



**Minutes  
Children and Families Advisory Board  
Tuesday, August 11, 2020  
Volusia County Council Chambers  
123 W. Indiana Ave., DeLand**

**Board Members**

Carrie Baird, Vice-Chair  
Karen Bagley  
Dr. Mary Bruno  
Dr. Joyce Cusack  
Marjorie Johnson  
Dr. Tammy Ryan  
Peter Migner

**Staff**

Carmen Hall, Community Assistance Director  
Diana Phillips, Operations Manager  
Brittany Louis, Grants Planner  
Edina Toth, Grants Coordinator

Interim Chair, Carrie Baird, called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. Attendance was recorded for all board members and participants attending remotely. Dr. Cusack and Dr. Ryan attended the meeting remotely. Marjorie Johnson had advised staff that she would be unable to attend the meeting and was not present. There was a quorum.

**Public Participation**

1. Dixie Morgese, Executive Director for the Healthy Start Coalition of Flagler & Volusia Counties spoke briefly about the agency's experience with the recent RSQ solicitation for the Family Support and Services category. Ms. Morgese shared some of the agency's history as an applicant and recipient of funding through the Children and Families Advisory Board (CFAB). Ms. Morgese felt that the recent changes to the service categories had resulted in a lot of unfortunate competition among the agencies. She advised that the day before the RSQ proposal was due she found out that Healthy Start was not included as part of the proposal for the Family Support and Services category. She stated she feared the loss of funding would have a negative impact on the agency's ability to continue to provide services during the ongoing pandemic. Due to this, she made a formal request to submit an alternate proposal even though the deadline for submission had passed. Copies of the letter Ms. Morgese prepared regarding the situation were provided to the board members.

Dr. Bruno asked if there was a reason Healthy Start did not submit their own proposal and Ms. Morgese advised that it was not conceivable for the agency to submit their own proposal within 24 hours, which was when she found out that Healthy Start would not be included in the proposal.

Dr. Bruno followed up and asked if it was Healthy Start's intent to submit a proposal for the Family Support and Services category as a lead agency. Ms. Morgese advised that no, that was not their intent. Healthy Start initially believed they would participate as a subcontractor with The House Next Door who would apply as the lead for the proposal. Healthy Start submitted an executive summary to The House Next Door about two weeks before the proposal was due and was informed that Early Learning Coalition would apply as the lead agency instead. The House Next Door advised Ms. Morgese that DJ Lebo from Early Learning Coalition would call her to coordinate with the partnering agencies for the proposal. Ms. Morgese advised that when she hadn't heard from Early Learning Coalition she reached out to Ms. Lebo. Healthy Start was then able to participate in a video meeting regarding the proposal. Ms. Morgese stated that she didn't hear anything after that meeting and that the day before the proposal was due, Ms. Lebo sent an email stating that Early Learning Coalition had decided not to include Healthy Start in their funding proposal.

2. Nancy Norman, Executive Director for Atlantic Center for the Arts, provided a brief update on the agency's Creative Caregiving program. This is Atlantic Center for the Arts first time applying for contingency funding. Their program focuses completely on arts and wellness and how to reconnect with your loved one.
3. William Hinebaugh, Executive Director for the Volusia Literacy Council, provided a brief update on the agency's Adult Literacy program. This program teaches clients how to read, write, how to speak English and how to prepare to get their GED.

Karen Bagley asked if the agency does a lot of their work at schools including universities. Mr. Hinebaugh advised, no, they don't, but they do have space available at Daytona State, Bethune Cookman and UCF for tutoring. The agency utilizes the public libraries frequently for tutoring and with the ongoing pandemic, has had to make a lot of their services available virtually.

Ms. Bagley also asked if the agency lost a lot of their volunteer base and how much more it costs to increase their use of technology based services during the pandemic. Mr. Hinebaugh advised that they have asked a lot of their elderly volunteers to not volunteer in person for their safety and have had some younger volunteers fill in. In addition, the agency has invested several thousand dollars into new and additional technology in order to continue providing services.

4. DJ Lebo, Chief Executive Officer of the Early Learning Coalition of Flagler & Volusia spoke briefly regarding the RSQ Family Support and Services category. Ms. Lebo started off by saying that she agreed with Ms. Morgese that change is hard. She advised there was a virtual meeting held on July 1, 2020 that Carrie, Healthy Start's CFO was involved in. During this meeting, Carrie advised that they would submit for two positions as part of the agency's portion of the proposal. Ms. Lebo advised that she recommended Healthy Start submit for something different and that she did not think what they were proposing would be a good fit. Ms. Lebo also acknowledged that she only told Ms. Morgese that Healthy Start's proposed program would not be a good fit for the proposal on the day before the RSQ was due. Ms. Lebo stated that Early Learning Coalition did offer additional and different funding opportunities to Healthy Start because they did not want the agency to be excluded completely, but Ms. Morgese

did not take them up on the other funding opportunities. Ms. Lebo feels that Early Learning Coalition did their best to include pre-natal activities and Healthy Start in the proposal.

