

Minutes
Children and Families Advisory Board Meeting
Tuesday July 11, 2017
Historic County Courthouse
125 W. New York Avenue
DeLand, Florida

Board Members Present

Dr. Mary Bruno, Chair
Dr. Kadie Hayward Mullins, Vice-Chair
Karen Bagley
Marjorie Johnson
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. Marjorie Johnson was not present at the time of roll, however she was present for most of the meeting. There was a quorum.

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Item 1 – Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) history

Diana Phillips reviewed an informational presentation regarding the history and process involved with the Justice Assistance Grant. Ms. Phillips presented the history of Edward Byrne, use of funds, types of participants, allocation information, eligible applicants, program development, and application requirements. Ms. Phillips reminded the board that the 2017-18 allocations had not yet been received, and the board would be asked to determine how staff would adjust funding if the actual allocation received differed from that of the estimates.

Karen Bagley asked if organizations can receive both direct JAG funding and county JAG funds. Ms. Phillips clarified that this would not occur.

Item 2 – JAG agency presentations

Two agencies provided an overview of the proposed programs for fiscal year 2017-18.

Gail Hallmon, Operations Director for the House Next Door, discussed the Success by Design program which provides services to youth identified as “at-risk.” Ms. Hallmon explained that the program is school based and parent involvement is required.

Eddie Molina asked if they agency had issues with the parent involvement requirement. Ms. Hallmon stated that they only had issues with the requirement once in a while, she noted that their good reputation in the community helps.

Maria Mills-Benat asked how they ensure that children attend their program if the children have been identified as not attending school. Ms. Hallmon noted again that the family involvement requirement helps with that concern.

Marjorie Johnson asked if they had groups or workshops. Ms. Hallmon stated that they only work with parents one-on-one, however the children do work in groups.

Ms. Bagley asked if the agency planned to expand to other schools besides Southwestern. Ms. Hallmon described a similar program at another school, but stated that they did not have the funds to expand the JAG program. Ms. Bagley also asked if they had follow up after the children moved on to high school. Ms. Hallmon stated that the follow up was done informally due to the lack of funding that would be needed to complete true evaluations of long-term results.

Ms. Johnson asked Ms. Hallmon to clarify her title and how long she had been with The House Next Door, she stated that she is the Operations Director and has been with the agency since 1989.

Jennifer Stephenson, Senior Director of Outpatient Services for Stewart Marchman Act Behavioral Healthcare, described the drug court program and funding being requested. Ms. Stephenson explained the proven success of the program historically and the demographics. She stated that 75% of program graduates have no new felony convictions within two years and 60% of participants are women.

Ms. Bagley asked why the funding requested was less than what was received last year. Ms. Stephenson explained that they evaluated all program costs and funding sources and wanted to be good stewards of county funds, she did state that if additional funds are offered they are able to accept them.

Ms. Johnson asked about the organization's partners. Ms. Stephenson stated they had several partners including court supervisors, judges, law enforcement and housing partners.

Item 3 – JAG funding for fiscal year 2017-18

Dr. Bruno requested that board members pass their completed score sheets in to be tallied. Dr. Bruno explained that they would set a minimum score and identify if any applications do not meet the minimum. The board discussed the high scores received by both applications and determined that no minimum score needed to be set.

Dr. Bruno stated that the board would discuss and establish a funding scenario, taking in to consideration the possibility of additional or reduced allocations received.

Dr. Mullins suggested that any additional funds received beyond the estimated amount be distributed proportionately. Ms. Bagley asked if that would be a hardship on the agencies or if they would be able to find a use of funds. Dr. Bruno stated that this had happened in the past, and the agencies were able to use the funds. The board discussed possible concerns with proportionately decreasing funds if the allocation is less than estimated.

Dr. Mullins made a motion to distribute additional funds proportionately between the agencies. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mills-Benat and passed unanimously.

Discussion ensued among the board regarding the possibility of reduced funding. Ms. Mills-Benat asked if this had to be decided right now. Ms. Phillips described the potential of a quick turnaround time being required by FDLE once the allocation is known. Ms. Phillips suggested that the board come back to make a decision if the allocation is 50% more or less than estimated.

Dr. Mills-Benat made a motion that the board come back to make a new funding decision if the allocation received is reduced by at least 40% or increased by at least 50% from that of the current estimate. The motion was seconded by Ms. Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Bagley made a motion that if the allocation received was less than the current estimate, but a reduction of less than 40%, the reduction to each agencies funding would be calculated proportionately based on their current percentage of funding. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mullins. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 4 – Review of proposed changes to risk factors and scopes of work received from RSQ lead agencies

Dr. Bruno asked if the board had any discussion regarding the proposed changes to risk factors and scopes of work received. There was no discussion from the board or staff.

Ms. Bagley made a motion to accept the proposed changes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mills-Benat. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion by board members of matters not on the agenda

Ms. Bagley asked if the date had been set for lead agency presentations. Staff clarified that two dates had been set, and they had not yet heard back from all agency to determine if both dates were needed. Staff distributed a current meeting schedule to the board members. Dr. Mullins thanked the agencies for the quality of their applications.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:14 p.m.

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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.

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