



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

**Children's Services Board
Needs Assessment Committee (NAC)**

AGENDA

Wednesday, November 5, 2025, 2025, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

115 S. Andrews Avenue, Annex- Conference Room A337, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301

Public Comments: 1 754-900-8519, 248627847#

- I. Welcome and Introductions Maria Juarez Stouffer
- II. Approval of Meeting Minutes Maria Juarez Stouffer
 - October 8, 2025
- III. Section Administrator's Report..... Dr. Tiffany Hill-Howard
 - Service Array
- IV. Chair Report Maria Juarez Stouffer
 - Current and emerging client needs
 - Prioritization of service categories
 - Current array of providers in the continuum of care
- V. Public Comment (5 minutes) – Please call (754)-900-8519, 248627847#
- VI. Adjournment

Committee Members:

Maria Juarez Stouffer, Chair

Evan Goldman, Monica King, Joel Smith, Traci Schweitzer

**Next Meeting: December 5, 2025,
Location: 115 S. Andrews Avenue, Annex- Conference Room 335,
Fort. Lauderdale, FL 33301**

If you do not have the ability to view the meeting or provide public comment and wish to do so, please notify us at the following email address (csa@broward.org), telephone number (954-357-6202) or physical mailing address (115 S. Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301, A370) at least {3} days before the meeting, so that the County can communicate the location of the access point to you.



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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HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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Broward County Board of County Commissioners
Children's Services Board Needs Assessment Committee Meeting
Draft Minutes October 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. Joel Smith present via Teams.

Committee Members absent: Evan Goldman and Monica King.

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

II. Approval of minutes

Approval of July 9, 2025, Needs Assessment Committee meeting minutes.

Motion: To approve July 9, 2025, Needs Assessment Committee minutes as presented by staff.

First: Joel Smith

Second: Traci Schweitzer

Declaration of Conflict: None.

Discussion: None.

Result: Passed.

III. Chair Report- Maria Juarez Stouffer-

Reviewing the FY2025 Children's Services Strategic Plan and Impact Report. Discussion centered on current community needs, emerging service gaps, and alignment with existing funding priorities.

Results from focus groups (approximately 600 participants, representing diverse demographics) identified the top community priorities as follows: Mental Health, juvenile crime, and homelessness prevention and support.

Food insecurity was noted as a secondary but growing concern. The findings indicate strong community demand for accessible mental health programs and preventive interventions for youth.

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The committee discussed the need to assess whether the rise in juvenile crime is perceived or data-supported. Data from the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) indicates juvenile crime remains an issue, primarily tied to family and social trauma.

Plans were made to invite the Office of Justice Services and the 'New Day' program to present on recidivism and diversion outcomes, with 90% of participating youth avoiding re-arrest.

Suggestions included expanding diversion programs, facilitating restitution through youth employment or community service, and improving coordination with the State Attorney's Office.

Recommendations included increased transitional housing, job support, and case management. The committee discussed the possibility of adopting a 'housing first' model and expanding life skills programs.

Food insecurity is a growing issue due to rising food costs and reduced funding. The 'Better Together' initiative, led by Broward Health and Memorial, was recognized as the leading collaborative body addressing this issue. The committee agreed on the need to streamline and centralize countywide food assistance coordination.

Committee members noted that many residents are unaware of available services. Traditional outreach methods such as fairs and flyers were found to be ineffective. Recommendations included leveraging local TV/radio, faith-based organizations, school partnerships, sports events, and social media for broader engagement.

Motion

Motion: Approval of a letter of support from the board for additional funding of \$500,000 for Behavioral Health services.

First: Joel Smith

Second: Traci Schweitzer

Declaration of Conflict: None.

Discussion: None.

Result: Passed.

IV. Section Administrator's Report- Dr. Tiffany Hill- Howard-

A weeklong Service Delivery Model (SDM) training hosted by Children's Services with our currently funded providers. Topics included standardizing service quality, clarifying roles, promoting collaboration, and sharing best practices. Feedback was positive, and future sessions will continue under the department's new mission, vision, and values rebranding initiative

Year 1 of the Baker Act Alternative Pilot concluded across nine schools. Nine successful non-traumatic transports occurred (seven from Cross Creek, two from Whispering Pines). Plans were discussed to expand the pilot based on updated school data, identifying higher-need sites. Committee members emphasized the importance of ethical implementation and cross-agency coordination (School Board, BBHC, Henderson, DCF).

