

**Special Needs Advisory Coalition (SNAC) of Broward
Meeting Minutes**

May 6, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

Meeting Held via Zoom

Chair(s) in Attendance:

Dr. Justin Kohlhagen (JAFCO Children's Ability Center)

CSC Council Member(s) in Attendance:

Maria Schneider (Assistant State Attorney 17th Judicial Court)

SNAC Guest(s) in Attendance:

Captain Martin Hedelund, (Broward Sheriff's Office)

Robin Bartleman, (Florida House of Representative)

SNAC Members in Attendance:

2-1-1 Broward (Billie Morgan); **Act4Me** (Florencia Tischler); **Advocate** (Robert Mayersohn); **Advocacy Network on Disabilities** (Ire Diaz); **Agency for Persons with Disabilities** (Milroy Senat); **Arc Broward** (Jody Ellis, Shalean LaBerge); **Autism Speaks Florida** (Stacey Hoaglund); **Broward College** (Melissa Adams); **Broward County Parks & Recreations** (Mary Palacios); **Broward County Public Schools** (Stacy Wolfe); **Center for Hearing & Communication** (Olivia Angeli); **Center for Independent Living** (Brian Johnson); **Children's Diagnostic Treatment Center** (Ellie Schrot); **Dan Marino Foundation** (Susan Morantes); **Equine-Assisted Therapies of South Florida** (David Plath); **Family Network on Disabilities** (Jeanne Petit); **Flite Center** (Natarish Bacon); **Family Care Council** (Marty Norris); **GAPS Legal** (Michelle Kenney, Esq); **Henderson Behavioral Health** (Luciangeli Flores); JAFCO (Nikki Chiwara); **Memorial Healthcare Systems** (Berta Plantz, Laura Costa, Marilyn Camerota); **Project 10** (Lisa Friedman-Chavez); **Smith Community Center** (Donna Lavalle); **YMCA South Florida** (Alison Rodriguez); **Nova – UM CARD** (Shantigra "Shae" Williams).

CSC Staff in Attendance:

Marissa Aquino–Planning & Evaluation Manager Special Needs; Melissa Soza–Programs Manager; Piper Weber–Programs Manager; Megan Turetsky–Government Affairs Manager; Jessica Rincon–Programs Manager; Shaquoia Wilson–Programs Manager

I. Welcome

Justin Kohlhagen welcomed the committee members at 9:30 a.m. and thanked the members for their commitment to the special needs children & families.

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes was made by Bob Mayersohn, seconded by David Plath, and passed unanimously.

III. Legislative Session Updates:

House Representative Robin Bartleman discussed a summary of legislation and concerns about scholarships and vouchers. House Representative requested a workgroup to discuss future bill ideas.

Ire Diaz, from Advocacy Network, advised a racial equity lens to be used when bill ideas are discussed. She shared her concern about there being a lack of racial equity lens within the SNAC committee.

Megan Turtesky, CSS Government Affairs Manager, will provide a list of passed bills from session.

IV. Special Needs Registry

Captain Martin Hedelund, Broward Sheriff's Office, provided an overview of the BSO Cares Disability Registry; the website is www.sheriff.org/bsocares. The Special Need registry was created two years ago to inform the first responders better when handling calls.

For more questions, please contact Martin Hedelund via email at martin_hedelund@sheriff.org or telephone at 954-786-4202.

Justin shared other police departments with a special needs registry including the Davie, Coral Springs, and Sunrise Police Departments. Members are encouraged to reach out to other police departments to share the special needs registry link with SNAC Members. SNAC can support the cities that do not have a registry and connect them to the Autism Society.

V. SNAC Subcommittee Updates:

- ✓ Education & Awareness: Michelle Kenney, Attorney, announced the committee met to review the 211 special needs website. Feedback on the website's content should be sent to Michelle and Marissa and there are still some areas on the website that need volunteers. If interested, please contact Marissa.
- ✓ Program & Parent Support: Alison-Bregman-Rodriguez, YMCA, indicated that the next meeting is May 10th. A survey was distributed on what disability training is available in all systems of care. The list will be shared across the county and with BSO, Child Net, and the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice in Broward. The committee is looking into developing a symposium for special needs using a racial equity lens for law enforcement, family social workers, and perhaps healthcare workers.

