

**May 11, 2023**

## **Opening**

The board meeting of the Children's Services Council of Saint Lucie County was called to order at 8:34 a.m. on May 11, 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; D. Hawley; C. Izzo; M. and J. Prince. The final quorum was established at eight members.

Members Absent: M. Lawless; and Linn.

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, month-end financial statement and including the reading into record of Form 8B Memorandum of Voting Conflict was unanimously approved as distributed. ***Mr. Finkel motioned to approve; Ms. Gregory seconded motion; motion carried unanimously 8:0.***

## **CEO's Report**

***Personal Thank You*** -- Mr. Boyle began his narrative by extending a personal thank you to everyone, the CSC board members and team, for everyone's support, kind gestures, and loving sentiments during this very difficult time for him and his family in the passing of his daughter.

***Public Records Requests*** – Mr. Boyle informed board members that CSC has continually received a series of Public Records Requests in the past six weeks. The latest request being rather large and complex in data. This request wanted all receipts for every payment CSC made to six organizations, since their commencement respectively (FYs 2017/2018 forward; previous years met retention and have been destroyed). Mr. Boyle reminded the board that CSC went paperless (electronic format) approximately 1.5 years ago; all other information is hard-printed format. CSC pays based on reimbursement basis; hence, the organization pays out first and provides supporting documentation (receipts) for their purchases made. The CSC Team scanned one

## **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.

program's worth of data to provide an estimation of service cost to the requestor of this data. In addition to scanning, redaction of specific information such as social security numbers and bank account numbers involves additional review time prior to release of data. The estimated cost to fulfill this request was \$6,610.82. The reply received from the requestor in response to this cost was that CSC was attempting to resist the release of information, placing cost barriers in order not to comply with requested information. CSC does not have a dedicated person on the team to fulfill Public Records Requests, and cost estimation is in line with CSC's Public Records Policy (according to chapter 119, Florida Statutes). The requestor offered to come onsite and inspect records and do the scanning themselves in order to avoid the cost associated with this request. However, the requestor was reminded that CSC was still responsible for the redaction of sensitive information prior to their review of the records requested. The revised estimation reduced request costs from \$6,610.82 to \$2,176.39. CSC attorney review was performed prior to release of this estimate, and all was in line with Florida Statutes; with estimates being on the conservative end of the recommendation scale. The series of emails have also included an ever-growing cc list on the part of the original requestor with copies extending to a County Commissioner and attorneys. Mr. Boyle mentioned that this is basically informational history so that if the board members are addressed with inquiries related to this recent request from the public they are informed. CSC is in no way attempting to make obstacles in honoring the Public Records Requests received from the public; however, there are costs associated with this service per the Florida Statute. CSC attorney, Mr. Torcivia, stated that the Saint Lucie County taxpayers should not be paying for the time invested in the fulfillment of an excessive Public Records Request as it takes time away from the employee's standard responsibilities. Mr. Torcivia explained that you are requesting a service, a payment is required for this service. The standard mathematical equation involves the employee's hourly rate plus benefits multiplied by the duration of time to fulfill the request, including redaction time. The CSC Team has tried to accommodate the requestor in attempting to reduce costs, perhaps by narrowing in on specific information or reducing the number of fiscal years; however, this accommodation has not appeased the requestor.

***Grant Funding*** – Mr. Boyle mentioned an appreciation to the entire Program and Fiscal teams for their surgical effort in the recommendations of funding on today's business agenda. Specifically, Ms. Andreacchio's and Ms. Suriel's time and investment has been instrumental in their roles in this process.

***CSCSLC.ORG***– Mr. Boyle informed the board members that CSC's website has been redesigned and provided a quick demo online of the new website. Ms. Mock took the lead on this project and provided a very clean look including audioeye features making it accessible to the visually impaired. Headshots of the CSC Team have also been included. Mr. Boyle requested that the CSC board please forward their professional headshot to the CSC Team so that it may be added to the CSC website. Mr. Boyle encouraged all, at their leisure, to review the new and improved [www.cscslc.org](http://www.cscslc.org) website.

***CSC's Swing into Summer Reading Event*** – Mr. Boyle reminded the board that CSC is once again partnering with Saint Lucie Chamber and Saint Lucie Mets. CSC has taken a different approach in scheduling this year's event earlier in the year to avoid the complications of rainy season that often lead to postponements. 'Swing

into Summer Reading' event is scheduled for Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at Clover Park, the St. Lucie Mets home park. Free admission is provided to every child and accompanying adult/guardian. There will be plenty of booths to visit between our CSC funded program booths and Chamber partner booths; plus, CSC will have onsite 5,000 books available to all youth (5 per youth) attending the Mets game. Mr. Boyle encouraged the board members and their families to come and participate.

### **Program Presentation:**

**END It! Program** – The Founder and Executive Director, Sonia DuPree, was onsite along with her husband and co-Founder, Strather (aka Skip) DuPree, to provide the CSC board with current program news and highlights related to the END It program. The (Everybody is Not Doing It) program is an afterschool and summer program providing support and a variety of arts for middle to high school students. Responsible for the *Daddy* production, a play that focuses on the issue of human-trafficking, which has been turned into a movie created by the program's youth. The program has recently expanded its summer program, relocating to a different site for summer camp services and reducing its wait list. In addition to its arts, it places pride in its variety of academic activities offered engaging its program youth to fully participate. Program youth currently working on a new production called *Disney's Descendants*. Ms. DuPree relayed a story about one teen purposely having joined the program to have access to one of the program's youths so that she could battle her; however, after experiencing the program for herself, she enjoyed it so much that she changed her initial mission and is now a participant of the program.