Motion

Motion: Extend the meeting by 5 minutes

First: Maria Juarez Stouffer

Second: Traci Schweitzer

Declaration of Conflict: None.

Discussion: None.

Result: Passed.

V. Public Comments- None.

VI. Good of the Order- None.

VII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 am.

The next Needs Assessment Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 5, 2025, at 9:00 A.M. at 115 S. Andrews Avenue, A337, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Service Category	Description	Eligibility	Unduplicated Clients	Funding amount	Funders
At- Risk	Behavioral Health and Intervention	<p>Services provided to children and youth experiencing emotional or behavioral disturbances that require therapeutic and/or intervention services to stabilize functioning at home, in school, and their communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health issues ranging from impairment in functioning to diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorders, including Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities ("E/BD"), as defined by the current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders ("DSM"). • Current or past traumatic stress as a factor in mental health issues. • Risk factors for initial or subsequent involvement in the juvenile justice system. • History of school-based behavior interventions, such as suspensions, expulsions, and/or excessive absenteeism. • Youth who run-away from home and/or have trouble remaining in the home and who experience current or past traumatic stress. • History of involvement in the child welfare system. • Siblings ages three ("3") up to their twenty-second ("22nd") birthday of youth who are currently involved in the Juvenile Justice System. 	2972	\$7,761,813	Broward County Children's Services Administration
	Independent Living and Rental Assistance	<p>Independent Living and Rental Assistance Services ("ILRAS") intends to break the cycle of homelessness and promote independent living ("IL") for eligible Clients. ILRA provides Clients with a support network to assist them in achieving self-sufficiency and becoming productive adults.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clients are individuals ages sixteen ("16") up to their twenty-second ("22nd") birthday (or to the twenty-third ("23rd") birthday for those youth who have been in foster care). • Youth with gender identification and/or sexual orientation/Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning ("LGBTQ+") status. • Youth at-risk or involved with the juvenile justice system. • Clients must be Broward County residents. • Clients must be eighteen ("18") years or older and experiencing homelessness. • Clients under eighteen ("18") can only receive Independent Living Skills Instruction and temporary Shared Housing Space services (with consent from a legal guardian). • Who age out of or do not opt to remain in the foster care system. • To receive Rent Payment, Clients must have household incomes below fifty percent ("50%") of Area Median Income ("AMI"). • Who are experiencing homelessness under U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") categories one ("1") through four ("4"), as identified in the HSD Provider Handbook for Contracted Service Providers ("Handbook"). • Youth who are survivors of human trafficking, as defined by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, and assessed as ready to live independently with supportive services. 	51	\$495,000	Broward County Children's Services Administration
	Youth Economic Stability (ECOSTA)	<p>ECOSTA services must focus on assisting youth with obtaining knowledge and understanding that leads to economic stability and job/employment experiences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Education-Literacy Training Clients are middle or high-school-aged youth. • Work Experience Clients are middle or high-school-aged youth. • Supported Employment Clients are ages sixteen ("16") up to their twenty-second ("22nd") birthday and who are currently or have been involved with the juvenile justice system within the past four ("4") years. 	70	\$282,132	Broward County Children's Services Administration
	Youth Emergency Shelter	<p>Youth Emergency Shelter and Supportive Services (YESS) is short-term care for youth and young adults who are at risk of involvement or concurrently multisystem involved in the child welfare system, the juvenile justice system, and/or the behavioral health system, while also experiencing or at risk of experiencing housing instability or disruption.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have trouble remaining in the home. • Have run away from home. • At-risk for initial or subsequent involvement in juvenile justice or child welfare system. • Presenting with maladaptive behavior(s) (i.e., aggressiveness, domestic violence, defiance). • Have multi-system involvement. • Have multiple school behavioral infractions that make the youth vulnerable of becoming unhoued. • Be experiencing homelessness. • Must have a household income that does not exceed 400% of the federal poverty level. • Be uninsured or underinsured. • Have no other means of funding to receive Youth Emergency Shelter and Supportive Services. • Documentation of Eligibility: Provider must verify Client's financial and program eligibility for treatment prior to Client receiving services. 	N/A	\$278,782	Broward County Children's Services Administration
Early Childhood/ Childcare	Court Supervision Drop-In Childcare	<p>Drop-In Childcare Services, as funded by HSD, provides safe, nurturing childcare supervision for children whose parents, legal caregivers, or other authorized custodial representatives (collectively referred to as "Caregivers") with no other options for childcare and are required to attend domestic violence court proceedings at the Broward County Main Courthouse ("Courthouse").</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clients are children aged six ("6") months to thirteen ("13") years who are the victims of domestic violence or whose Caregivers are the victims of domestic violence; are involved in domestic violence court proceedings at the Courthouse, and have no other options for childcare while attending the court proceedings related to the domestic violence incident. • Client's Caregivers must have household incomes that do not exceed 400% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Information regarding the Poverty Guidelines may be found in the Health and Human Services ("HHS") Poverty Guidelines. • Clients or Client's Caregivers must be required to attend any court proceedings related to a domestic violence incident at the Courthouse. 	219	\$115,000	Broward County Children's Services Administration
	Early Learning Coalition		2219	\$3 Million	Broward County Children's Services Administration

