



Minutes
Children and Families Advisory Board
Tuesday, June 13, 2023
Ormond Beach Regional Library
30 S. Beach St., Ormond Beach

BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Mary Bruno, Chair
Charles Puckett, Vice-Chair
Charles Moskowitz
Joseph Hearn
Sara Howeller
Amber Marshall
Derrick Collins

STAFF

Carmen Hall, Community Assistance
Director
Maureen Sikora, Assistant County Attorney
Brittany Louis, Housing and Grants
Administration Manager
William Mollentze, Grants Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Mary Bruno called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

William Mollentze, Grants Coordinator, called the roll. Derrick Collins was not present at the time of roll call but arrived shortly after. There was a physical quorum.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Joe Sullivan, Chief Professional Officer of The Boys and Girls Club, spoke to express concerns over potential budget cuts by the Volusia County Council. Mr. Sullivan explained that he has been reaching out to families to encourage them to attend and speak at the Volusia County Council meetings to advocate for funding. He thanked the board members for their service and continuous support.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Brittany Louis, Housing and Grants Administration Manager, explained that officers may not serve in the same position for more than two consecutive years.

Joseph Hearn made a **MOTION** to elect Dr. Mary Bruno to the position of Chair. Charles Puckett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Dr. Mary Bruno made a **MOTION** to elect Charles Puckett to the position of Vice-Chair. Joseph Hearn seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 14, 2023 MINUTES

Charles Moskowitz made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes from the February 14, 2023 meeting. Charles Puckett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

FY 23/24 Contingency Funding – Agency Presentations

Chair Bruno gave an overview of the three organizations applying for contingency funds and opened the floor for discussion. Dr. Bruno asked the board for a motion to either accept or deny the late application received.

Charles Puckett made a **MOTION** to accept the late application for contingency funding from Easterseals. Sara Howeller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Chair Bruno asked each agency to give a brief presentation on the program they are applying for with contingency funding.

Allison Miller, Director of Community Partnerships for the Early Learning Coalition, gave a presentation about the Home Book Delivery Program. She explained that the program provides age-appropriate books every month for children between birth and five years old to promote early literacy. She explained the funding would mostly go toward sustaining the current program and be allocated towards expanding into three new zip codes in Volusia County.

Joseph Hearn asked Ms. Miller why the program does not currently cover all municipalities in Volusia County. Ms. Miller stated municipalities not covered by the program is because of funding restrictions and shared an example to further explain.

Ms. Howeller asked Ms. Miller how families apply to the program. Ms. Miller explained that families apply through the website and stated that the organization engages in community outreach to targeted areas with low literacy.

Ms. Howeller asked whether the program is also available for bilingual students. Ms. Miller stated that two books are mailed out each year in English and Spanish when available.

Bill Hinebaugh, Executive Director of the Volusia Literacy Council, gave a presentation on their Adult Literacy program. Mr. Hinebaugh explained the program targets those who are 16 or older to teach basic literacy with the goal of elevating participants to a ninth grade reading level. Mr. Hinebaugh explained that the program also teaches basic English as well as helps students take and pass the GED exam. He explained that the organization works mostly with volunteers and offers services to all of Volusia County at no cost to the participants.

Amber Marshall asked whether the program is administered in the Volusia County jails. Mr. Hinebaugh explained that they previously worked with inmates but had not for the past few years because of the pandemic and added that the program will likely be back in the jails soon.

Joseph Hearn asked whether the program helps individuals obtain jobs after they complete the program. Mr. Hinebaugh explained that the goal of the program is literacy,

and the organization then refers participants to providers who have those services.

Melissa Chesley, Chief Financial Officer, and Chelsey Robinson, Occupational Therapist Assistant gave a presentation on Easterseals' Float 4 Life program. Ms. Chelsey stated that the program is very beneficial for the community because drowning is the leading cause of death for children between ages 0-4 years old. Ms. Chelsey explained that the organization targets children with special needs. Ms. Chelsey explained that Float 4 Life is a developmental milestone program to teach children how to float, flip, and roll onto their backs in the water to prevent drowning.

Charles Puckett asked whether the program is available county-wide. Ms. Chelsey explained that the program serves any child within Volusia County and that they currently have pools in New Smyrna Beach and Daytona Beach.

Ms. Chesley stated they are trying to work with the YMCA to have Ms. Robinson train other professionals so multiple people are trained within the county, including the west side.

Amber Marshall asked about the outcomes and the session sizes of the program. Ms. Robinson stated that there are six sessions that are specialized for each child.

Amber Marshall asked for guidance about a conflict of interest because she has a child who qualifies for the program. Maureen Sikora, Assistant County Attorney, explained that there would be a conflict if Ms. Marshall was to vote and then apply for the program.

FY 23/24 Contingency Funding – Scoring Process

After the presentations concluded, the board recessed to allow board members time to complete their score sheets and allow county staff time to input the scores from the board members for each agency.

Charles Puckett disclosed a voting conflict with Early Learning Coalition, explaining that he is currently on their board. He completed a memorandum of voting conflict and did not vote on the organization.