### **Old Business**

- A. CAI: Priority Funding: Stopping Child Abuse --** Ms. Andreacchio provided a brief synopsis of this Council Action Item, known as Old Business Item A. Ms. Andreacchio explained that this priority category was released for open competition and the initial CSC Team recommendation was presented at the board meeting in April. After the April 13<sup>th</sup> recommendation, the thirteen proposers were provided with a copy of the funding recommendation. One program, Guardians for New Future, submitted a Request for Reconsideration by the April 27<sup>th</sup> deadline. The request was reviewed by the CSC Team and was found to be informative in providing more detail about the program, however, the team feels the information provided did not change the ranking of the programs recommended for funding. Consequently, at today's meeting the CSC Team is requesting the board approve the original recommendation provided in April for the "Stopping Child Abuse Before It Happens" priority category for fiscal year 2023-24. Funding recommendation totals \$1,616,888 for nine programs and represents an increase of 12.2%. The priority category funding is usually a significant increase and the starting point for building overall budget recommendations for FY 2023-24.

***Motion was approved in support of FY 2023-24 funding requests for nine programs totaling \$1,616,888 for the priority category "Stopping Child Abuse Before It Happens", as described in the Council Action Item presented today. Ms. Gregory motioned to approve; Chief Del Toro seconded motion; motion carries unanimously in favor 8/0.***

**New Business:**

**A. CAI: Give Back 2 Kids (GB2K) Summer Funding Request --** Ms. Andreacchio provided a brief synopsis of this Council Action Item, known as New Business Item A. She explained that at the board meeting in April the board's consensus was to open up the Summer Learning 2023 funding category specifically for the Give Back 2 Kids organization to be given the opportunity to apply; with the understanding that the proposal submission would be thoroughly evaluated as all other proposals were in this category, and with only limited CSC funds remaining in this category. An application for the Little Athlete Summer Learning program was received on April 17<sup>th</sup>. The program proposed serving 50 youth and requested funding of \$55,200. As funding had already been allocated at the April board meeting in the amount of \$380,434 for ten programs, the remaining amount available for summer funding is \$19,566. Give Back 2 Kids was informed and adjusted its program operations to this amount by serving less children (20 versus 50 participants).

*Motion was approved to add the Give Back 2 Kids Little Athlete Summer Learning program to the Summer Learning 2023 grant funding category in the amount of \$19,566, as described in the Council Action Item presented today. Commander Izzo motioned to approve; Mr. Finkel seconded motion; motion carries unanimously in favor 8/0.*

**B. CAI: Capacity Building --** Mr. Boyle provided a brief synopsis of this Council Action Item, known as New Business Item B. He explained this is a continuing series of classes in Master Class in Leadership, a five-week course that has been very successful with our programs and community partners. Our partnership with Community Foundation has worked well in reducing CSC's total investment. The total cost for the Master Class in Leadership is \$45,000; however, CSC investment portion is at \$22,500 to provide capacity building efforts as described on the CAI. This would be the last class offering for this fiscal year as the remaining funds in this line item are at \$23,000. The CSC Team is requesting the board continue to support this continued partnership with the Community Foundation and the investment of \$22,500 to the Community Foundation for this Master Class in Leadership course.

*Motion was approved to support this continued partnership with the Community Foundation and the investment of \$22,500 to the Community Foundation for this Master Class in Leadership course. Ms. Hawley motioned to approve; Chief Del Toro seconded motion; motion carries unanimously in favor 8/0.*

**C. Recommendation: Annual Funding Category - FY 2023/24 --** Ms. Andreacchio provided a brief synopsis of the details of this CSC Team recommendation, known as New Business Item C. Priority funding of the Stopping Child Abuse has been completed. The 'Annual Funding' includes the balance of programs in the other four priority groups not included in priority funding category of the Stopping Child Abuse Before It Happens. She explained that no motion or vote is necessary at today's meeting, as this is only information for the board to review and be prepared to vote on at the meeting in June. Ms. Andreacchio presented PowerPoint slides with specifics on the review process and conclusion of today's recommendations in funding, as well as action that will be required of the board at the meeting in June.

The CSC Team reminded the board that they can see the proposal details on The Hub, and they should have login credentials already active for this review of proposals. If there are any issues with login, please do not hesitate to contact the CSC Team.

**Final Comments from CSC Council/CSC Team**

- (none)

*Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 a.m. and carries unanimously.*

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

## **Summary of Motions**

APPROVED the May 11, 2023 Consent Agenda, which includes the following:

- a. The Agenda for May 11, 2023.*
- b. CSC Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes – Apr 13, 2023.*
- c. CSC Council Attendance Record Fiscal Year 2022/2023 – As of Apr 30, 2023.*
- d. Memorandum of Voting Conflict Form 8B for Bartz – Apr 13, 2023.*
- e. Memorandum of Voting Conflict Form 8B for Del Toro – Apr 13, 2023.*
- f. CSC Monthly Financials Fiscal Year 2022/2023 – As of Apr 30, 2023.*

**APPROVED** *in support of FY 2023-24 funding requests for nine programs totaling \$1,616,888 for the priority category “Stopping Child Abuse Before It Happens”, as described in the Council Action Item presented today.*

**APPROVED** *to add the Give Back 2 Kids Little Athlete Summer Learning program to the Summer Learning 2023 grant funding category in the amount of \$19,566, as described in the Council Action Item presented today.*

**APPROVED** *to support this continued partnership with the Community Foundation and the investment of \$22,500 to the Community Foundation for this Master Class in Leadership course.*

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