



Children's Services Advisory Board Meeting

December 8, 2021

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 December 8, 2021, at 3:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Present (In Person): Debbie Tapp, Connie Shingledecker, Hon. Scott Brownell, Jennifer Hamey, Charlie Kennedy, Kimberly Kutch, George VanBuren, Susan Miller Kelly, Carolann Garafola (Virtually): Xtavia Bailey and Rita Smith. **Absent/Excused:** Kelly Hunt and Jannon Pierce; **Absent/Unexcused:** None.

Also Present: County Staff: (In Person), Kristi Hagen, Charles Lee, Chris Handy-Honeycutt, and Johanna Beville; Members of the Public: (In Person) Kim Bailey, Char Young, Alexdrena Green, Kelly Stasurak, Laurel Lynch, (Virtually) Bridget Harry, Amy Towery, Michelle Wieser, Pam Hodge, Trey Horne, and Ashley Williams, and phone number ending 4667.

Call to Order/Welcome

Debbie Tapp, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Minutes for September 10, 2021, and November 10, 2021, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Charlie Kennedy, **Seconded by** Connie Shingledecker, **Vote:** Motion passed (**Summary:** Yes = 11, No = 0, Abstain = 0). (In Person): Debbie Tapp, Connie Shingledecker, Hon. Scott Brownell, Jennifer Hamey, Charlie Kennedy, Kimberly Kutch, George VanBuren, Susan Miller Kelly, Carolann Garafola (Virtually): Xtavia Bailey and Rita Smith.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder-Presentation

Kimberly Kutch requested that the clinical director present to the CSAB Members. Kimberly provided her reasoning for requesting the presentation and she is noticing a trend with the teenage clients who are Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and have been previously misdiagnosed or not diagnosed at all and received treatment on the incorrect diagnosis or no treatment. Kimberly spoke on Safe Children's Coalition staff that are specially screening children that come into care as they know there was alcohol use by parent while pregnant.

Tamra Cajo, Clinical Director for The Florida Center, provided an overview of the program and services provided. Spoke on the diagnostic criteria for FASD and the statistics for children that are misdiagnosed, treatments provided, and the brain-based challenges that these children face. Children are misdiagnosed and are viewed as behavior children and provided treatment as such. Research shows that 70% of children meet FASD criteria and there is a high prevalence of adults in prisons, homeless shelters, and psychiatric hospitals.

Current wait list is 6-7 months for services and program is in the process of moving some things to their Orlando location. Tamra will provide additional information to Kristi Hagen on a screener and trainings.

George VanBuren entered at 3:18pm

Meals on Wheels PLUS -Program Update

Amy Towery – Vice President of Development at Meals On Wheels PLUS of Manatee, provided an overview of the 4 programs offered, a summary and update of the services the agency provides to the local communities through the Emergency Family Food Baskets and Baby Baskets. The baskets are designed to be a bridge to help families get through a difficult time.

There was a decline in the number of people receiving baskets due to fewer referrals due to COVID. Amy reviewed community partners that the program links with and the contents of each emergency basket as well as the criteria to receive the support. Program offers the referral documents into Spanish and Creole-Haitian.

Feeding Empty Little Tummies -Program Update

Kim Bailey – President/CEO, provided an overview and summary of the services and spoke on how COVID impacted the program and their mission to feed homeless and food insecure children. There are 2 paid staff, the remainder are volunteers. Many of the program's volunteer base has decreased due to having an older population, a grassroots operation has brought new volunteers in and are back to sufficient volunteer numbers.

Kim reviewed the barriers that have been present during the pandemic, and they still served 300 children per week, through the schools. Discussed the impact the weekend meals are providing to the students, including increased attendance, grades, and decreased negative behaviors. This time last year the program was serving 850, currently there are 1,250 students being provided 6 weekend meals for the weekend. There is a Project Heart liaison at each school in Manatee County and the teachers can refer a student and family to the program.

CSAB Subcommittee Report

Kimberly Kutch provided a report on the work the CSAB subcommittee has completed. Focus of the subcommittee conversation was Priority D. The old language for Priority D, "Children demonstrate age appropriate social and behavioral well-being" with the new language for priority D, "Children demonstrate improved behavioral functioning." Reasoning is behavioral functioning is a catch-all definition to define mental health which is the following:

"Behavioral health is the scientific study of the emotions, behaviors and biology relating to a person's mental well-being, their ability to function in everyday life and their concept of self. "Behavioral health" is the preferred term to "mental health." A person struggling with his or her behavioral health may face stress, depression, anxiety, relationship problems, grief, addiction, ADHD or learning disabilities, mood disorders, or other psychological concerns. Counselors, therapists, life coaches, psychologists, nurse practitioners or physicians can help manage behavioral health concerns with treatments such as therapy, counseling, or medication."

Old language for the targets, "To meet, or exceed the following targets to improve the social and behavioral well-being of youth by the 2021/2022 school year" to be replaced by the new language, "Decrease symptoms of behavioral health as identified objectively by a measure of level of functioning as determined by the program." Reasoning is to include an objective method (a determined assessment) the program must use to give a reasonable level of measure.

