

# MEMORANDUM

**To:** Children's Services Council  
**Subject:** Monthly Report

**From:** Sean Boyle, Executive Director  
**Date:** November 3, 2020

## PROGRAM/PLANNING

**Targeted Funding Release** – Based on last month's Strategic Direction discussion, the CSC Team has developed a Targeted Funding Request for Proposals for implementing mental health services into the CSC funded afterschool programs starting February 1, 2021. Special thanks to Jim Dwyer and Tonya Andreacchio for their input into the process.

**Continuing Program and Summer Learning Funding Proposals** – The CSC Team updated the Continuing Program and Summer Learning Program Request for Proposals. The Continuing Program Request for Proposals will be released and completed through the online grants management system. The Summer Learning Funding proposal will also be released on the online grants management system. Special recognition to Mr. Dwyer and Ms. Andreacchio for their detail and work on these applications.

**Strategic Short-Term Funding** – Below is a brief update on action related to some of the Strategic Short Term Funding initiatives that were discussed last month:

- **Mental Health** – As described above, developed funding application to provide mental health services in afterschool program settings.
- **FATES** – Executed Memorandum of Understanding with Early Learning Coalition to continue FATES project.
- **Capacity Building including addressing Implicit Bias** – Met with other funders (United Way, Allegany Ministries, and Community Foundation) on increasing capacity building efforts to include Safe Space and Multi-Cultural Resource Center. Additionally, exploring offering equity/implicit bias training to four service providers that impact the “making sure every baby is a healthy baby” system of care. Plan to bring to Council for approval at the December meeting.
- **Fatherhood and Literacy** – Began exploring model that incorporates fatherhood and literacy through gathering men at local barbershops for guided conversations. Will continue to explore with possible start in the new year.

**The Process** – The CSC Team has finalized two of the three contracts necessary for The Process. The CSC Team has begun weekly project meetings to make sure the project stays on track for the go-live date. For the next two weeks, the CRM and Campaign modules are being evaluated.

**Success** – One of the hardest things for people to do when they need help is to ask for it. As part of our funding priority of Stopping Child Abused Before It Starts by Building Strong Families, CSC partially funds 211 Help Line. 211 Help Line provides information and referral services as well as a crisis line. Additionally, the services are delivered directly through a phone call to 211 or text or website messaging to allow for easy access. The help line has become even more critical during COVID. Following is a success story submitted by 211 Help Line.

A woman named Jill called us crying, overwhelmed with many problems she was experiencing. Jill said she was embarrassed to ask for help, since she had always been able to take care of herself and her son. Our Specialist Diana listened, reassured her we were here to help, and told her that we recognize it is difficult but that it takes courage to reach out for help. Jill said she had recent brain surgery and has a seizure disorder, making it difficult to go back to work. And with the pandemic, she was even more concerned about going out, in case she caught the Coronavirus. Her family was helping with some things, but her ex-husband was not paying her what he is supposed to, and she needed essentials like food, help with her utility bills and her medications. Her aunt told her about 211 and she was so desperate for help she decided to give us a call. Jill said she also might want counseling resources for herself and her son who was worried about going back to school and Jill knew he was picking up on some of her anxiety as well. Jill shared she felt helpless and thought she might be depressed because of everything she was going through. Diana listened and validated Jill's feelings, assuring Jill that many people have been struggling during this difficult time, and we were happy to help her get connected to some financial assistance. Diana gave Jill some local food pantry information, as well as information about an agency that could hopefully help with benefits and prescription medication information as well as counseling information. Diana also encouraged Jill to call again, even if she just wanted to talk. Jill was so thankful we were there to help and said she would call again and would let others know they can call 211 if they need support.

### **ADVOCACY/AWARENESS**

**Allegany Ministries Community Conversation – Bridge the Gap** – Participated in a virtual workshop/discussion on equity. The conversation organized by Allegany Ministries' Common Good Initiative included several community leaders as well as selected CSC funded programs. The workshop included strategies to move toward equitable practices in organizations as well as discussions on how each entity could be more mindful about equity and ways to move forward. The facilitator was a national speaker who had recently presented at the Blue Ridge Leadership Institute. The Roundtable of St. Lucie County may be bringing her back to work with Roundtable members as part of their retreat agenda in January.

**Thankfulness in November** – CSC has partnered with the United Way to express “thank you” to all of our funded partners. The idea came about from discussions with the two funders about the stress our funded program partners are under. For the month of November, the United Way and the CSC has organized a compassion fatigue workshop, mindfulness workshop, and a lunch time yoga seminar – all to be done virtually. In addition, the two funders have selected a handful of funded agencies to provide “thank you” treats during the month of November to celebrate all that these organizations do for families in the community.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

**CSC Facilities** – The Kathy Basile Center for Training and Community Development remains closed to the public in the month of November.