

Special Needs Advisory Coalition (SNAC) of Broward
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 5, 2021, @ 9:30 am
Meeting Held via Zoom

Chair(s) in Attendance:

Dr. Justin Kohlhagen (JAFCO Children's Ability Center); **Debra Hixon** (Broward School Board); **Andrea Knowles** (Broward Delegation)

SNAC Members in Attendance:

2-1-1 Broward (Billie Morgan, Gail Moore); **Advocate** (Robert Mayersohn); **Advocacy Network on Disabilities** (Ire Diaz); **Agency for Persons with Disabilities** (Milroy Senat); **Arc Broward** (Jody Ellis); **Autism Speaks Florida** (Stacey Hoaglund); **Center for Hearing & Communication** (Olivia Angeli); **Dan Marino Foundation** (Susan Morantes, Susan Partin); **Family Network on Disabilities** (Lisa Math); **Family Care Council** (Marty Norris); **Henderson Behavioral Health** (Luciangeli Flores); **Memorial Healthcare Systems** (Berta Plantz, Gabriela Pilarte); **Project 10** (Lisa Friedman-Chavez); **YMCA South Florida** (Alison Bregman-Rodriguez); **Nova-UM CARD** (Shantigra "Shae" Williams); **Parent Education Network** (Ally Walford)

CSC Staff in Attendance:

Marissa Aquino-Planning & Evaluation Manager Special Needs; Piper Weber-Programs Manager; Megan Turetsky-Government Affairs Manager; Shaquoia Wilson-Programs Manager; Andria Dewson-Programs Manager; Joshua Caraballo-Research & Evaluation Manager

- I. **Welcome & Introductions:** Justin Kohlhagen welcomed the members at 9:32 am.
- II. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Motion to approve meetings minutes was made by Bob Mayersohn, seconded by Ire Diaz, and passed unanimously.
- III. **Introduction New Co-Chair:** Debra Hixon, School Board Member, thanked the members for their dedication to the SNAC. Debra was a teacher for the Broward County Public School for 32 years and had a 26-year-old son in the special needs transition program. She brings a unique perspective to the SNAC and is excited about being a co-chair.
- IV. **Introduction New Co-Chair:** Andrea Knowles, Executive Director, Broward Legislative Delegation & Broward Days, thanked the members; she is a board member for Victory Living Program and is excited to assist the SNAC member in their advocacy efforts.
- V. **Breakout Connections:** Alison Bregman-Rodriguez led the members to a breakout session.
- VI. **Advancing Racial Equity:** Ire Diaz, Advocacy Network CEO/President, provided an overview of intersectionality with race, gender, and disability. She shared that black students are three times more likely to be diagnosed with an intellectual disability and 200% more likely to be diagnosed with emotional/behavioral disorders. Latino students

are four times more likely to be diagnosed with intellectual disabilities. If the student is white, they are most likely diagnosed with Autism. She shared the importance of SNAC to consider race intersectionality during the advocacy process and that not all students with disabilities are treated the same.

VII. SNAC subcommittees:

- ✓ **Education & Awareness:** Marissa Aquino reported out on behalf of the committee. The committee is finalizing the feedback to 2-1-1 Broward for the redesign of the website. A parent focus group will be organized for the parents to give feedback on the website.
- ✓ **Program & Parent Support:** Alison Bregman-Rodriguez reported that the disability training list is completed and updated quarterly. The committee is looking at ways to providing mini-workshops for providers and system partners.
- ✓ **Policy & Systems:** Piper Weber reported other community workgroups are meeting to discuss policy changes, and the Policy & Systems committee is analyzing how to be included in those committees and avoid redundancy.

VIII. Community Meetings Updates:

- ✓ **Autism Multicultural Collective Initiative:** Shae Williams, AMC Project Leader, reported the initiative is to strategize ways to combat the disparities that are happening within the community, include autism providers. Since February, UM-Card has seen a 3% increase in service for the black and brown communities; training is available to providers who would like to assess an organization to progress in racial equity.
- ✓ **Employment Taskforce:** Stacy Wolfe, BCPS (Absent)
- ✓ **Family Care Council–FCC-10:** Marty Norris, FCC Chair, reported the number of individuals impacted by the recent surge of COVID-19 and the committee determined that it would continue the FCC 2021 - 2022 monthly meetings virtually on "Go to Meeting." The committee is looking at the next legislative platform and at how to prepare for disasters and receive emergency transportation for individuals with disabilities. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 13, 2021, at 9:30 am.
- ✓ **Transition Happens; Broward Transition Interagency Team–**Ally Walford, PEN/FND. The first meeting is September 9, 2021, at 9:30 -11:30 am and will be held quarterly & virtually. This meeting will discuss Broward County Public Schools' transition process and diploma deferment program.

Concerns from members were shared regarding a waitlist at the technical vocational schools to enter into transition programs. Debra Hixon offered to review it with the Transition Supervisor, Stacy Wolfe.

IX. SNAC Meetings Return Face-to-Face Survey Results: Luciangeli Flores reported 9% of respondents preferred in-person meetings. 50% preferred virtual, and 41% chose in-person and virtually simultaneously. A member networking session is being discussed to have a small group of members meet with the new co-chairs and other members. However, due to the recent increase in cases, the committee will revisit when the Covid numbers subsides.

X. Community Roundtable:

Olivia Angeli, Center for Hearing & Communication (CHC), reported the agency had 3 STEP graduates accepted into a college and technical vocational program. She also said training on EEOC is being provided by CHC on August 28, 2021. The flyer will be emailed via Results 4Broward.

Marissa Aquino, from CSC, reported the survey link for the 2022 Youth Summit is available until August 13, 2021, and encourages the members to provide feedback and be a part of the planning committee for special need representation.

XI. Next Meeting October 7, 2021, at 9:30 am via Zoom.

XII. Adjourn