

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF BROWARD COUNTY

6600 W. Commercial Blvd.  
Lauderhill, FL 33319

**Minutes**  
**September 19, 2019**  
**4:00 P.M.**

**Members in Attendance:** School Board Member Robin Bartleman; Governor Appointee Emilio Benitez; Governor Appointee Cathy Donnelly; Judge Kenneth L. Gillespie; DCF Community Development Administrator Dawn Liberta; Governor Appointee Tom Powers; Governor Appointee Ana Valladares

**Counsel Present:** Garry Johnson, Esq.

**Council Members Absent:** Broward County Commissioner Beam Furr; School Superintendent Robert W. Runcie; Governor Appointee Maria Schneider; Health Department Director Paula Thaqi, M.D. (*via phone only for reconvened portion after TRIM Hearing*)

**Staff in Attendance:** Cindy Arenberg Seltzer, President/CEO; Monti Larsen; Sandra Bernard-Bastien; Sue Gallagher; Maria Juarez Stouffer; Marlando Christie; Andrew Leone; Adamma DuCille; Akil Edwards; Amy Jacques; Angie Buchter; Camila Romero Gil; Cynthia Reynoso; Erin Byrne; Gloria Putiak; Jeffery Glover; John Jeyasingh; Keisha Grey; Keyonia Lawson; Kimberlee Reid; Maddy Jones; Marissa Greif-Hackett; Maxine Goldson; Melissa Soza; Michelle Hagues; Nancy Cohn; Pooja Kothari; Silke Angulo; Tabitha Bush; Trisha Dowell

**Guests in Attendance:** Attached

## **Agenda:**

### **I. Call to Order:**

Ms. Donnelly called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M.

### **II. Roll Call:**

The roll was called and a quorum was established.

### **III. Chair's Comments:**

Ms. Donnelly welcomed Ms. Dawn Liberta, Circuit 17 Community Development Administrator, as the Department of Children and Families' representative to the Children's Services Council of Broward County. She presented her with a CSC pin.

Ms. Bartleman arrived.

Ms. Donnelly highlighted achievements of CSC staff, noting that Mr. Dion Smith, CSC's Assistant Director for Program Services, will be honored as a 2019 TIL System of Care Lifetime Hero Award Recipient at the FLITE Center Heroes Awards Luncheon on September 20<sup>th</sup> at the Bahia Mar Marina. He will be recognized for his years of hard work and dedication to making a difference in the lives of youth in Broward County's TIL System of Care. Ms. Donnelly also noted that Ms. Adamma DuCille, CSC's Assistant

Director of Training & Capacity Building, will be an honoree at the 2019 Mount Olive Development Corporation's Community Service Award Dinner Gala on November 1<sup>st</sup> at the Bonaventure Resort & Spa. She will be honored for her special service to the Broward County community over time, as well as her ability to make a difference in the lives of many people touched through her service.

Ms. Donnelly went on to note it is a testament to the strength of CSC that staff are being recognized by the community with such meaningful honors.

#### **IV. President's Report:**

a) Moment of Silence for Ms. Andrea Moore:

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer requested a moment of silence in honor of Ms. Andrea Moore, a great child advocate who was a champion and protector of children being raised by the State.

b) Hurricane Dorian Update:

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer highlighted the community efforts in the wake of Hurricane Dorian.

c) Good of the Order:

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer announced that in interviews preceding the Council meeting, CSC management interviewed three outstanding candidates for the position of Director of Program Services and selected Mr. Dion Smith.

The CSC Lights on Afterschool event will be held October 17<sup>th</sup>, from 1:00-5:00pm, at Franklin Park.

CSC was recently recognized for its ten years of outstanding support by KidVision/South Florida PBS. Ms. Seltzer shared the plaque that read, "We thank you for empowering young children and their families with knowledge, skills, and emotional support so they can become successful citizens. We are proud to stand with you."

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer noted that Mr. Andrew Leone, CSC's Director of Communications & Community Engagement, just returned from Milwaukee where he presented on the national stage at the 2019 Prevent Child Abuse America National Conference.

