

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF BROWARD COUNTY

This meeting was held by Zoom Webinar with public access by computer or phone

October 15, 2020

9:30 A.M.

## Minutes

### Members in Attendance:

School Board Member Robin Bartleman; Governor Appointee Cathy Donnelly (Chair); Broward County Commissioner Beam Furr; Judge Kenneth L. Gillespie; Governor Appointee David H. Kenton; DCF Community Development Administrator Dawn Liberta; Governor Appointee Tom Powers; Governor Appointee Maria Schneider; Health Department Director Paula Thaqi; Governor Appointee Jeffrey S. Wood

### Counsel Present:

Garry Johnson, Esq.

### Council Members Absent:

School Superintendent Robert W. Runcie

### Staff in Attendance:

Cindy Arenberg Seltzer, President/CEO; Monti Larsen, COO; Sandra Bernard-Bastien; Maria Juarez; Sue Gallagher; Marlando Christie; Laura Ganci; Dion Smith; Nancy Cohn; Michelle Hamilton; Andrew Leone; Amy Jacques; Madeline Jones; Marissa Aquino; Gloria Putiak; Jennifer Wennberg; Kyle Jones; Megan Turetsky; Brooke Sherman; Marissa Greif-Hackett; Camila Romero; Carl Dasse; Meg Wallace; Piper Weber; Liza Khan; Lynn Kalmes; Erin Byrne; Joshua Caraballo; Pooja Yajnik; Angie Buchter; Keisha Grey; Keyonia Lawson; Akil Edwards; Parry Silcox; Jill Denis-Lay; Danielle Bachelder; Roxanne Smith; Michelle Hagues; Shawanda Spencer; Trisha Dowell; Cynthia Reynoso; Nelson Giraldo; Johnsingh Jeyasingh; Jessica Rincon; Katrina Welch; Adamma DuCille; Clarice Horton; Diego Alvarez; Yolanda Meadows; Travis Johnson; Alicia Williams; Kimberlee Reid; Aisha Castleberry; Melissa Soza; Jocelin Eubanks; Jimmy Jean; Fern Phillip; Ileana Blanco; Latora Steel; Lorenzo "Lolo" Benaine

### Guests in Attendance:

See Attachment 1

## Agenda:

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

Ms. Donnelly called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M.

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

The roll was called and a quorum was established with the presence of Ms. Bartleman, Ms. Donnelly, Commissioner Furr, Judge Gillespie, Dr. Kenton, Ms. Liberta, Mr. Powers, Ms. Schneider, and Mr. Wood.

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

#### a) Mindful Moment:

Council Members took a moment to allow the body and mind to settle and focus before they considered the meeting agenda items.

#### b) Comments:

In looking at the proposed 2021 Council calendar, Ms. Donnelly explained that, similar to other organizations and boards, she would like to create a Nominating Committee that would meet in November/December to consider a slate of officers for the Council to consider at its organizational meeting in January. She felt a committee would bring more structure to the process. Those Members interested in serving on the Committee were asked to indicate so in Zoom chat or email Amy Jacques, Special Assistant to the President/CEO. Council Members Liberta and Schneider indicated interest in Zoom chat.

#### c) Council Minutes:

**ACTION: Mr. Powers made a motion to approve the September 24, 2020, Council meeting minutes, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bartleman and passed with no opposing votes.**

#### d) TRIM Hearing Minutes:

**ACTION: Commissioner Furr made a motion to approve the September 24, 2020, TRIM Hearing minutes, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bartleman and passed with no opposing votes.**

e) Cancellation of December Meeting:

Ms. Donnelly noted that if cancellation of the December meeting is approved, staff will ensure that all items for the remainder of 2020 are brought to the Council at the November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. She added that the November meeting will require at least six Members physically present, as the Governor indicated in the last extension of his order waiving a physical presence for a quorum that he would not extend again past October 30. If that is the case, she outlined how the meeting would be safely held, with distancing, masks, and the opportunity for members of the public to attend virtually or in a nearby training room.

**ACTION: Commissioner Furr made a motion to approve the cancellation of the CSC December 17, 2020, monthly meeting. The motion was seconded by Judge Gillespie and passed with no opposing votes.**

f) 2021 Council Calendar:

Ms. Donnelly pointed out that the September 2021 meeting and TRIM Hearings are tentative, and that those meetings/hearings will be rescheduled if they end up conflicting with the School Board or County TRIM dates.

