



**Special Needs Advisory Coalition (SNAC) Meeting
Meeting Minutes
December 2, 2019
9:30 a.m.**

**Meeting Held at the
Children's Services Council of Broward
6600 W Commercial Blvd. Lauderhill, FL 33319**

Participants In Attendance: 2-1-1 Broward (Billie Morgan); Advocacy Network on Disabilities (Ire Diaz, Josh McAdams); Advocates (Robert Mayersohn, Martha Wichert); Agency for Persons with Disabilities (Milroy Senat); Ann Storck Center (Terri Shermett); Arc Broward (Jody Ellis, Shalean LaBerge, Travis Sullivan); Autism Society Florida (Stacey Hoaglund); CareerSource Broward (Melanie Magill, Samora Cunningham); Center for Hearing & Communication (Olivia Angeli); Center for Independent Living (Brian Johnson); Children's Medical Services (Mary Joyce); Children's Services Administration of Broward County (Deborah Meidinger Hosey); Dan Marino Foundation (Susan Morantes); Early Learning Coalition (Allison Metsch, Debbie Kay); Epilepsy Foundation (Michelle Collins); Family Care Council (Marty Norris); Family Network on Disabilities Parent Education Network (Allicia Walford); GAPS Legal (Michelle Kenney, Esq); Henderson Behavioral Health (Luciangeli Flores); JAFCO Children's Abilities Center (Melanie Wolfson); Legal Aid of Broward (Janet Salzman); Project 10 (Lisa Friedman-Chavez); Service Source (Amilcar Urroz); The Journey Institute Inc. (Dr. Harleen Hutchinson); United Community Options (Cathea Comiskey); United Way of Broward (Gonzalo Cadima); YMCA South Florida (Alison Bregman-Rodriguez).

CSC Staff in Attendance: Dr. Sue Gallagher – Chief Innovation Officer; Dr. Laura Ganci – Director of Research & Planning; Marissa Aquino – Special Needs Programs Manager; Piper Weber – Programs Manager; Megan Turetsky – Government Affairs Manager; Liza Khan – Programs Manager.

I. Welcome and Self-Introductions

Michelle Kenney welcomed the committee members at 9:33am and introductions were made, as Robin Bartleman and Sonja Clay were absent.

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes was made by Melanie Magill, seconded by Dr. Harleen Hutchinson and passed unanimously.

III. Success Stories:

Allicia Walford shared about a successful collaboration between Parent Education Network and Broward County Schools ESLS department. They will be providing four roundtable sessions for transitioning youth to discuss post-secondary options at Cooper City, Ely Blanche, Monarch, and Hallandale High Schools. The dates are in the process of being confirmed and will be shared via Results 4 Broward.

Dr. Harleen Hutchinson shared BBHC is rolling out Infant Mental Health for ages birth-5 to support the schools.

Melanie Wolfson shared about a young adult male who was referred from 211 Broward to JAFCO Connections program. The young adult went through all the programs at JAFCO and as he continued to gain social skills with transitional support, he began riding the Paratransit and applied for the SYEP at CareerSource. He completed the SYEP program with a position at JAFCO, which is a major accomplishment for him and his family.

For any member who wishes to speak about a success at the next SNAC meeting, please contact Marissa.

IV. Presentations:

The SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) training by William King is postponed until the next SNAC meeting. William King was unable to present on SOAR.

Dr. Sue Gallagher, CSC Chief Innovation Officer, presented on Leveraging Positive Relationships for Systems Change. She briefly reviewed the history of the Broward Children's Strategic Plan and the two most common responses from participants: (1) "we don't have enough money" and (2) "we don't have any data". Sue discussed how to contribute to the system, building positive relationships, and reviewed the 7 elements of positive communication. She discussed ways to offer help rather than blame an organization. Handouts were distributed at the meeting.

V. Committee Updates: A handout of the goals, objectives and strategies being currently addressed were distributed to the SNAC members.

- a. **Policy & Systems:** Melanie Magill (CSBD) reported the committee continues to monitor the Child Find waitlist. As of November 19th, the next available evaluation for Spanish speaking families is the 2nd week of April 2020 and for English & Creole speaking is the 1st week of February, 2020. The system partners work group will meet on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 1:30pm. The committee will discuss this concern with Robin Bartleman and she emailed the superintendent requesting solution strategies. The Children's Services Advisory Board is also advocating to the School Board for solution strategies. Another initiative the committee is advocating for is to have the mandatory child care training include special needs training. The special needs training is currently an option only. William Karp from Child Care Licensing & Enforcement has been invited to the next meeting.

As a friendly reminder, this committee consists of special needs system partners.

- b. **Program & Parent Support:** Alison Bregman-Rodriguez (YMCA) reported the committee is identifying programmatic gaps relating to parent trainings and social security benefits for eligible children. The committee received baseline data from SSA on children receiving social security disability benefits. The committee developed a survey asking providers if a question regarding current social security disability is part of intake assessments and if parent trainings are offered. Luciangel Flores (Henderson Behavioral Health) reported the committee has made great progress in being active and hearing valuable insights. The survey will be distributed after SNAC. The complete matrix of the committee can be found on Results4Broward.org. Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 9, 2019 at 9:30am at JAFCO.
- c. **Education & Awareness:** Michelle Kenney (GAPS Legal) reported the committee has developed a timeline and identified over 60 services that a caregiver may need. The committee also developed a spreadsheet to identify the committee members that represent special needs on the children's strategic plan. Piper Weber (CSC) shared the toolkit of financial literacy resources for providers. Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 11, 2019 at CSC at 1:30pm.

VI. Community Announcements

Lisa Friedman-Chavez (Project 10) announced the VISIONS 2020 conference sponsored by the Florida Division on Career Development and Transition (FLDCDT) for those involved in career development and transition of people with exceptionalities. The conference will be held in Orlando. More information will be provided via email.

Ire Diaz (Advocacy Network) announced a newly funded Family Strengthening program that provides special needs care coordination and in home therapy for children with special needs or their caregiver with a special need. She announced there is no wait list and for more information to contact her.

Melanie Wolfson (JAFCO) announced a Holiday Family Fun Day scheduled for Sunday, December 22, 2019 from 10am-1pm at JAFCO.

Allison Metsch (ELC Broward) announced a conference for Broward Educators scheduled for Saturday, February 1, 2020 at Broward College.

Billie Morgan (211) announced that the Non-Profit Awards will be held at the Hard Rock. She encouraged members to vote and to attend the event.

Alicia Walford (PEN) announced she will be screening a movie at Ft. Lauderdale High School on December 10.

Gonzalo Cadima (United Way of Broward) announced Stacy Hoaglund will be presenting at the United Way of Broward's Board of Governors meeting and Billie Morgan is a new board member. He encouraged representatives from the special needs community to be part of their action teams.

VII. Next Meeting Date:

- a. Next SNAC meeting is set for Monday, May 4, 2020. Meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. at the Children's Services Council of Broward unless otherwise announced.

VIII. Adjourn Meeting

- a. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.