



HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS DIVISION / Children's Services Administration

115 S Andrews Avenue, Room A370 • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301 • 954-357-6202 • FAX 954-357-8204

Broward County Board of County Commissioners
Children's Services Board Needs Assessment Committee Meeting
Draft Minutes January 8, 2025

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 A.M.

Committee Members in attendance: Maria Juarez Stouffer, Traci Schweitzer in person. Evan Goldman, Joel Smith, Monica King, Cara Malave, and Sarah Gillespie-Cummings present via Teams.

Committee Members absent:

Staff members in attendance: Cassandra Evans, Assistant Director of Community Partnerships Division (CPD), Dr. Tiffany Hill-Howard, Children Services Administrator (CSA), and Sterling Parrish (CSA) in person. present via TEAMS.

II. Approval of minutes

Approval of September 4, 2024, and January 8, 2025, Needs Assessment Committee meeting minutes.

Motion: To approve September 4, 2024, and January 8, 2025 Needs Assessment Committee minutes as presented by staff.

First: Traci Schweitzer

Second: Evan Goldman

Declaration of Conflict: None.

Discussion: None.

Result: Passed.

III. Chair Report- Maria Juarez Stouffer- The challenges some agencies are having with their utilization and how they are related to staffing and recruitment issues. CSC providers are seeing the same challenge in recruitment. Exploring how to strengthen relations with FAU's master's in social work and NSU's Master's program, and FIU, to see if there's a path forward to work with providers. Possibly offering students a stipend to be more motivated to work in the field, versus in the office or virtually.

Broward County Board of County Commissioners

Mark D. Bogen • Alexandra P. Davis • Lamar P. Fisher • Beam Furr • Steve Geller • Robert McKinzie • Nan H. Rich • Hazelle P. Rogers • Michael Udine
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- IV. **Section Administrator's Report-** Dr. Tiffany Hill- Howard- Presenting a discussion as it relates to current needs of children and families in our communities, also funding that was procured for FY25, the different service categories, and the funding amounts for each category. Expanding or decreasing our array of services. Consider possibly revamping or modifying the way we fund services.

Traci - Emergency shelter: it prevents kids from entering care, provides intensive services to help work with families. Supposed to engage in family sessions, LIPMAN shelter, as an example, only had one session. We need to bridge whatever is happening within the family; a lot of times, everything is focused on the child and their behavior. Getting the parents to participate in the mental health portion of the youth's care. Support for the younger youth in getting them re-enrolled in the right school. No solid Interventions for truancy for over 15 years. Joel presents a more global aspect of the leadership position and collaboration on a more

- V. **Public Comments-** Melissa Buckley, Associate Executive Director, commenting on the special needs population and providing medical care support. Thanking to committee members for the funding they currently receive, especially with the uncertainty of healthcare cuts.

- VI. **Good of the Order-** None.

- VII. **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 10:21 am.

The next Needs Assessment Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 9:00 A.M. at 115 S. Andrews Avenue A337 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301