**ACTION: Ms. Bartleman made a motion to approve the 2021 Council calendar, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Powers and passed with no opposing votes.**

g) President/CEO Performance Evaluation:

Dr. Thaqi joined the meeting.

Ms. Donnelly outlined the process for the President/CEO's annual evaluation, noting that Members will receive the electronic evaluation and the President/CEO's self-evaluation via email on October 16<sup>th</sup>. The evaluation survey is to be completed by November 2<sup>nd</sup>, with the Executive Committee meeting on November 9<sup>th</sup> to consider the results and propose any recommendations to be considered by the full Council at its November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

h) Annual Report Photo:

Instead of a group photo for the Annual Report this year, Ms. Donnelly explained that staff will use the individual photos currently on the CSC website. If Members desire a different photo, they may send it to Mrs. Jacques.

i) Recognize Service of Robin Bartleman:

Ms. Bartleman was recognized for 12 years of exemplary service as a CSC Member and presented with a token of the Council's appreciation.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer highlighted Ms. Bartleman's service, beginning with her service on the Special Needs Advisory Coalition as a Co-Chair, and continuing with impactful efforts in the behavioral health arena and attention to when and how fund balance is used so as not to require dramatic budget cuts due to reliance on one-time funding. She thanked Ms. Bartleman for being an incredible advocate for all children.

Commissioner Furr Beam described Ms. Bartleman as an incredible CSC Member, pointing out that her passion has made it into policy more than once.

Ms. Liberta stated that she admired and respected Ms. Bartleman's honesty. She wished her the best of luck.

Ms. Bartleman stated that it has been an honor to serve on the Council and reflected on her 12 years of service, from the SNAC Committee and the first needs assessment, to being Council Chair during the referendum. She added that while she will miss CSC, she is very proud of the work that has been accomplished together on behalf of the children and families in Broward County.

**IV. President's Report:**

a) Moment of Silence for Alan Levy:

Ms. Arenberberg Seltzer requested a moment of silence to remember Mr. Alan Levy, who she described as an amazing advocate and philanthropist for children, as well as a dear friend. She noted they both worked closely together while serving on the board of the Early Learning Coalition of Broward County. She applauded both him and his wife, Marsha, for their powerful work in the child welfare system, noting that they were the first recipients of the Alan and Marsha Levy Champion of Child Abuse Award.

Ms. Donnelly described Mr. Levy as a pillar of the community, pointing out that Broward County had lost a true leader who will be truly missed.

A moment of silence was observed.

b) Good of the Order:

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer highlighted the very successful Candidate Connection, which was sponsored by the CSC, United Way of Broward County, and the Jewish Federation of Broward County. She noted that the event included all candidates who are certain to be entering their first year in the legislature because they ran unopposed, as well as both candidates in a race where a vacancy exists. She commended Ms. Megan Turetsky, CSC Government Affairs Manager; Ms. Heather Davidson at United Way; and Mr. Evan Goldman at the Jewish Federation for a job well done under unusual circumstances.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer highlighted the upcoming virtual Girls Summit on October 17, from 10am-2pm. CSC is a sponsor of the event.

The CSC will be recognized on October 22<sup>nd</sup> by the United Nations Association, Broward County Chapter, as one of their 2020 UN Day honorees.

Broward: Read for the Record will proceed virtually this year on October 29<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Arenberg Seltzer praised Ms. Sandra Bernard-Bastien, CSC's Chief Communications Officer, and her amazing team for their efforts under unusual circumstances to coordinate the participation of a large number of public/private schools and child care centers, as well as volunteer readers. And for those schools/centers where a volunteer is not available, they will be able to watch a pre-recorded reading of the book by the three Co-Chairs of the Broward Reads Coalition (Ms. Arenberg Seltzer, Commissioner Beam Furr, and Ms. Renee Jaffe). The Council viewed a brief excerpt of that taped reading.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer acknowledged the impact of CSC's racial equity/Community Participatory Action Research (CPAR) work. She noted that Florida State University's Florida Institute for Child Welfare (FICW) highlighted the CPAR project in their annual report and as a research brief on their website. They also highlighted CSC's FICW-funded CPAR projects, Very Important Parents and Youth System Organizers of Broward, as strategies to implement a racial equity lens into the