Special Needs

Advocacy	<p>Advocacy Services ("Advocacy") refers to speaking in favor of, recommending, arguing for a cause, or supporting, defending, or pleading on behalf of Clients with special needs and their families. Advocacy must provide direct family support activities and/or family training to ensure easy and transparent access to information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clients are individuals ages three ("3") up to their twenty-second ("22nd") birthday. • Clients who experience mental health issues ranging from impairment in functioning to diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorders, including Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities ("E/BD") as defined by the current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders ("DSM"). Current or past traumatic stress may be a factor in mental health issues. • Clients who have a disability as defined by the Individual with Disability Education Act ("IDEA"), Section 300.8. Providers are responsible for ensuring that the Client meet the requirements of IDEA, which include those whose need: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or a combination of mental or physical impairments. b. Is manifested before age eighteen ("18"). c. Is likely to continue indefinitely. d. Results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity: self-care; receptive and expressive language; learning; mobility; self-direction; and capacity for independent living. e. Reflects the need for a combination and sequence of special interdisciplinary or generic care, treatment, or other services beyond that generally required by children, which are of extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated. 	337 \$1,066,302.00	Broward County Children's Services Administration
Respite Care with Enrichment	<p>Respite Care provides parents, legal caregivers, or other authorized custodial representatives (collectively referred to as "Caregivers") of children with special needs with short-term childcare services that offer temporary relief, improve family stability, and reduce the risk of abuse or neglect.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clients are individuals ages three ("3") up to their twenty-second ("22nd") birthday. • Clients have a disability as defined by the Individual with Disability Education Act ("IDEA", Section 300.8. Providers are responsible for ensuring that the Client meets the requirements of IDEA, which includes those whose needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or a combination of mental or physical impairments. b. Is manifested before age eighteen ("18"). c. Is likely to continue indefinitely. d. Results in substantial functional limitations in three ("3") or more of the following areas of major life activity: self-care; receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction, and capacity for independent living. e. Reflects the need for a combination and sequence of special interdisciplinary or generic care, treatment, or other services beyond those that children generally require, which are of extended duration and individually planned and coordinated. • Developmental delay in cognition, language, or physical development. • Physical or genetic anomalies associated with a developmental disability. 	368 \$3,092,709	Broward County Children's Services Administration
Medical Care Support	<p>Medical Care Support is a medical home model that delivers advanced primary care with the goal of addressing and integrating high-quality health promotion, acute care, and chronic condition management a planned, coordinated and family-centered manner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clients are not eligible for services through private insurance, Medicaid, Florida Healthy Kids, State of Florida funding, or any other third-party reimbursement mechanism. Clients must be screened for eligibility based on the current Federal Poverty Guidelines. • Clients meet at least one of the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or a combination of mental and physical impairments. • Is manifested before age eighteen ("18"). • Is likely to continue indefinitely. • Results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity: self-care; receptive and expressive language; learning; mobility; self-direction; and capacity for independent living. • Reflects the need for a combination and sequence of special interdisciplinary or generic care, treatment, or other services beyond that required by children generally, which are of extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated. • Developmental Disability includes intellectual disabilities, autism, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, spina bifida, and neurological impairments where the above criteria are met and may include special medical conditions related to the disabilities. • High risk - Children or youth who have one or more of the following characteristics and who require services in an amount beyond that required by children and youth generally: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developmental delays in cognition, language, or physical development. • Physical or genetic anomalies associated with developmental disabilities. 	346 \$832,997	Broward County Children's Services Administration