

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF PALM BEACH COUNTY**  
**December 7, 2017, 4:30 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order**

Vice Chair Bean called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

Present:

Thomas Bean  
Paulette Burdick  
Vince Goodman  
Greg Langowski  
Tom Lynch  
James Martz  
Vern Melvin

Excused: Robert M. Avossa, Ed.D.; Debra Robinson, M.D.; Thomas P. Weber

A. Invocation – led by Vince Goodman

B. Pledge of Allegiance – led by Vice Chair Bean

C. Presentations

1. Presentation by The Mentor Center of Palm Beach County – Amy Blechman, Program Officer; Gary Graham, Senior Director of Mentor Initiative, United Way of Palm Beach County; Seth Bernstein, Psy.D., Senior Vice President of Community Investments, United Way of Palm Beach County

Highlights of the presentation:

- In 2012 funding for the Mentor Center was \$700,000; in 2017 funding was \$1,431,228
- In 2012 the Mentor Center served 240 youth; in 2017 it served 4,450 youth in the entire network, 769 in the CSC-funded programs; of these 769 youth served 395 were girls and 374 were boys; 433 were African American, 157 were White, and 179 were Other
- In 2012 16 programs participated in the network, 6 were funded by CSC; in 2017 31 programs participated in the network, 15 were funded by CSC
- Children of ages 3 to 18 are served, across the county, in diverse mentoring environments
- Mentor Center of PBC is the only local affiliate of National Mentoring Partnership in Florida

**Q: Please provide a success story.**

A: There had been a triple murder-suicide in Riviera Beach approximately 3 years previously, and the only surviving family member was a youth of age 14 who had witnessed his mother and two siblings killed, in addition to his stepfather's suicide. After being released from hospital the first person the youth asked for was his mentor. The youth is in the Take Stock in Children program, and will graduate High School in 2018.

**Q: Please describe what the Pre-K Mentoring project involves.**

A: It came from the Pre-K collaborative to ensure that kids in child care centers in Riviera Beach, Lake Park, and Mangonia Park would have a chance to get an edge-up on literacy, together with a mentor. Volunteers over the age of 55 visit the child care sites to mentor

kids, each mentor is assigned 4 kids, and has one hour per week with each child. The mentors help the children read, help the children through play therapy, or just sit and talk. Mentorship depends on the needs of the child, and helps them get to the next level. The program is provided in partnership with the Area Agency on Aging which provides the mentors. The Center for Child Counseling also performs consultation at the child care centers. The goal of the program is to serve 80 three and four-year olds.

**Q: Please provide another success story.**

A: The number of youth mentoring programs has been expanded from 16 programs in 2012 to 31 programs in 2017. The number of kids being served through the mentoring network had been tripled since 2012. The number of kids waiting on the wait list has been reduced from over 2,000 to 1,428, a 30% reduction.

**Q: There are 769 children served, and the funding to support that is \$1.4 million?**

A: Part of that is administration and mini-grants. The majority of it goes directly to the programs. It is \$1,861 per mentor/mentee match. The national standard for a mentor/mentee match is approximately \$2,000 per match. Mentors are volunteers, and to oversee the volunteers and ensure that they are fit to be a mentor they have to be Level 2 tested, there is a DMV check, a drug test, a TB test, 3 home visits, and 3 reference checks. Mentors have to attend quarterly training, more reference checks are conducted throughout the year, and each mentor is rescreened every three years. Administration includes case notes regarding the mentor/mentee activities throughout the year (client level data).

**Q: What about children in foster care?**

A: Project 18 through Children's Home Society is funded by United Way through community impact dollars. The Mentor Center works with Vita Nova who works with kids transitioning out of foster care.

**Q: How many are being served in foster care?**

A: 35 through Project 18, the number for Vita Nova changes.

**Q: Can we consider looking at mentors for the DJJ children?**

A: The Mentor Center met with the facility of Youth Services to see how their program could be expanded. The Palm Beach Youth Academy, a high-risk juvenile detention facility is a contracted DJJ program to serve kids in Palm Beach County but those kids are from throughout the state of Florida. There is some mentoring that could take place while the kids are in Palm Beach County to prepare them for reintegration, although it would be difficult for any continuation within other jurisdictions.

**Q: What about the facility on Gun Club Road?**

A: That is the county jail, the kids are on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor pending case resolution. They are incapacitated with regard to community access. They can only be mentored while they are in care, custody and control. Those kids may be there for a year or longer.

**Q: How are the students selected to be in the mentor program?**

A: Parents or teachers may refer them. They may go to a facility such as the Children's Home Society and are referred by the counselors there.

**Q: Please give us an example of the process.**

A: Health Mothers/Healthy Babies is notified when a teenager is pregnant in Palm Beach County, they reach out to the guidance counselor at the school, they will try to enroll the girl in the mentoring program, and the girl will be matched with a mentor.

**Q: How would you say a mentor is different than the Big Brothers Big Sisters program?**

A: That is a mentoring program.

**Q: I didn't see it listed as a partner.**

A: They are one of the 31 network programs. They are not one of the CSC funded agencies although they receive a mini-grant from the Mentor Center.

**Q: How many children in foster care?**

A: In Palm Beach County approximately 1,000.

**Q: And we're serving 35?**

A: We could take a deeper look, there are other foster care kids in some other programs (in addition to the 35) although those programs are fully funded to serve those kids. We haven't collected that information.