**V. Consent Agenda:**

- a) Council Minutes:
- b) TRIM Minutes:
- c) Legislative Platform:
- d) Men2Boys Contact Renewal:
- e) Henderson Behavioral Health Letter of Agreement:
- f) Capacity Mini-Grants Request for Applications (RFA) Awards:
- g) Media & Collateral Purchases:
- h) Travel Meal Per Diem Rates:
- i) Financial Statements and Budget Amendments for August 2019:
- j) Invoices, P.O.s & Contracts:

**ACTION:** Ms. Bartleman made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The Consent Agenda included approval of the August 15, 2019, Council meeting minutes; approval of the September 9, 2019, TRIM Hearing minutes; approval of the 2020 Public Policy Agenda; approval of the Learning Together Contract renewal for Men2Boys with FLITE as Fiscal Sponsor; approval of the Letter of Agreement with the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) on behalf of Henderson Behavioral Health; approval of the Capacity Mini Grant Awards; approval of Network for Good for fundraising coaching and support; approval of the Small Business Development Center for business consulting services for Capacity Building Mini Grantees; approval of updated media and collateral purchases; approval of amending travel per diem rates beginning FY 19/20; approval of Budget Amendments and Interim Financial Statements for period ending August 31, 2019; and approval of CSC monthly/annual purchases for September 2019 and FY 2019/2020. The motion was seconded by Mr. Benitez and passed with no opposing votes.

**VI. Program Planning Committee (PPC) Report:**

- a) Community Reconstruction & Housing Emergency Funding Request:
- b) Children's Literacy Initiative (CLI) Leverage Funding Request:
- c) Urban League of Broward County Emergency Funding Request:

**ACTION:** Mr. Benitez made a motion to approve emergency funding for Community Reconstruction Housing Corporation Rites of Passage Program (North) contingent upon not receiving other leverage funding; approve leverage funding for CLI; and approve joint/community collaborative funding of the Urban league to continue serving families, all as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Valladares and passed with no opposing votes.

d) Follow-up on Gun Violence Statement:

**ACTION: Mr. Benitez made a motion to take the gun violence statement off the table. The motion was seconded by Ms. Valladares. A roll call vote was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.**

Robin Bartleman	Yes
Emilio Benitez	Yes
Cathy Donnelly	Yes
Beam Furr	Absent
Kenneth L. Gillespie	Yes
Dawn Liberta	Yes
Tom Powers	Yes
Robert W. Runcie	Absent
Maria M. Schneider	Absent
Paula Thaqi	Absent
Ana Valladares	Yes

Discussion ensued as Members considered the original gun violence statement and the substitute statement recommended by the Program Planning Committee (PPC). That statement spoke out against gun violence and the long-lasting impact of the resulting trauma on children, promoted Federal and State actions that protected children, and avoided catapulting CSC into the political fray of the 2020 elections and out of defined areas of expertise related to child and youth development.

Mr. Benitez and Ms. Bartleman spoke out passionately in favor of a strong statement that addressed gun ownership. Ms. Donnelly and Ms. Valladares expressed support for the statement that was discussed at length at the PPC meeting. That statement is consistent with the directive given staff at the August Council meeting. It keeps CSC advocating for issues that align with the CSC's mission and expertise. Mr. Powers was adamant that CSC not become entangled in this highly-divisive issue.

Judge Gillespie explained that he must abstain from any votes on this issue, as he serves at the pleasure of the Chief Judge and is prohibited from voting on or discussing matters that may come before him on the Bench.

