was at the School Board site.

Mr. Boyle provided an update with regards to the Castle's Strengthening Families program. CSC has met with the new Strengthening Families Program Manager, Irene Cauwels. All facilitators and staff have gone through the training on the new curriculum. Three classes have begun and participation levels are higher than last year. That said, the issue remains retention, so we are hopeful that the retention continues positively. This is a ten week program, with no participation buy-in. Pattern has been that participation levels begins strong, however reduce significantly as the course progresses to the latter weeks. In regards to Castle's Safe Families program update – all partners have communicated and submitted their data to Devereux. Devereux being the main funder will analyze all data and will recommend funding adjustments.

XI FUTURE MEETINGS

November 9, 2017 at 8:30 a.m.

XII ADJOURNMENT: 9:06 a.m.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

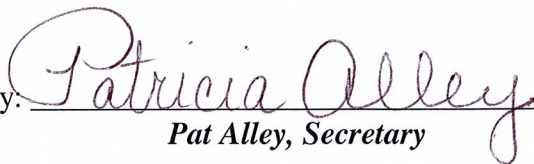
October 12, 2017

MOTIONS PASSED

1. **APPROVED** the **October 12, 2017 Consent Agenda**, which includes the following:
 - A. *The Agenda for October 12, 2017.*
 - B. CSC Regular Council Meeting Minutes – **August 10, 2017**
 - C. CSC Council TRIM Meeting Minutes – **September 6, 2017**
 - D. Voting Conflict Form 8B - Heisey - **September 6, 2017**
 - E. CSC Council TRIM Meeting Minutes – **September 13, 2017**
 - F. CSC Regular Council Meeting Minutes – **September 13, 2017**
 - G. CSC Council Attendance Record for **FY 2016/17 Final Roster** – *As of Sep 2017*
 - H. Cumulative Financial Report **FY 2016/17** – *As of Aug 31, 2017*
 - I. Program Allocations Report **FY 2016/17** – *As of Aug 31, 2017*
 - J. Summary of Fund Balance – *as of Aug 31, 2017*
 - K. Transactions Report – *As of Aug 31, 2017*
 - L. Cumulative Financial Report **FY 2016/17** – *As of Sep 30, 2017*
 - M. Program Allocations Report **FY 2016/17** – *As of Sep 30, 2017*
 - N. Transactions Report – *As of Sep 30, 2017*
 - O. Summary of Fund Balance – *As of Sep 30, 2017*
 - P. Cumulative Financial Report **FY 2017/18** – *As of Oct 1, 2017*
 - Q. Program Allocations Report **FY 2017/18** – *As of Oct 1, 2017*

2. **APPROVED** the 2017-2018 Community Outreach Plan, as detailed in the Council Action Item.

Approved by: _____


Pat Alley, Secretary

Date: _____

11/9/17