



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
Minutes June 7, 2023

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 A.M.

Committee Members in attendance: Robert Mayersohn, Monica King, and Joel Smith in person. Dr. Andrea Keener and Paige Patterson-Hughes joined via Teams.

Committee Members absent: Dan Schevis and Evan Goldman.

Staff members in attendance: Cassandra Evans, Assistant Director of Community Partnerships Division (CPD), Sandra Meza Hernandez Children Services Administration (CSA). Debra Lamb (CSA) joined via Teams.

II. Approval of minutes

Approval of February 1, March 1, and May 3, 2023, Needs Assessment Committee meeting minutes.

Motion: To approve the February 1st, March 1st, and May 3, 2023, Needs Assessment Committee minutes as presented by staff.

First: Joel Smith

Second: Paige Patterson-Hughes

Declaration of Conflict: None

Discussion: None

Result: Passed

III. Chair Report

Providers presentations: (refer to attached provider presentations)

ARC Broward, Inc. presentation by Julie Price, President/CEO and Shawn Preston, Vice President of Children's Services.

Monica King recognized ARC for having a wonderful reputation and thanked Shawn publicly for giving directions and solutions that meets the needs of families. Monica asked if all the respite

care is provided at the facility or at home? Shawn Preston confirmed that their contract allows ARC to provide both options of services.

Robert Mayersohn asked what the referral process is and what is happening with those other kids, if there is a system in place that makes sure that we are helping the other kids in that family be successful as well. Shawn mentioned that if there is a way to include the siblings in the in-home respite, that would be amazing to those families in need.

ARC raised a concern over the County's cap on hours per family. ARC is CARF accredited. The National Standards on Respite Care recommend additional hours. County requested that information be provided to staff as they prepare for the upcoming RFP. There was also discussion around the requirement to continually validate a diagnosis and/or update Service Goals. The population ARC serves have diagnoses that are permanent and will not change or improve. There was also a discussion related to the amount of manual reporting required outside of SAMIS.

Chair Mayersohn thanked providers for presenting information and addressing the needs of respite that will help the Committee make decisions towards the CSA's new strategic plan.

Cassandra mentioned that as a prelude of the strategic plan, CSA taking a whole child approach, and the Consultant Q-Q will facilitate the strategic plan meeting on Friday [June 9th].

Ann Storck Center (ASC) presentation by Pat Murphy, CEO and Cathea Comiskey, Chief Operating Officer.

Robert Mayersohn asked if Ann Storck Center had looked for funding through other grants or sources but the County? Cathea Comiskey confirmed that they are in the negotiation process for some extra funding for general advocacy services that will allow them to continue with those services. When necessary, ASC refers to other agencies when all the general advocacy units are exhausted.

Chair Mayersohn asked ASC what is the wage average for an advocate and for respite working for ARC? ASC pays for an advocate \$24 - \$25 an hour. ARC, \$15-\$17 per hour. ARC also raised concern on the limit the County placed on the number of hours per family. They also similarly mentioned challenges with data reporting and SAMIS.

Cassandra congratulated ASC on employing advocates with lived experience.

Legal Aid Service of Broward County presentation by Marissa Dass, Supervision Attorney of the Education Legal Rights Project (ELRP).

Monica King asked Legal Aid if they have any challenges to which Marissa Dass replied that every client is unique, and their needs are different. Legal Aid also raised a concern over the 30 hour cap to serve families. Chair Mayersohn asked what the perfect average number of hours would be. Ms. Dass replied that it is a hard question to answer because every case is different,

but she would approximate 200 hours per client per year. That would run the length of the entire case cycle.

Marissa Dass replied to Cassandra Evans' question that Broward County is the only funding source that Legal Aid has for the Educational Rights Program. And that funding has been incredibly valuable for the provision of a much-needed service to children.

Providers also raised the challenge of getting responses from their Contract Managers and the consistency of those responses

Cassandra Evans informed that UCO, Parent 2 Parent and YWCA presentations were postponed by providers to a later date.

IV. Section Administrator's Report

FY24 RFP – Supported Employment Services

CPD Assistant Director Evans informed all the FY24 RFP for supported employment services had closed. The Children Services section has completed the final interview process for 2 applicants, and the internal review for a funding recommendation is in progress.

CSA YTD FY 23 Utilization update and Contract Reallocation Recommendations.

Cassandra Evans presented the utilization report as of April 30th. The utilization is 43.63% of the expected 58.33%.

Chair Mayersohn requested Cassandra a copy of the slides to be sent to the Board members.

Cassandra confirmed that the mid-year contract reallocations recommendations will go before the County Commissioners Board on June 13th, with an effective date of May 1st.

Ms. Evans provided a membership update: Commissioner Udine was appointed on June 6, 2023, Ms. Marilyn Moskowitz, appointed by Commissioner Bogen, has completed her orientation; and Ms. Brenda Fam, appointed by the School Board, will complete her orientation this month. The Department of Juvenile Justice hired Teves Bush as the Chief Probation Officer, so Ms. Evans will follow-up on his CSB application.

Chair Mayersohn thanked the providers for participating in the NAC meeting, which helps the Board and staff understand the needs of the children and the needs of the providers.

V. Public Comments

None

VI. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn at 10:39 A.M.

First: Monica King
Second: Joel Smith.
Declaration of Conflict: None
Discussion: None

The next Needs Assessment Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 2, 2023, at 9:00 A.M.