

Minutes
Children and Families Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 10, 2017
New Smyrna Beach Public Library
1001 S. Dixie Freeway
New Smyrna Beach, Florida

Board Members Present

Dr. Mary Bruno, Chair
Dr. Kadie Hayward Mullins, Vice-Chair
Karen Bagley
Maria Mills-Benat
Eddie Molina

Staff Present

Diana Phillips, Manager,
Housing and Grants Administration
Corry Brown
Jill Marcum

Dr. Bruno called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and Corry Brown called the roll. Ms. Brown noted that Marjorie Johnson had advised that she would be absent due to an appointment. There was a quorum. Additional county staff present at the meeting included J. Giffin Chumley, Assistant County Attorney and Kathy Williams, Procurement Manager.

Public Participation

Julie Shaw, Chief Executive Officer for DisAbility Solutions, Inc., discussed physical accessibility at emergency shelters. She noted denial of services, lack of training, and the perception of discrimination. Ms. Shaw discussed occurrences she was aware of where clients were rejected from homeless shelter services due to having a caregiver. She stated that as a Title II entity the county must examine relationships with outside agencies.

Item 1- Presentation by Domestic Abuse Council, Inc. and the House Next Door

Dr. Bruno noted that there have been issues that the board has been kept informed of between the Domestic Abuse Council and the House Next Door. She invited both organizations to come forward and present information, with a maximum of ten minutes allotted each.

Angie Pye, Chief Executive Officer for Domestic Abuse Council, Inc., discussed at length the history of the original contract between the two agencies, proposed changes to reporting, billing, pre- and post-test requirements of children served, and communication that had occurred between the agencies to resolve issues. Ms. Pye concluded by stating that they cannot come to terms with what the end result should look like and they would like it to be reviewed to a third party.

Gail Hallmon, Operations Director for the House Next Door, discussed at length the history of monitoring, meetings and communications that had occurred between the two agencies. Steve Sally, Executive Director, discussed specific billing, site visits, and emails that had taken place. He concluded by stating that they decided to reduce the Domestic Abuse Council's funding by seven twelfths because they were seven months in to the contract and there are no valid expenses. Their plan calls to redistribute those funds.

Dr. Bruno stated that these presentations were at the request of both organizations and she requested that the board hear from the attorney to clarify what action they can or cannot take.

Giffin Chumley, Assistant County Attorney, stated that CFAB is an advisory board; they do not have the power to approve a contract. He noted that the House Next Door is the county's contractor and must meet the requirements, they are allowed to subcontract and they administer contracts with subcontractors. Mr. Chumley stated that the House Next Door has taken action that they feel is prudent because they are ultimately responsible for fulfilling the requirements of the contract, the most the board can do is recommend changes to the master contract to Volusia County Council.

Dr. Bruno asked Diana Phillips to explain to the board the process required for the transfer of funds discussed by Mr. Sally. Ms. Phillips stated that the contract does allow the movement of funds. She read the section of the contract that refers to the requirements of a funds transfer aloud, which noted the different transfer levels and their corresponding approval level within the county.

Dr. Bruno gave board members an opportunity to provide input, no board members wished to speak on the topic. Dr. Bruno clarified that she believes they all want to see these services continue and it appears that the board has no power to take action to resolve the issues. She expressed hope that the issues can be resolved and thanked the agencies. Dr. Bruno clarified that although she had previously expressed a potential conflict of interest as her daughter was on the board of the Domestic Abuse Council, that conflict is no longer present as her daughter is no longer serving on that board.

Item 2- Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from April 11, 2017 was made by Dr. Mullins. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mills-Benat and passed unanimously.

Item 3- History of the RSQ process – Chair's Report

Dr. Bruno briefly reviewed an informational RSQ presentation that was originally presented to Volusia County Council on January 6, 2011. She provided board members with the history of the RSQ process. She explained the transition from the previous grant process, needs assessment, workshops, results, categories, and RFPs.

Item 4- Identify risk factors relating to the RSQ service category for basic needs services - accessibility to emergency or transitional shelters and Item 5- Develop the scope(s) of work relating to the RSQ service category for basic needs services - accessibility to emergency or transitional shelters

The board reviewed the four agency survey responses that were received from DisAbility Solutions, Family Renew Community, Volusia Flagler County Coalition for the Homeless (VFCCH), and Domestic Abuse Council regarding what they felt the risk factors and scopes of work should be. Dr. Bruno noted that the charge of the board is to define the risk factors associated to the service category. She referenced the data from the Community Snapshot document relating to Volusia County.

