



Children's Services Advisory Board Meeting

March 30, 2022

A meeting of the Children's Services Advisory Board of Manatee County, Florida, was held at the Manatee County Administration Building, 1112 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, Florida, 5th Floor Manatee Room on Wednesday March 30, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Present (In Person): Debbie Tapp, Connie Shingledecker, Hon. Scott Brownell, Charlie Kennedy, Kimberly Kutch, Carolann Garafola, Kelly Hunt, Jannon Pierce, and Rita Smith (Virtually): Xtavia Bailey and Susan Miller Kelly. **Absent/Excused:** Jennifer Hamey; **Absent/Unexcused:** George VanBuren.

Also Present: County Staff: (In Person), Kristi Hagen, Charles Lee, LaWanda Timmons, Chris Handy-Honeycutt, and Johanna Beville; Members of the Public: (In Person) Jonathan Evans, Linda Hedrick, Kim Ross, Maribel Garcia, Paul Fowler, Kelly French, Kathy Patreka, Julia Showers, Char Young, Anna Cismesia, Katrina Bellamare, Michelle Wieser, Kelly Benford, Amy Yount, (Virtually) Zach Shane, Drena Green, Becky Canesse, Peter Murawski, Susan Ford, Nathan Scott, and Melinda Thompson.

Call to Order/Welcome

Debbie Tapp, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Minutes for March 23, 2022 **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Jannon Pierce, **Seconded by** Charlie Kennedy, **Vote:** Motion passed (**Summary:** Yes = 9, No = 0, Abstain = 0). **Present** (In Person): Debbie Tapp, Connie Shingledecker, Hon. Scott Brownell, Charlie Kennedy, Carolann Garafola, Kelly Hunt, Jannon Pierce, and Rita Smith (Virtually): Xtavia Bailey.

Discussion of Investment Applications

- Step Up Suncoast – Healthy Families: *Initial CSAB Members scores were reviewed.*
 - *Program claimed no priority.*
 - *Program is requesting a funding increase and may be considered for an increase.*

Kimberly Kutch entered at 3:15pm

- Step Up Suncoast – Parents as Teachers: *Initial CSAB Members scores were reviewed.*
 - *Program claimed no priority.*
 - *Program is not requesting a funding increase.*

Susan Miller Kelly entered at 3:26pm

- Step Up Suncoast – Head Start / Early Head Start: *Initial CSAB Members scores were reviewed.*
 - *Program claimed priority: Youth reduce their existing literacy gap towards developmentally appropriate literacy skills as determined through use of an objective method. The CSAB will consider as a priority by member consensus.*
 - *Program is not requesting a funding increase.*

- Step Up Suncoast – Whole Child: Initial CSAB Members scores were reviewed.
 - Program claimed no priority.
 - Program is not requesting a funding increase.
- Step Up Suncoast – Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY): Initial CSAB Members scores were reviewed.
 - Program claimed priority: Youth reduce their existing literacy gap towards developmentally appropriate literacy skills as determined through use of an objective method. The CSAB will consider as a priority by member consensus.
 - Program is not requesting a funding increase.
- Step Up Suncoast – Collaborative Action Therapy for Children's Health (CATCH): Initial CSAB Members scores were reviewed.
 - Program claimed no priority.
 - Program is requesting a funding increase and may be considered for an increase.
- The Salvation Army – The Salvation Army Family Shelter – Case Managed Program: Initial CSAB Members scores were reviewed.
 - Program claimed no priority.
 - Program is requesting a funding increase and will not be considered for an increase.
- Florida Dept of Health – Child Welfare Policy Coordinator: This is not a scored program and is a partnership program funded by Sarasota and Manatee County Governments. Charles Lee shared a program overview including his observations of the program, staffing, program history, status, and future plans for the program.
 - Program is not requesting a funding increase.