**ACTION: Ms. Valladares made a motion to amend the originally presented statement from August 15<sup>th</sup> to the proposed revised statement from the Program Planning Committee, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Liberta.**

**Ms. Bartleman made a motion to amend the PPC proposed revised statement to add four items from the original August 15<sup>th</sup> statement: (1) raise the federal age requirement to purchase firearms to age 21 to mirror Florida statute; (2) improve the National Instant Criminal Background Check System across all states; (3) expand background checks for gun purchases at any location; and (4) reform Florida's Baker Act to close loopholes which allow persons with documented histories of mental health issues the right to purchase guns. The motion was seconded by Ms. Liberta.**

**A roll call vote on Ms. Bartleman's amendment was conducted and the motion failed.**

Robin Bartleman	Yes
Emilio Benitez	Yes
Cathy Donnelly	No
Beam Furr	Absent
Kenneth L. Gillespie	Abstain
Dawn Liberta	Yes
Tom Powers	No
Robert W. Runcie	Absent
Maria M. Schneider	Absent
Paula Thaqi	Absent
Ana Valladares	No

**ACTION.** Ms. Bartleman made a motion to amend the proposed revised statement to add three items: (1) improve the National Instant Criminal Background Check System across all states; (2) raise the federal age requirement to purchase firearms to age 21 to mirror the State of Florida; and (3) reform Florida's Baker Act to close loopholes which allow persons with documented histories of mental health issues the right to purchase guns. Mr. Benitez seconded the motion.

Discussion continued with positions remaining as stated above.

**ACTION:** Mr. Benitez made a motion to recess at 5:01pm in order to hold the scheduled TRIM Hearing. The motion was seconded by Mr. Powers and passed unanimously.

The meeting reconvened at 5:06pm, with Dr. Thaqi joining the meeting via phone.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer summarized Ms. Bartleman's motion that was made and seconded prior to the recess for the TRIM Hearing.

**A roll call vote was conducted and the motion failed.**

Robin Bartleman	Yes
Emilio Benitez	Yes
Cathy Donnelly	No
Beam Furr	Absent
Kenneth L. Gillespie	Abstain
Dawn Liberta	Yes
Tom Powers	No
Robert W. Runcie	Absent
Maria M. Schneider	Absent
Paula Thaqi	Abstain
Ana Valladares	No

Further discussion ensued as Ms. Bartleman sought to determine which, if any, of the original August 15<sup>th</sup> statement recommendations could be added to the PPC proposed revised statement.

**ACTION: A roll call vote was conducted on Ms. Valladares' motion to approve the PPC proposed revised amendment, which was previously seconded by Ms. Liberta. The motion failed.**

Robin Bartleman	Yes
Emilio Benitez	No
Cathy Donnelly	Yes
Beam Furr	Absent
Kenneth L. Gillespie	Abstain
Dawn Liberta	Yes
Tom Powers	No
Robert W. Runcie	Absent
Maria M. Schneider	Absent
Paula Thaqi	Abstain
Ana Valladares	Yes

**ACTION. Ms. Bartleman made a motion to table the original August 15<sup>th</sup> gun violence statement until the next monthly Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Powers and passed with one opposing vote from Mr. Benitez.**

Ms. Bartleman departed the meeting.

e) Follow-up on Public Charge Issue:

Ms. Valladares noted that the Public Charge issue is evolving, and that the Council and the Children of Immigrant Families Committee are working closely together. She added that she will share the advocacy areas outlined in the issue paper with the Committee.

**VII. Public Comment:**

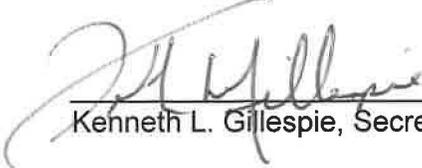
There were no comments.

**VIII. Council Members' Comments:**

There were no additional comments.

**IX. Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 5:41 P.M.

  
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Kenneth L. Gillespie, Secretary

**MEETING ATTENDEES****\*denotes speaker**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Grace Ramos	The M Network
Lisa Clements	YMCA of South Florida
Alison Rodriguez	YMCA of South Florida
Erica Ricketts	Henderson Behavioral Health
Rosby Glover	Mt. Bethel
Courtnee Biscardi	Urban League of Broward County
R. Dunn, Sr.	Men2Boys
Idelma Quintana	Broward County
Raquel Lopes	WAM
Rashida Gordon	Harmony Development Center
Felipe Pinzon	Hispanic Unity of Florida
Cynthia Moreno	Harmony Development Center