Ms. Bagley noted that transitional and emergency shelter are very different, which makes it difficult to write, she asked if it was possible to split the category. Ms. Phillips clarified that the two categories were combined because of the need for collaboration. Ms. Bagley explained the dilemma with scopes of work specifically as what can be tracked adequately is so different. Ms. Phillips described that this is identified in the service delivery plan submitted by agencies responding to the Request for Proposals (RFP). Ms. Phillips gave the example of VFCCH as a lead agency that receives very little money from the contract, but is very experienced at bringing agencies together to collaborate.

Dr. Bruno asked if case management is a risk factor that needs to be looked at, if agencies are not being provided enough funding. Dr. Mullins identified six possible risk factors based on the agency feedback received: lack of ADA compliant shelters, lack of case management, lack of transportation, lack of economic empowerment, lack of affordable housing, and lack of skills or education. Dr. Bruno reminded the board that the category currently has \$88,000, and that is not enough money for broad risk factors. The board discussed the definition of case management as a direct service and how to define it more specifically. Ms. Phillips noted that they could specify types of case management for vulnerable populations, such as domestic violence victims and youth aging out of foster care. The board discussed vulnerable populations and how agencies would define these populations in their service delivery plan.

Dr. Bruno mentioned that the board may want to continue to look at all the service categories, as things have changed since they were originally identified. Ms. Phillips explained that lead agencies are generally asked annually to informally submit any requests for changes they feel may be necessary.

Dr. Bruno asked for clarification regarding the proposed risk factor of lack of accessibility. The board discussed the need for training and general accessibility to the spaces. Ms. Phillips noted other federal funding sources that may be available for shelter renovations, Emergency Solutions Grant and Community Development Block Grant. Ms. Bagley noted the related need for training relating to domestic violence. Dr. Bruno volunteered to work with staff to summarize the risk factors and scopes of work of work based on the items discussed, and have it sent out to the board. She reviewed what had been discussed so far: ADA accessibility training, case management for vulnerable populations, economic development empowerment and transportation.

The board discussed transportation provided by Votran and what is included in the current service category for seniors. The board continued to discuss whether literacy training and daycare were provided in other categories already. Ms. Bagley asked if those in emergency shelters had access to the childcare services.

Julie Shaw, Chief Executive Officer for DisAbility Solutions, Inc., stated that a lot can be done regarding ADA that does not cost any money. She volunteered her agency to do a walkthrough of facilities.

Mark Geallis, Executive Director of Halifax Urban Ministries, spoke about transportation issues his agency faces. He stated that they pay full price for bus passes and it is a huge concern. Mr. Geallis also expressed concern with the shift in federal funds since the original evaluation in 2011. HUD no longer funds shelters, instead focusing on rapid re-

housing. Additionally, Mr. Geallis noted that clients that move in to their own home immediately become ineligible for the childcare services they were receiving previously.

Angie Pye, Chief Executive Officer for Domestic Abuse Council, Inc., asked if the board was only discussing the one service category relating to basic needs services - accessibility to emergency or transitional shelters. The board clarified that this was the case. Ms. Pye also noted that domestic violence shelters were also impacted by the shift in federal funds discussed by Mr. Geallis. She asked that the board consider the differences between domestic violence shelters and traditional emergency shelters and transitional housing.

Ms. Mills-Benat asked if the bus pass issue can be looked in to, if there is anything that can be done. Ms. Phillips stated that the issue can be brought up to the Division Director. Dr. Bruno expressed a desire to have agencies make presentations to the board throughout the year to explain what they do and what challenges are being faced. Ms. Bagley asked Ms. Pye how the issue of safety would be addressed. Ms. Pye and Mr. Geallis discussed safety planning; the board discussed how this relates to case management.

Kathy Williams, Procurement Manager, and the board discussed the necessary timeline in order to have a revised service category in place for the 2017/18 fiscal year. A motion was made by Dr. Mullins to accept the risk factors and scopes of work that will be drafted and finalized at the next meeting to be held on June 26, 2017. The motion was seconded by Dr. Bruno and approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:18 p.m.

NOTICE UNDER THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (TITLE II)

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the County of Volusia ("County") will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities. Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of County, should contact the office of the County's ADA Title II Coordinator, Mr. George Baker, at (386) 248-1760 as soon as possible but no later than 2 business days before the scheduled event or meeting. This paragraph shall likewise apply to written requests by a physically handicapped person needing a special accommodation to attend a public meeting in accordance with section 286.26, Florida Statutes.

A copy of the County's Notice under the Americans with Disabilities Act (Title II) can be obtained at <http://www.volusia.org/ada> or requested from the County's ADA Title II Coordinator at the telephone number listed above.