



Human Services Department

**COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS DIVISION / Children's Services Administration**

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Broward County Board of County Commissioners  
Children's Services Board  
Regular Meeting Minutes – April 21, 2023  
9:00 am – 11:00 A.M.

**1. Call to Order**

Evan Goldman called the meeting to order at 9:03 A.M.

**2. Roll Call**

Monica King called the roll.

A quorum was established with, Evan Goldman, Robert Mayersohn, Monica King, Dr. Andrea Keener, Burton Miller, Daniel Schevis, Joel Smith, Malena Mendez, Maria Juarez Stouffer, Paige Patterson-Hughes, present. Jarvis Brunson, Sandra Veszi Einhorn, and Veda Hudge arrived after roll call was completed.

Members absent: Elida Segre and Sarah Gillespie Cummings

Staff Members in attendance: Efrem Crenshaw, Director of Community Partnerships Division (CPD); Cassandra Evans Assistant Director of CPD, Sandra Meza Hernandez, Children's Services Administration (CSA), Keith Bostick, Deputy Director of Human Services Department (HSD) and Angela Rodriguez, Assistant County Attorney attended via Teams.

**3. Approval of CSB March 17, 2023 Minutes**

**Motion: To approve the meetings minutes as presented by Staff**

**First:** Daniel Schevis

**Second:** Robert Mayersohn

**Declaration of Conflict:** None

**Discussion:** None

**Result:** Passed

**4. Chair Report**

Quorum Requirements

Evan Goldman thanked Staff for sending the updated Quorum Requirements to CSB Members, which requires that either the presiding member or at least three members to be physically present at a meeting. Members may attend and participate by using communications/media technology. Chair Goldman encouraged CSB members to participate in-person, allowing members to stay actively engaged in the discussion.

Cassandra Evans will follow with the County Attorney in response to Robert Mayersohn's question about the difference between the new updated rules and the Florida Sunshine rules. He wants to ensure the CSB is in line with all the requirements.

#### June 16, 2023 CSB Meeting

As suggested in the Executive Meeting, since June's CSB meeting is an all-day meeting, and due to scheduling conflicts, Chair Goldman requested to move the meeting from June 16<sup>th</sup> to June 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Motion: To re-schedule the June meeting from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup>.**

**First:** Malena Mendez

**Second:** Paige Patterson-Hughes

**Declaration of Conflict:** None

**Discussion:** None.

**Result:** Passed

## 5. Section Report

Cassandra Evans informed that included in the agenda package is Broward County's internal tracking of the Attendance requirements. Ms. Evans, answering Sandra Veszi Einhorn's question about what constitutes an excused absence, referred to page 4 – Excused Absences - of our bylaws Broward County Board's Policies, which states the attendance requirements shall be submitted at least two business day prior to the scheduled meeting unless the occurrence makes notice impracticable. Ms. Veszi Einhorn requested to have her absences excused, Chair Goldman in his discretion to determine if the CSB member meets any of the criteria for an excused absence and will review all the information provided.

#### Update on appointments to the CSB

Cassandra indicated CPD is working diligently internally to fill the vacancies of the CSB, which are: the Department of Juvenile Justice, the School Board, BC Commission District 2 and the BC Commissioner appointee.

#### Broward County Strategic Plan

Cassandra Evans shared and explained that the Vision, Mission and Values of Broward County can be found on Broward County's website. the CSB strategic plan should align with the county's.

Chair Goldman recommended all CSB Members to look at them, which will provide a guide for the upcoming fiscal year, thus having an advisory board that has shared values.

Monica King asked if the Children's Services Board for the Community Partnerships Division have its own Mission, Vision goals statement that we can look at, since the role of the CSB Members is around Human Services and Children. Cassandra will share the one page that outlines the mission and areas of work.

Members of the Board discussed the presentation of providers, which is being done and started two meetings ago at the NAC meetings. These presentations are not part of the

CSB meetings due to lack of time. Everybody is invited to come to the NAC and listen to all the information providers are sharing.