management and evaluation of the Child Welfare System, and to empower system participants to mutually administer the child welfare system by ensuring their full inclusion with the system professionals who administer, manage and evaluate the child welfare system.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer noted that Ms. Liberta was selected by the TIL youth, through a competitive process, to serve as a System Professional Leadership Team Member on the Youth System Organizers.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer also noted that Dr. Seanteè Campbell, CSC Research & Evaluation Manager, and Ms. Tiffany Czonka, the CPAR parent co-researcher, participated in a recent FICW podcast; and that Dr. Sue Gallagher, CSC Chief Information Officer, Dr. Campbell, and Dr. Carl Dasse, CSC Senior Data Systems and Research Manager, along with several of the CPAR co-researchers, will present their work to DCF administration, regional and community liaisons, and other state-wide child welfare system partners on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ms. Liberta will moderate that panel presentation.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer announced that the Florida Children's Council, CSC's state association, has a new CEO, Ms. Michele Watson. Since Ms. Watson has worked with the association as a consultant for many years, Ms. Arenberg Seltzer is confident she will hit the ground running.

c) COVID-19:

i. FY 19/20 Update:

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer referred Members to the information in their meeting packet outlining CSC's efforts related to the Coronavirus. She gave kudos to Mr. Andrew Leone, CSC Director of Communications and Community Engagement, for his efforts coordinating food distribution, including identifying gaps and making connections, as well as ensuring resource information and PPE are included in the food bags.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer commended Superintendent Runcie, Ms. Bartleman, and their colleagues for their efforts to balance health and safety and the need to educate children, which she noted is not easy in a school district of Broward's size. She highlighted CSC's efforts in this area, which is the coordination and funding of learning pods, which have been operating since the end of August/beginning of

September and are running smoothly. She stated that CSC-funded learning pods will close as the schools open, except for those in the areas where five schools will not be opening as of yet due to mold issues.

Ms. Bartleman asked that CSC be ready to reactivate the learning pods if the situation worsens in the future and school buildings are closed once again.

ii. COVID-19 Emergency Fund for FY 20/21

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer reminded everyone that the COVID-19 Emergency Fund was created by the Council in March when there was uncertainty as to what was to come and when the Council would be able to meet again. At that time, the Council created an Emergency Fund with \$500,000 and granted authority to the President/CEO to expend those funds for COVID-related needs that arose between meetings. Those expenditures have since been brought before the Council for ratification/approval. Ms. Arenberg Seltzer explained that it would be prudent to establish a similar Emergency Fund for FY 20/21, although with less money, to allow for the flexibility to act if needed between the November and January meetings. She gave the example of any need arising to reactivate the learning pods if necessary.

Mr. Powers expressed concern for continued increased spending from a COVID-19 Emergency Fund, noting that the continued rate could result in a million dollars by next year, and suggested some prioritization if it continues at a high rate throughout the year. Ms. Arenberg Seltzer replied that it will not continue at the same amount and will likely be different in the new Fiscal Year. She noted that the rapid/high expenses initially required for the immediate PPE/food needs have changed with more community collaboration and donations, such as the recent one of 100,000 masks that was made possible through a referral from Ms. Laurie Sallarulo, President/CEO of Junior Achievement, to a company making the donation.

**ACTION: Ms. Bartleman made a motion to approve establishing a COVID-19 Emergency Fund for FY 20/21, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Powers and passed with no opposing votes.**

**V. Chief Communications Officer Report:**

Capacity Mini-Grant Awards:

Ms. Bernard-Bastien highlighted the Capacity Mini-Grant Awards, pointing out that the CSC has issued these awards since 2016, and noting that the funds are accompanied with coaching from the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) of Fort Lauderdale and Network for Good. Both Dr. Kenton and Mr. Wood, who served on the Rating Committee, described it as a good process and noted that everyone on the Committee was well-intentioned and gave great feedback.

