

MEMORANDUM

To: Children's Services Council
Subject: Monthly Report

From: Sean Boyle, CEO
Date: January 3, 2023

PROGRAM/PLANNING

Bidder's Conference – The Annual and Summer Learning Bidder's Conference took place on December 15, 2022. Special thanks to Ms. Andreacchio for helping facilitate the conference presentation.

Community Review Team – With the priority funding application (Stopping Child Abuse) due on January 13th, we have begun developing a community review team to provide insights for the Council's funding decision. Tentatively, the following people have been asked to serve on the committee: Terissa Aronson (Chamber CEO), Ann Berner (Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network CEO), Doug Borrie (retired COO of the CASTLE and IRSC Human Services Professor), Jessica Parrish (CEO of United Way), Candice Loupe (former Council member), Cheri Sheffer (COO of Communities Connected for Kids) and Audria Moore-Wells (Special Projects Coordinator for City of Ft. Pierce). The above members were selected based on their unique perspective in the community and/or subject matter expertise.

The Process – Technical Assistance Time – With a year of implementation passed, we are still providing considerable technical assistance to CSC funded programs on entering data (program and fiscal) into the new system. One of the reasons why we are having to spend a lot of CSC time on providing technical assistance is because of 1) staff turnover in funded programs and 2) adoption of the full system by programs after seeing the full benefits. We are trying to determine if this is a short-term time issue or long term. To address this issue and provide time structure to the CSC Team as well as funded programs, we will be rolling out designated technical assistance time slots each month where providers can sign up for assistance. This system will allow for the CSC Team to dedicate specific time on their calendars as well as serve as a learning tool for both the CSC Team and the providers. We will continue to monitor the progress of implementation of our providers in relation to the amount of CSC Team needed for technical assistance.

Capacity Building – Met with Elizabeth Barbella, CEO of the Community Foundation Martin/St. Lucie, to map out our collaboration regarding Capacity Building. We have had several direct requests as word has gotten out about our efforts. We are planning on running the Master Class in Leadership five course (with individual consultation) at least two more times. (Winter class offering is part of the Council packet for approval) In addition, we are working on developing an informal effort called Coffee with a CEO to provide a collaborative discussion among CEOs. Additionally, we are working on hosting a one-day leadership conference. Stay tuned.

Success – The CSC funded Ignite Youth Alliance program works to prevent youth violence and gang involvement. This best practice program model from the National Gang Center provides a

variety of mentoring and case management services to identified youth. Following is a success story from the program.

Aaron is 13 years old and a 6th grader at Forrest Grove Middle School. He was referred to IGNITE nine months ago due to suspected gang-involvement and frequently running away. Aaron was diagnosed with ADHD when he was four years old and has had ongoing behavioral issues at home and in school since then. His father and stepmother have struggled to provide the necessary support for him, while also working long hours.

In the short period IGNITE has worked with Aaron, we have seen a complete turnaround in his behavior. He attends school regularly and has improved his grades and his behavior at home. He appreciates his outreach worker, Lee Davis, and called him over the holidays just to check on him. This is very unusual for the young people we work with. It normally takes months and sometimes years to see significant behavioral changes.

We believe that some of the reasons for Aaron's success in disrupting the path he was going down is that he was linked to a positive adult before he got seriously involved with gangs or had racked up criminal charges.

Lee's approach to mentoring Aaron has been to establish trust and regular communication. He also provided him with a system of rewards for good behavior and grades (which does not always work with our group of young people). They have been to the movies together and attended sports events. Lee also spent considerable time talking to Aaron about how to manage his emotions and handle his relationships with his mom and dad to reduce conflicts in the home and at school. Aaron responded to this by improving his grades significantly so he could spend time with Lee. He even solicited a few other of our program youth to compete over who got the best grades. We are currently preparing to link Aaron to Forest Grove organized sports.

ADVOCACY/AWARENESS

Delegation Day – As mentioned at the December Council meeting, will be presenting at the St. Lucie County Delegation Day on January 13th. In addition to providing a summary of CSC, will be requesting our local delegation continue the background screening work already begun by Representative Trabulsy and requesting a two generational approach to services provided to working families to avoid fiscal cliffs. Similar to the work locally regarding childcare, the first fiscal cliff most working families encounter is Kidcare/Healthy Kids. The legislature can move the qualification caps from 200% of Federal Poverty level to 300% and allow for a tiered payment as families go above 200% to help mitigate the cliff.

FACCT Policy Group – Working as part of the policy group to help set the legislative agenda for our statewide association.

ADMINISTRATION

CSC Facilities – The Kathy Basile Center for Training and Community Development and 2nd Floor conference room is open to the public. The room was used six times by outside entities in the month of December. Special thanks to Ms. Bello and Ms. Rivera for coordinating.