Keith Bostick informed member of the Board that Intergovernmental is attempting to create a space within that strategic planning session to review the ordinance guidelines that govern the advisory boards. As COVID changed our lives, the average changing population and areas needed to be served have changed, For the upcoming strategic planning retreat, Keith suggested and encouraged the Board to have a list or desires o the things that would like to do in scope that might go beyond that ordinances may say and find out what is available or can be done.

#### CSA FY 23 YTD Utilization and Performance Report & FY23 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Reallocations Update

Cassandra Evans presented the utilization report until February 2023. Utilization is at 30.16%. The goal is 41.67%. Cassandra informed the board that the ELC contract is nearing execution, thus having a positive impact on utilization.

Cassandra pointed out that in the Service Category and Underutilization report, Mental Health shows 9 but the numbers add up to 10, because one provider has multiple programs. Cassandra Evans referred to the CSA providers, indicating that they were invited to the NAC meeting grouped by service category. .

Mr. Joel Smith asked if Staff has data on how each service category has flex funds and to what degree they are being used. Ms. Evans will look into data to provide an answer.

Robert Mayersohn asked where we are projected to be at the end of the year, since some providers could gear up and others could shuffle during summer.

Efrem Crenshaw informed that CPD has received providers invoices through March 31<sup>st</sup>. Staff are going through analyzing both fiscal utilization and their outcome attainment. Staff has been asked to expedite the process since we need the analysis at the NAC meeting. CPD will meet next week to go through the utilization. For agencies that are underutilizing, as a courtesy, an ask will be made as to the anticipated utilization and compare it with previous utilization data. For the programs that have a 10% or greater reallocation would be taken to the Board [of County Commissioners] before their summer break. Thus allowing agencies to time to expend the additional funds in July, August, and September.

Monica King asked if staff had any updates since Covenant House has gone through a transition with their changes in population, not to serve those under the age of18. Specifically, if it had affected utilization under mental health category. Efrem Crenshaw informed the Board that CSA has not taken any money back from the Covenant House's initial agreement since CH still utilize their funds to serve a segment of the population, Keith Bostick informed that there would be an update next week. On the other hand, Keith stated that our current utilization 30.16% YTD, at this time last year was 20% below.

Maria Juarez Stouffer asked if the contracts have the flexibility to utilize funds for emergencies. Mr. Crenshaw mentioned that agencies with urgent need are allowed to use flex funds to continue doing business. Mr. Keith Bostick commented that we need to

do a follow up, so providers are ensured that Broward is aware of the impact of an emergency on its operation.

Dan Schevis asked staff if contracts still have a clause that read future funding contracts that have been previously approved are subject to the need and availability of funds. So, each year we have the ability to make changes? Mr. Crenshaw replied that the County's position is always based on availability of funds.

Members of the Board and staff discussed possibilities of funding, flexibility, and next RFP.

## **6. Committee Chair Reports**

### **Needs Assessment**

Robert Mayersohn mentioned there was no NAC report. He also stated that we need to be better prepared for disasters, especially like the large storm resulting in unprecedented flooding in the South Florida area. Residents needed water, clothing, food, shelter. Bob mentioned that we need to address infrastructure and provide services, which oftentimes after a disaster is duplication of resources.

Chair Goldman mentioned that the Needs Assessment Committee is a good place to learn of this type of information/preparedness. Cassandra Evans commented that providers are invited to make a presentation and shared the schedule of presentations for May and June.

## **7. Liaison Reports**

### **Advocacy**

Sandra Veszi Einhorn thanked County Admin. and all staff who worked hard during the state of the emergency declared in Broward County, now the County is back on activation level 2 (partial activation). Sandra stated that the most impacted cities are Fort Lauderdale, Dania Beach, and some areas in Hollywood. The neighborhoods impacted in Fort Lauderdale are LMI communities that were facing significant financial challenges before the flood. FEMA is still assessing the situation and had not declared yet state of emergency.

The City's messaging related to the flood has caused some challenges. Residents are encouraged to voice their concerns with their local Commissioners.

