

June 8, 2023

Opening

The board meeting of the Children's Services Council of Saint Lucie County was called to order at 8:37 a.m. on June 8, 2023 presided over by CSC Chair Bartz. CSC Chair lead with the Pledge of Allegiance and followed with reading of the CSC Mission Statement.

Attendees

Voting members in attendance included: P. Alley; L. Bartz; R. Del Toro; E. Finkel; A. Gregory; C. Izzo; M. Lawless; and M. Linn. The final quorum was established at eight members.

Members Absent: D. Hawley; and J. Prince.

Public in attendance: *reference the 'Public in Attendance Sign-in sheet' for details.*

Public Comments

- No members of the public wished to address the board.

Approval of Consent Agenda and Consent Documents

The consent agenda for today's meeting, including previous month's meeting minutes, board attendance record, and month-end financial statement was unanimously approved as distributed. ***Ms. Lawless motioned to approve; Mr. Finkel seconded motion; motion carried unanimously 8:0.***

CEO's Report

Outstanding Youth Awards -- Mr. Boyle explained that the five (5) Outstanding Youth Awards have already been presented to the award recipients. However, in addition to the awarded \$1,000 scholarships presented, the recipients have each received a new laptop as part of their Outstanding Youth Award status. CSC was not able to deliver two of the recipients their gifted laptop; hence, they are present in person today to accept their respective gift. Dominique and Thomas approached the podium, and each accepted their gifted laptop, as well as expressed heartfelt words to the board related to their journey here and the acknowledgement of their achievements.

CSC Budget Presentation – Mr. Boyle reminded board members that CSC will be presenting the CSC Budget presentation for the upcoming fiscal year. He acknowledged the hard work and detailed effort put in by Mr. Jefferson in the drafting of the budget.

Disclosure

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 ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

CSC Incubation Offices – Mr. Boyle solicited input from the board members related to the CSC designated incubation office located on the second-floor west wing location. The incubation space was being utilized by two entities, Hope Lives Foundation and Families of the Treasure Coast (FoTC) whose contracts have since termed, reaching the intended three-year incubation period term. The Hope Lives Foundation organization recently closed their doors, permanent dissolution. CSC has assisted the Families of the Treasure Coast in this incubation period in stabilizing their operations and more than doubling their budget. One of the incubation offices has been retracted as CSC satellite office space for employees to utilize upon need. Specifically, those employees in cubicles or door-less spaces not having adequate privacy to participate in virtual conferences and other business calls which may require privacy. Meanwhile, a request for incubation space has been received from Building Opportunities through Golf (BOtG) which will be presented to the board in July. Families of the Treasure Coast has exhausted their ‘rent-free’ three-year incubation agreement; however, they have expressed interest in continuing their stay at the CSC building. They see the CSC building location as a great artery for the county-populations they serve. Understanding FoTC will pay rent at the current rate of \$16 per square foot, plus CAM costs. Mr. Boyle solicited feedback from the board related to this request, as it would be redefining the (rent-free) incubation space to a tenant occupied payable lease space. The office space has been leased out in the past (i.e., Henderson Behavioral Health). The benefits of continuing with FoTC as a tenant, is that CSC is familiar with the organization’s operation and how it utilizes the space on a daily. If the board were to accept BOtG’s incubation request, along with FoTC’s interest in continuing as a tenant lease this would not leave any balance of office space vacant for incubation; all open space would be occupied. CSC Incubation space is normally not advertised, as this would create an overwhelming response for “free” space. In community events and partnerships is when the conversation may arise casually and how prospective tenants may come to learn about office space availability. Aside from being a familiar lessee, FoTC’s parent population frequents the CSC building for training events scheduled in the building, hence it serves as a method of community exposure for CSC while they are visitors of our building, they become familiar with our services. Board consensus is to entertain the FoTC anticipated office lease request.

CSC Board Governor-Appointees Form – Mr. Boyle reminded the board members that CSC’s governor-appointees should have received a form that is time sensitive in completion. If it is not completed and submitted timely by each respective appointee, CSC will incur fees associated with tardiness. Mr. Boyle encouraged the quick turnaround as the deadline date for submission is early July.