Amber Marshall completed a memorandum of voting conflict for Easterseals and did not vote on the organization.

The scores for all three applying organizations were computed by the average score of all voting board members' score sheets. The total scores were displayed for the board members and attendees.

Early Learning Coalition received a score of 58 out of 60 possible points.

Volusia Literacy Council received a score of 57.86 out of 60 possible points.

Easterseals received a score of 58.17 out of 60 possible points.

Charles Puckett made a **MOTION** to set the minimum average score to 55 points. Charles Moskowitz seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed 7-0.

Chair Bruno stated that all the applications qualify for funding. Dr. Bruno explained that the total funding for the fiscal year is \$79,567 and the total amount requested is \$80,000. She further explained that the board would need to determine how to decrease the awards, so the total funding is \$79,567.

Joseph Hearn made a **MOTION** to take the difference from the Volusia Literacy Council funds and fully fund the other two organizations. The motion did not receive a second.

Sara Howeller made a **MOTION** to divide the difference evenly between the three organizations. Amber Marshall seconded the motion.

Brittany Louis explained that the awarded amounts would need to be whole numbers. The board discussed different ways to decrease the funding based on the scores received.

Charles Moskowitz made a **MOTION** to fund Easterseals at \$24,857. Joseph Hearn seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0-1. Amber Marshall did not vote due to a conflict.

Charles Moskowitz made a **MOTION** to fund Early Learning Coalition at \$14,855. Sara Howeller seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0-1. Charles Puckett did not vote due to a conflict.

Charles Moskowitz made a **MOTION** to fund Volusia Literacy Council at \$39,855. Joseph Hearn seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed 7-0.

Brittany Louis explained that county staff would need updated program goals and accomplishments from the three organizations to match their awarded funding.

Review of FY 22/23 Programs

Brittany Louis informed the board that Early Learning Coalition proposed an amendment to reallocate \$20,000 dollars of the funds from the Trauma Mental Health Counseling program administered by the House Next Door. She explained that the agency proposed to move \$10,000 dollars to the Parent Education program administered by the House Next Door and \$10,000 to the Child Protection Team administered by the University of Florida Jacksonville. She informed the board that the amendment was approved by the Community Services Director, Dona Butler, and no action was needed from the board.

Ms. Louis also gave an update on the sickle cell special contract and informed the board that the Health Department had not yet expended any of their FY 2022/23 funds but had provided information stating the funds will be expended by the end of the contract.

Brittany Louis gave an update on the Justice Assistance Grant and informed the board that The House Next Door decided not to go through with the contract and that the funds will be allocated to SMA Healthcare, Inc.

William Mollentze, Grants Coordinator, provided an update on the 2023 Summer Camp Scholarship program. Mr. Mollentze informed the board that the total number of applications received from households was nearly 1,000 which included over 1,600 children. He stated that 729 vouchers had been issued and of those, 512 vouchers are currently active.

DISCUSSION BY BOARD MEMBERS OF MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Contingency Agreement Amendment for Children's Home Society

Chair Bruno gave an overview to CFAB about Children's Home Society's request to reduce their FY 2022/23 contingency award to \$13,375 from their original award of \$20,000 because funding had not been expended.

Ernest Hamilton and Tiffany Morin from Children's Home Society gave a presentation to the board members. Ms. Morin explained that the agency had problems with hiring a security guard at the start of the program and had recently hired someone. Ms. Morin explained that not hiring a security guard has made it difficult to get families on board, but they have a family who has completed orientation and would be able to start the process.

Charles Puckett asked how many clients the agency served in the past year with the family law program. Mr. Hamilton explained that they have been unable to serve families because of not having a security guard and the inability to secure a location.

Discussion ensued at great length about the amendment and agency operations. CFAB requested monthly reports and updates from Children's Home Society for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Charles Puckett made a **MOTION** to fund Children's Home Society \$6,200 for the final quarter of the contract. Charles Moskowitz seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-1.

The board discussed how to redistribute the remaining funds to the agencies awarded contingency funding for FY 2022/23.

Charles Puckett made a **MOTION** to redistribute the remaining \$13,800 between Healthy Start, Early Learning Coalition, Easterseals, and Volusia Literacy Council. Derrick Collins seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed 6-0-1.

The board members discussed the current contingency programs' capacity for additional funding and how to divide the funds to ensure they are expended. Junior League of Daytona Beach had not yet expended any Contingency funds for the fiscal year.

Charles Puckett made a **MOTION** to allocate an additional \$3,450 in contingency funding to Healthy Start. Charles Moskowitz seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed 7-0.

Charles Puckett made a **MOTION** to allocate an additional \$3,450 in contingency funding to Volusia Literacy Council. Derrick Collins Seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed 7-0.

Charles Puckett made a **MOTION** to allocate an additional \$3,450 in contingency funding to Easterseals. Derrick Collins Seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed 7-0.

Charles Moskowitz made a **MOTION** to allocate an additional \$3,450 in contingency funding to Early Learning Coalition. Derrick Collins. The motion unanimously passed 7-0.

ITEMS FOR STAFF DISCUSSION

There were no items for staff discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:41 p.m.