**ACTION: Ms. Bartleman made a motion to approve Mini-Grant awards and related support for FY 20/21, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Schneider and passed with no opposing votes.**

**VI. Chief Operating Officer Report:**

a) Threshold and Disposal of Fixed Assets:

Ms. Larsen briefly summarized the annual disposal of fixed assets. She noted that the old computers and other equipment will be refurbished and donated to help bridge the Digital Divide.

**ACTION: Ms. Bartleman made a motion to approve disposal of fully depreciated or non-capitalized items and approve a new equipment capitalization threshold. The motion was seconded by Mr. Powers and passed with no opposing votes.**

b) Invoices, P.O.s & Contracts:

**ACTION: Ms. Bartleman made a motion to approve CSC monthly/annual purchases for October 2020. The motion was seconded by Mr. Powers and passed with no opposing votes.**

**VII. Broward Reads Coalition Report:**

Commissioner Furr summarized the recent virtual meeting of the Broward Reads Coalition, noting that it had large participation. He announced that once again Broward has won the Campaign for Grade Level Reading's Pacesetter Award, this time for third-grade level proficiency. He thanked Ms. Bernard-Bastien and her team for compiling the information and submitting the application for this community-wide award that also reflects upon the efforts of teachers and



parents. He noted that third-grade proficiency in Broward County has increased for the past five years with solid progression.

He also noted that the child care centers are doing a lot of virtual training in ways that has not been done before. He expressed hope that this would not only result in child care professionals maintaining their Child Development Associate (CDA) credentials, but maybe even obtaining AA and BA degrees in Early Childhood Education. He explained that since transportation to educational centers had previously been a challenge, a virtual platform provided new opportunities to expand training and education, and that hopefully would contribute in the future to continued student proficiency.

**VIII. Funders Forum Report:**

Due to technical difficulties, Ms. Arenberg Seltzer presented on behalf of Ms. Juarez - highlighting the recent meeting of the Funders Forum. She stated that the community collaboration around the learning pods has been incredible through the combined efforts of CSC, United Way of Broward County, Jewish Federation of Broward County, A.D. Henderson Foundation, Jim Moran Foundation, and the Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation.

**IX. Public Comment:**

There were no comments from the public.

**X. Council Members' Roundtable:**

CSC staff led a Roundtable presentation on the CSC-funded Respite program area and the upcoming Request for Proposals (RFP).

Ms. Piper Weber, CSC Program Manager, highlighted the upcoming 2021 Respite RFP, noting that it fell under Goal 10.1, to strengthen the continuum of care for children with special physical, developmental and behavioral health needs, and Objective 4, to provide respite services for families with children and youth with severe emotional/behavioral conditions to improve the quality of life and promote productive out of school experiences. She stated that the planned RFP release is early February 2021, with a submission deadline of mid-March, and the Council approving the awards at the May 2021 meeting. She then provided a brief summary of the history of CSC funding and programming in this area.

Ms. Jessica Rincon, CSC Program Manager, outlined the community landscape, the proposed services, and the desired population, which is children 5 to 13

years old who exhibit behavioral health needs such as depression, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, anxiety, and behavioral concerns that severely disrupt daily functioning in the home, school, or community.

Ms. Gloria Putiak, CSC Senior Planning and Research Manager, highlighted new intake assessment tools that will determine which families require more respite hours.

Ms. Piper and Ms. Rincon highlighted the service components, while Ms. Marissa Aquino, CSC Planning & Evaluation Manager – Special Needs, highlighted program performance measures and past outcomes.

Ms. Arenberg Seltzer noted that while CSC funding for this program area has been level since inception, she does see the need for increased funding to expand availability throughout the community, as demand has been increasing. While no vote was taken, there was general consensus that increased funding could be appropriate in the area to expand availability.

#### **XI. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:48am.



Kenneth L. Gillespie, Secretary

**MEETING ATTENDEES**

\*denotes speaker

Name	Organization
Idelma Quintana	Broward County
Trudy-Ann Reed	Simply Healthcare Plans
Shawn Preston	Arc Broward
Grace Ramos	The M Network
Alison Rodriguez	YMCA of South Florida
Lisa Clements	YMCA of South Florida
A. Therese Sullivan	Pembroke Pines Police Department
Mark Reyes	Urban League of Broward County
Amanda Hernandez	Ann Storck Center