Saint Lucie Reads – Mr. Boyle previewed a couple of Bookman superhero videos created for release in upcoming community events, featuring Assistant Chief of Police aka CSC board member Richard Del Toro expressing a few unscripted words encouraging reading in our local community, as well as Bookman throwing the first pitch at a baseball game while reading a book. Also, at the recent Swing into Summer Reading event at the Mets, baseball jerseys worn by popular Mets coaches and players are being auctioned (you may currently bid on the jerseys) and proceeds from purchased jerseys will go toward the purchase of another community book vending machine. For details related to the online jersey bidding, please go to CSC’s Facebook page. One of the jersey’s bids is already over \$200. CSC Board expressed how popular the Bookman superhero concept has become and

its positivity in encouraging reading throughout our community. This concept along with all of CSC's partnerships in this reading effort has made great strides in the reading initiative.

Program Presentation:

HPS Helping Kids Succeed – Mr. Boyle recently learned of a success story experienced by the services of HPS and welcomed the Executive Director, Janet Cooper, to come onsite and share. Ms. Cooper provided some handouts as well as a PowerPoint presentation detailing the different segments of the Helping People Succeed services. Particularly the Helping Kids Succeed program provides specialized afterschool activities for children ages 3-12 diagnosed with emotional, behavioral, and learning disorders through structured, positive skill building with homework support, social skills, and academic tutoring. She provided highlights of the program, and relayed personal letters of appreciation received by both parents and students.

Old Business

- A. CAI: FY 2023-24 Continuing Program Recommendation** -- Ms. Andreacchio provided a brief synopsis of this Council Action Item, known as Old Business Item A. Ms. Andreacchio explained that the CSC Team recommendation regarding the forty-five continuing programs that were submitted to the board at the May meeting; one of the programs did submit a request for reconsideration of funding. Helping People Succeed requested increases to certain job positions. However, after further review the CSC Team feels that the original recommendation of funding in May is satisfactory. The overall recommended program specific allocations for the four categories totals at \$9,399,748, represents a 4.8% increase in funding over the 2022/2023 fiscal year: or \$435,218 more in funding amount. The board is being asked to approve the CSC Team recommendation for fiscal year 2023/2024 Continued Programs, as presented in its original recommendation of May. Public disclosures were made by board members, of which they did not seek to profit or gain in any measure; hence, opted to vote.

Motion was approved FY 2023-24 Continuing Programs totaling \$9,399,748, as described in the Council Action Item presented today. Assistant Chief Del Toro motioned to approve; Ms. Gregory seconded motion; motion carries in favor 8/1 with one abstention from Judge Linn.

New Business:

- A. CSC Draft Budget FY 2023/2024** -- Mr. Jefferson began with the preface that for today's presentation no board vote is being requested; however, board vote is planned for the July meeting. Mr. Jefferson highlighted key points in the PowerPoint presentation, breaking down revenues versus expenses and the different variables related to property values and reduced millage rate. Due to growth in property values, the reduced millage rate still represents an increase of revenue of \$1,198,682 or 10.1% compared to the 9/30/2022 budget. Most of this increase being placed back into program allocations. Mr. Jefferson concluded with a chart showing a conscious effort in decrease of Unassigned Fund Balance. And a final slide of Taxpayer assessment of CSC taxes paid annually.

Final Comments from CSC Council/CSC Team

- Ms. Lawless expressed her appreciation in greeting card received from CSC Board and Team with kind thoughts related to her recent home move.
- CSC Chair Bartz reminded board members of quorum necessary for upcoming board meetings in the summer months, where vacation peaks and quorum establishment becomes more challenging.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 a.m. and carries unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled at 8:30 a.m. on July 13, 2023, in the CSC Board Room.

Summary of Motions

APPROVED the June 8, 2023 Consent Agenda, which includes the following:

- a. The Agenda for June 8, 2023.*
- b. CSC Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes – May 11, 2023.*
- c. CSC Council Attendance Record Fiscal Year 2022/2023 – As of May 31, 2023.*
- d. CSC Monthly Financials Fiscal Year 2022/2023 – As of May 31, 2023.*

APPROVED *FY 2023-24 Continuing Programs totaling \$9,399,748, as described in the Council Action Item presented today.*

Minutes respectfully transcribed & submitted by: Paula Rivera, CSC Office Manager