There were no public participation requests submitted from the participants attending the meeting remotely.

### **Item 1 – Minutes**

Ms. Baird requested a correction on the minutes to add Peter Migner to the list of board members. Dr. Bruno made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2020 meeting with Ms. Baird's correction. Mr. Migner seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Item 2 – Contingency Funding for FY 2020/21**

There were no voting conflicts among the board members with any of the contingency applicants. Mr. Migner disclosed that his son had participated in services offered by Atlantic Center for the Arts and Dr. Bruno disclosed that she had volunteered with Food Brings Hope.

Lengthy discussion ensued among the board on whether or not each applicant fell within the scope of currently funded RSQs in order to determine whether the applicant should be excluded from recommended funding for contingency.

The board voted that they would consider the following applicants for contingency funding: Easterseals, VCan2020, Volusia Literacy Council, Atlantic Center for the Arts, and YMCA.

There was a tie vote on whether or not to consider Atlantic Center for the Arts and the board decided to consider them for funding.

Prior to voting on whether or not to consider the YMCA for contingency funding, the board voted to accept the YMCA's late application.

The board voted not to consider Outreach Community Care Network for contingency funding due to concerns that other county funding may be available for this type of program.

Once the board identified which applicants they would consider for contingency funding, the board set a minimum score. While board scores were being recorded by staff, the board discussed the staff scoring on the evaluation elements. Ms. Baird advised that the question on the evaluation elements on monitoring was heavily weighted and presented a disadvantage to new and existing agencies. Dr. Bruno made a motion to exclude the monitoring question as a part of the scoring. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bagley and passed unanimously. All applicants received a score of 0 for this category.

After some discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Cusack to set the minimum score at 2.55 or 43%. The motion was seconded by Dr. Bruno and the motion passed. The agencies that scored 2.55 and above were VCan2020, YMCA, Easterseals and Volusia Literacy Council.

The board proposed the following funding recommendations for FY 20/21:

- VCan2020 - \$7,360
- YMCA - \$10,000

- Easterseals - \$30,000
- Volusia Literacy Council - \$32,207

A motion was made by Dr. Bruno to approve the proposed funding recommendations. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bagley and passed unanimously.

### **Item 3 – RSQ Proposals for FY 2020/21**

Kathy Williams, Procurement Manager, facilitated the portion of the meeting on the RSQ proposals for FY 2020/21. The five RSQ solicitations and the applicants for each were as follows:

- 20-SQ-138KW, Services for Persons with Disabilities
  - Disability Solutions for Independent Living
  - Easterseals
- 20-SQ-139KW, Services for Seniors
  - Council on Aging
- 20-SQ-140KW, Youth Development Services
  - Boys and Girls Club
  - Derrick Collins dba Stress & Anxiety Center
- 20-SQ-141KW, Basic Needs
  - Coalition for the Homeless
- 20-SQ-142KW, Family Support and Services
  - Early Learning Coalition

All of the board members completed and submitted the conflict of interest form. There were no conflicts of interest.

The board members provided their comments to Ms. Williams on each of the proposals and how they met or did not meet the evaluation criteria.

When discussing the Family Support and Services category, Dr. Bruno expressed her hope that Early Learning Coalition and Healthy Start could find a way to work together and help each other, even if it is outside of the RSQ funding.

Ballots were completed and submitted by all board members and the following agencies were recommended for award in each category:

- 20-SQ-138KW, Services for Persons with Disabilities
  - Easterseals
- 20-SQ-139KW, Services for Seniors
  - Council on Aging
- 20-SQ-140KW, Youth Development Services

- Boys and Girls Club
- 20-SQ-141KW, Basic Needs
  - Coalition for the Homeless
- 20-SQ-142KW, Family Support and Services
  - Early Learning Coalition

A comment was received from a participant attending the meeting remotely asking if the board would be considering the request from Healthy Start to accept a late RSQ proposal submission. Ms. Williams and Ms. Phillips advised that a late submission could not be accepted for the RSQ solicitations. Ms. Phillips also suggested that staff have further discussion with upper management on this topic.

#### **Item 4 – Sickie Cell Disease Funding Update**

Edina Toth provided an update on the funding available for Sickie Cell Disease. Staff has been in contact with the Dr. Joyce Cusack Community Resource Center's administrator, Shilretha Dixon, regarding the available funding. In addition, the Northeast Florida Area health Education Center (AHEC), an agency that provides Sickie Cell education and outreach throughout Volusia County reached out expressing an interest in providing services. Both agencies are eager to participate and collaborate on providing Sickie Cell education and outreach services.

#### **Item 5 – Summer Camp FY 2019/20 Update**

Ms. Phillips provided a brief update on the FY 2019/20 summer camp program. As a result of COVID-19, four of the summer camp providers were able to extend their summer camp programs for a few additional weeks this year.

#### **Item 6 – Election of Board Chair**

The board reached a consensus to wait until there is a full board to elect the new chair and vice-chair.

#### **Item 7 – Election of Board Vice-Chair**

The board reached a consensus to wait until there is a full board to elect the new chair and vice-chair.

#### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m.