Xtavia Bailey exited at 4:32pm

Staff Updates

Kristi Hagen provided the following updates:

- *United For ALICE* (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed) is launching their new ALICE in Focus: Children research brief and online dashboard – both of which offer a more complete, accurate view of financial hardship among children. This virtual event will be held on Thursday, April 7, 2022, from 4pm to 5pm.
- “No Small Matter” documentary information provided for the free community viewing with access scheduled to occur beginning Sunday, April 3, 2022, to Friday, April 8, 2022.
- Child Abuse prevention trainings scheduled to be hosted by Manatee County will be offered virtually.
- Final Scores for Batch 2 are due Friday, April 1, 2022.
- Batch 3 Questions and Initial Scores are due to LaWanda today, March 30, 2022.
- Batch 4 will be assigned to members tomorrow, Thursday, March 31, 2022.

Johanna Beville provided the following updates:

- A Healthy Teens' Teen Health Educator was honored at the Spirit of Manatee Awards Luncheon today for their philanthropic service and community leadership and receiving the Young Spirit of Manatee Awards. This is the second year running that a Teen Health Educator has received this award from Manatee Community Foundation.
- Reviewed recent compliance visits for the following programs and there was nothing of concern noted during the observations:

- Observed Whole Child participating in the Manatee County ESE Agency Fair on Thursday, March 24, 2022. Families of students with disabilities or gifted students in Manatee County Public Schools were provided the opportunity to learn about agencies and groups in the community who can assist with their child.
- Observed Step Up Suncoast's Home Visiting Programs (specifically Parents as Teachers and HIPPY) hosting Easter Event in the Park on Friday, March 25, 2022. The Easter Bunny was present and brought along a park-wide easter egg hunt with arts & crafts, music, games, and free drinks, snacks, and food baskets were provided for families to take home.

New/Old Business

Debbie Tapp noted there are a lot of members who had not completed their initial scores by the due date, she encourages members to keep up with their reviews. Further, she reminded members that some application questions have specific scoring thresholds that need to be met in order for a certain score to be given.

Discussion ensued among the members on having an application review being provided to members prior to the application review season or at the retreat.

Public Comment

Agencies who verbally provided a public comment during the meeting were:

(In Person): Jonathan Evans, Kelly French, Amy Yount, Kathy Patreka; (Virtually): Nathan Scott.

- Jonathan Evans, Healthy Teens: Thanked CSAB members for the hard work to maximize funding is maximizing the outcomes for the young people of the community. Feels the investment provided by the CSAB has equipped the program to expand services. Shared the award a Teen Health Educator received today from the Manatee Community Foundation.
- Kelly French, Salvation Army: Thanked CSAB members for their praise with the program's submitted application. Clarified the budget surplus in the application was an error within the Salvation Army's finance department, money was allocated into the wrong fund and has since been corrected, will provide updated anticipated program budget. Provided reasoning for the lowered number of clients to reach success as rent increases and clients are staying in the shelter longer.
- Amy Yount, Step Up Suncoast: Spoke on the stability of the agency's leadership and her 20-year history with the agency. Thanked CSAB members and Children's Services staff for their time, efforts, and support. Spoke on how the funding provided by the CSAB positively impacts the families who participate in the programs offered by the agency.
- Kathy Patreka, Head Start/Early Head Start for Step Up Suncoast: Thanked the CSAB Members for their ongoing work and the opportunity for ongoing funding. Spoke on being a part of the Early Learning Task Force and working collaboratively to implement the Universal Numbering System for children in early learning and with Manatee County School district. While gaining ground locally the task force needs State level support and are currently working to reestablish a connection. Addressed the members concern around the VPK scores and being published.
- Nathan Scott, Florida Dept of Health's Child Welfare Policy Coordinator: Thanked CSAB members and Children's Staff for their work and dedicated funding for children and families. Spoke on the Board of County Commissioners being the first Commission to ever hold a workshop on child welfare to learn how the child welfare system works.

Next Meeting

April 6, 2022 – 3:00 pm, Manatee County Administration Building, 1112 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, Florida, Manatee/Osprey Rooms, 5th floor.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Approved

Debbie Tapp, Chair

Date