Members of the Board discussed the situation that families are struggling and how the organizations are working with them to get help with counseling and other resources.

Sandra shared the Capitol Connection 2023 Legislative Session: Week 7 where it shows the tracking of bills moving through the legislative process.

## **Juvenile Justice**

No Report

## **SNAC**

No Report

## **System of Care**

No Report

## **8. New Business**

Maria Juarez Stouffer shared that the Funders Forum is still active, and she is the chairperson with additional members from the CSB. Ms. Juarez expressed that there has historically been a challenge in educating the general public on all the services available. Funders Forum will have 2-1-1 to discuss and better understand its capacity to reach the community.

Evan Goldman entertained a motion to appoint Maria Juarez Stouffer as the CSB SNAC liaison.

**Motion: To approve the nomination and appointment of Maria Juarez Stouffer as the SNAC liaison**

**First:** Robert Mayersohn

**Second:** Joel Smith

**Declaration of Conflict:** None

**Discussion:** None

**Result:** Passed

Robert Mayersohn requested Maria if she can share with Members of the Board, the Funders Forum's meeting minutes.

Ms. Juarez commented that she also has the Minutes from SNAC meetings and knows that they do have items to share with the CSB.

## **9. Old Business**

Joel Smith commented that there had been big delay with children being evaluated for special needs. Monica King mentioned that this issue has been recognized at the SNAC meeting, and they may have updates on this matter.

Robert Mayersohn referred to Shawn Preston's comment, Shawn is with ARC Broward. if members of the Board are allowed to do field trips to different agencies, or is it prohibited by Sunshine Law? Dan Schevis replied that the County Attorney's Office has ruled, no, board members cannot assemble together at a provider unless it is open to public and has meeting minutes. [The Sunshine Rules still apply.]

Cassandra Evans referred to Malena Mendez's comment on being new and learning to navigate the CSB, noting that any member can have a one-on-one meeting scheduled with staff to answer any questions .

## 10. Public Comment

None

## 11. Good of the Order

Efrem Crenshaw shared the news that CPD is in the process of scheduling interviews for CSA Administrator position and will keep you updated.

Jarvis Brunson invited members of the Board to the Annual [Walk in My Shoes] event on May 20<sup>th</sup> at Quiet Water Park, starting off with a 5K run/walk. There will be 20 local providers Last year the event had over 100 families walk. Joel Smith congratulated Jarvis for putting all the event together by himself.

Joel Smith invited members to visit Nina's Place in Deerfield Beach that opens each Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Since opening, more than 100 households visit weekly, and they have distributed more than one ton of food every Saturday. Next Saturday they will be providing breakfast from 8 to 11am. They are still waiting for final approval to from Feeding South Florida.

Malena Mendez shared that the Florida Prepaid Program and FP&L launched a huge initiative for the next four years identifying through the Florida Chamber, some of the most at risk zip codes and they will be releasing and awarding over 150 scholarships for kids on those zip codes. Big Brothers Big Sisters has been selected as one of their partners for the next several years to help award these scholarships.

Cassandra Evans invited members of the Board to go out and share with the community and be the change they want to be. Community Based Connection, Inc. ADAM Fatherhood event is tomorrow [April 20<sup>th</sup>] from 12 to 5pm at Mitchell Moore Park in Pompano

Evan Goldman shared that the importance of bringing communities together to understand and end antisemitism. They are working with the Principal at Boyd Anderson [High School] and the Posnack Jewish Day School to have young people visiting places and enjoy those moments.

## 12. Adjournment

**Motion:** To adjourn CSB meeting at 10:59 A.M.

**First:** Evan Goldman

**Second:** Dan Schevis

**Declaration of Conflict:** None

**Discussion:** None

**Result:** Passed

The next Children's Services Board Meeting is May 19, 2023.

These minutes were approved at the Children's Services Board Meeting dated May 19, 2023, as certified by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Monica King". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a decorative flourish at the end of the word "King".

Monica King  
Children's Services Board Secretary