Old language, "Incidents of out of school suspension to decrease by 20%" and "Incidents of referrals for aggression, bullying/harassment to decrease by 20%." New language, "Decrease by 5% the number of incidents of referrals for aggression, bullying/harassment, and out of school suspensions." Reason is the above language was repetitive being that out of school suspension is typically caused by aggression,

bullying/harassment. There was also concern that 20% was an unreasonable target so the subcommittee agreed on a 5% decrease, with consideration for increase in the future.

Review of CSAB Priorities

Discussion ensued with CSAB Members concerning Target C for the 70% target for the number Manatee County 3rd grade students who read on grade level by the end of third grade according to Manatee County School District.

Kimberly Kutch requested that staff continue to work priority wording into the results of the programs that claim a priority.

Motion: Accept the fiscal year 22/23 priorities and investment goals A through D, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Carolann Garafola, **Seconded by** Charlie Kennedy **Vote:** Motion passed (**Summary:** Yes = 11, No = 0, Abstain = 0). (In Person): Debbie Tapp, Connie Shingledecker, Hon. Scott Brownell, Jennifer Hamey, Charlie Kennedy, Kimberly Kutch, George VanBuren, Susan Miller Kelly, Carolann Garafola (Virtually): Xtavia Bailey and Rita Smith.

A Children in foster care gain a permanent, stable, and nurturing home within 12 months of entering care and remain there.

B Children remain in their homes free of abuse and neglect and do not enter or re-enter foster care.

C Funders, systems, policies, and practice align to ensure that our children have developmentally appropriate literacy skills.

D Children demonstrate improved behavioral functioning.

Priorities will be included in the Children's Services Annual Plan and Report for FY22/23 and will go before the Board of County Commissioners in January for their review.

Staff Updates

Charles Lee provided the following updates:

- Reviewed the program list and staff assignments and encouraged CSAB members link with the appropriate staff to schedule to attend compliance visits.
- Reviewed recent compliance visits for the following programs and there was nothing of concern noted during the observations:
 - Boys and Girls Club-Great Futures and Teens Program
 - Family Resources-SafePlace2B
 - Replay Outreach

Chris Handy-Honeycutt provided the following updates:

- 4th quarter reports for FY 20/21 to be reviewed during next scheduled CSAB Meeting
 - Awaiting AMI Kids reporting as they had a change in staffing and are working to resolve the issue
- Reviewed recent compliance visits for the following programs and there was nothing of concern noted during the observations:

- AMI Kids
- Palmetto Youth Center
- Easter Seals
- DL Randall
- United Community Center
- Sarasota Manatee Association for Riding Therapy

Johanna Beville provided the following updates:

- 4th quarter reports for FY 20/21 to be reviewed during next scheduled CSAB Meeting.
- Reviewed recent compliance visits for the following programs and there was nothing of concern noted during the observations:
 - Replay Outreach is working to re-establish their afterschool care program as they are currently encountering challenges with having consistent attendance. Program is currently focusing on providing programming to Horizons School. A follow-up to review documentation is scheduled for next week.
 - SafePlace2B

Kristi Hagen provided the following updates:

- Stephanie Harris, with Unite Us, is interested in providing to our nonprofit agencies, a virtual presentation about the benefits of utilizing Unite Us platform. Kristi will work to schedule the presentation and will provide additional information.
- At the suggestion of Kimberly Kutch, working to schedule an in-person training on protective factors. Date, time, and location to be determined.

New/Old Business

Debbie Tapp spoke on the assessment and measurement tools the programs are utilizing. It is so that CSAB Members can create a list of recognized standardized assessments. If a program is using an assessment tool that is not on the list, there will be a process in place to review the assessment or tool to be approved by staff.

Kimberly Kutch reviewed Prevent Child Abuse Florida's subcommittee that is working on prevention and offering trainings on for the local circuit. Chris Lolley is able to provide trainings focusing on protective factors, Adverse Childhood Experiences, resilience training, and trauma informed care training. Program is looking for hosts for the trainings and Kimberly suggested that the CSAB host some of the trainings for funded programs to attend for free. CSAB Members discussed the possibility of the presentation being recorded and provided to local agencies. Details to be determined.

Kimberly Kutch also reviewed details of the non-profit Restore Global (restoreglobal.org) that partners with other non-profits to reduce their operating costs. Kimberly's contact is Dee Danmeyer. Kimberly encourages agencies and programs to reach out to Dee.

Judge Brownell requested an update on the Request for Legal Services concerning Paul Scharff's previous request for CSAB funding for Manatee County to have its own local licensing. The item has been reviewed and the lawyer assigned has an opinion, but it must be reviewed by the Manatee County Attorney and it will be returned to Kristi Hagen.

Public Comment

None

Next Meeting

January 19, 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 5:06 p.m.

Approved

Debbie Tapp, Chair

Date