VI. Community Meetings Updates:

- ✓ Employment Taskforce: Stacy Wolfe, Broward County Public Schools, announced that CSC Staff, Piper Weber, and BCPS collaborated to align all employment programs in Broward offered to youth. The task force meets every other month. The goal of the meeting is to find ways for employers to hire transition youth. The task force created a database to include current employers participating in job support

programs. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 11th, from 9:30 to 11:30. Please contact Stacy or Piper for additional meeting information.

- ✓ Family Care Council – Area 10: Marty Norris, Chair of FCC, the Family Care Council is the only family-based group written into legislation under FS 393.502. The council works closely with Agency for Persons with Disabilities. The council provides feedback as to what programs are in the community. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 14th, via Go-to-Meeting. For additional information on the committee work, please contact Marty Norris at 954-328-9489
- ✓ Transition Happens - Broward Transition Interagency Team: Stacy Wolfe announced that the committee will work on increasing the support and opportunities for transitioning youth with disabilities in Broward. Ally Walford created a transition interagency committee. The mission is to improve communication and collaboration, leading to authentic conversations amongst students with disabilities. The committee aims to provide the support that connects students with disabilities to resources and tools and guides them on their pathway to achieving their post-secondary goals. The meeting will also include time for members and agencies to share information updates and upcoming events. Lisa Chavez, Project-10, shared plans as they develop this Interagency team. A discussion of a transition event for the upcoming school year 2022-2023 school year is possibly having a transition resource event for the upcoming school year.

For more information, please email browardtransitionhappens@gmail.com

VII. Children's Services Council:

Work Incentive Planning & Assistance: Piper Weber, CSC, shared the updated Work Incentive Planning Assistance document lists agencies who provide benefits counseling in Broward County. The youth who are working should be connected to a benefits specialist if they are receiving social security.

VIII. Community Roundtable COVID-19 Needs / Reopening Status:

Ire Diaz, Advocacy Network, announced the agency is transitioning to face to face. The agency recently hired an additional person to provide counseling and therapy services to younger children.

Jody Ellie, Arc Broward, announced a Covid-19 resource available to families in Broward through the Center for Working Families. Eligibility criteria includes being a Broward county resident and have a Covid related need to receive assistance with rent, utilities, and homelessness prevention.

Ellie Schrot, CDTC, announced Early Steps was awarded funding for \$2.3 million. Early Steps is receiving both virtual and in-person referrals and services are being offered for children age birth-3.

Mary Palacios, Broward County Parks & Recreation, announced activities are open virtual and in-person programs. The link for programs is:

<https://www.broward.org/Parks/Pages/SpecialPopulations.aspx>. Please contact Mary for additional information mpalacios@broward.org.

Stacey Hoaglund, Autism Society, announced The Autism Society of Florida is hosting a virtual conference on May 22. We have Temple Grandin (superstar of the autism world), Peter Gerhardt, Stephen Shore, Richard Rosenberg, Tony Giordano (from Bravo's Million Dollar Listing) AND featuring a video made by a person with Autism about people with Autism and their jobs. The conference is called NO LIMITS and works to encourage those with developmental disabilities not to feel confined to poor outcomes. To see a video and register www.leaderpass.com/pass/autismfl/nolimitsconference.

Susan Morantes, Dan Marino Foundation, announced the agency is holding summer sessions for Pre-employment training (ages 14-22), and Marino Campus accepts applications for the fall (post-secondary). marinocampus.org; smorantes@danmarinofoundation.org.

Shae Williams, UM CARD, announced the agency continues to work remotely and will be transitioning back into office in July. Services are being provided virtually. On June 18th, an event highlighting diversity in Autism and UM Card is seeking submissions from the different organizations to gather pieces or arts or short videos of individuals to celebrate the diversity and multi-culturally in the autism community. Please send emails to swillia2@nova.edu.

Justin, JAFCO, announced summer camp and regular respite is available face-to-face, and if anyone is having trouble accessing respite services, reach out to JAFCO.

Bob Mayersohn, Advocate, requested a 2-1-1- Broward special needs quarterly report to share with SNAC. Billie Morgan will research the information and meet with Frank.

IX. Next Meeting Date: Next SNAC meeting is set for August 5, 2021, at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom

X. Adjourn Meeting

- a. Meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m.