Important to the conversation is that many children are on the waitlist because more mentors are needed, there is a huge need. Children can be identified, but we need mentors to match them with. The Mentor Center has been working diligently to expand and recruit more mentors.

Unfortunately, many of the children on the waitlist are young black males, and there are no male mentors available to match them with. When recruitment messages are put out into the community many women hear the message and answer the call, but with men it's a little tougher.

There is an outreach coordinator in place to do more outreach activities to reach those male mentors, with more events around the county.

Many foster care kids are infants and would not be amenable to a mentor. Many are in family/relative care and so are out of Palm Beach County per the State ICPC study.

Therefore the number of 1,000 is deceptive because many of those kids are not mentor-eligible. There are many kids that are in DJJ or crossover in foster care and DJJ, that simply do not have the right personalities (mentors) available for them. We are recruiting daily through every avenue, to get folks in the community in which they live, to have role models for them.

The mini-grants are for programs that are not currently funded and are potentially serving kids in the DJJ system and other youth.

**Q: Maybe the answer is not finding individual mentors, maybe we need to look at programs in bricks-and-mortar buildings where children can come and attend.**

A: We've expanded with Boys and Girls clubs where the kids already are, a program specifically for teens.

46% of children being served are under age 9, 20% are between ages 10 to 13, and more than a third, 34% are high school age.

## 2. Update on DJJ Summer Camp – Greg Starling, Chief, Department of Juvenile Justice

Chief Starling presented details of the DJJ Summer Camp in 2017. Highlights of the presentation:

- 127 kids started out, 116 kids finished. Some did not make the cut because they had behavior issues and could not continue in the program
- Probation officers from Belle Glade, Delray Beach, Lake Worth, West Palm Beach, and Riviera Beach were tasked with developing teams for a Summer Olympics.

The Summer Olympics were held at Santa Luces High School with Track and Field, Basketball and Flag Football. Teams were formed and were identifiable with uniforms, kids had a great sense of pride in their teams.

Having 116 kids participate was a big task because of the different parts of the county being represented, with gang membership and other considerations. Kids were able to come

together and demonstrate teamwork. Every Juvenile Probation Officer was engaged not only in supervision, but in continuously supporting and encouraging their clients to be involved and entrenched. Gold, Silver and Bronze medals were awarded.

- Four college tours were conducted to Bethune Cookman University, University of Central Florida, Miami and Boca Raton. Of the 15 youth that participated only 1 got back in trouble again (July to December). Many kids had never previously left Palm Beach County.

**Q: What age group are we referring to?**

A: They are all juvenile probationers at-risk to re-offend. From age 13 to 18.

**Q: What percentage of kids in that age group go back through the JJ system?**

A: In general the rate of recidivism is greater for kids that enter the system early at age 12 (with major risk factors) rather than those who enter at age 17. This (young) recidivism would be the case unless the DJJ is able to perform exceptional intervention, ensuring that all service needs are identified, then they may be able to prevent the negative trajectory that is anticipated for these kids. They work to increase the protective factors, an example of which are the summer activities, ensuring their time is occupied wisely. If a kid attends school and is doing well at school he is less likely to re-offend.

**Q: What provision has been made to teach kids how to interview for jobs?**

A: There are numerous opportunities in the county for kids to learn how to interview for jobs. There is court administration that provides workshops. It is available to all kids, although not all kids will participate. There are workshops to prepare them for life, we use every resource at our disposal.

The Courts don't task DJJ with working on a kid's education, there is an educational liaison in every courtroom for every case that comes in. The juvenile judges are briefed on where the kids are educationally, whether they are in a program, tutoring program, etc. and they ensure that the educational liaisons meet each kid's needs. Although some juvenile probation officers (JPOs) are sometimes in schools, ensuring that the kids have a JPO right on school property, it is compartmentalized so that the educational people work on the education, and DJJ works on their piece. Everyone who is well-suited to conduct a specific task is tasked to do so, instead of them all trying to multi-task.

**Q: Many students don't fit anywhere. How do you judge a kid who doesn't fit?**

A: The conversation begins with "Where do you see yourself in 5 years, in 10 years, what do you want to accomplish?" We try to find something that we can lure the kid into what they are interested in, which will compel them to do the things we are asking them to do. We hook them up with vocational services, with the Toyota and Moran program in Deerfield where we teach them how to interview, how to deal with life's path to being responsible and working.

## 2. Minutes

A. October 26, 2017 Council Meeting

An observation was raised regarding the formatting of the Minutes, that the Minutes were difficult to follow because everything was jumbled together. It was noted that there was a lack of spacing between the different sections/topics, it was hard to know where one conversation ended and the next began. It was decided that a new format would be used.

**A motion by Goodman/Burdick to approve the Minutes of the October 26, 2017 Council meeting as presented was approved by unanimous vote.**

### 3. Public Comment – Agenda Items – N/A

### 4. Council Committees:

- Finance Committee - The Finance Committee had met earlier that day and there had not been a quorum, although one member was physically present and two members participated by telephone. The consensus of the Finance Committee was approval of the October 26, 2017 Minutes, and approval of the September 30<sup>th</sup> Financial Statements (Balance Sheet and Income Statement).

**Q: Is there a contingency amount on the Balance Sheet?**

A: Yes, it is on the Balance Sheet page at the bottom. The "Total Fund Balance" is listed as \$49,767,867.

**Q: Have we utilized any of this funding in the last two years?**

A: It has been used for approximately the past five years, it has been reduced, and the tax millage being levied for the taxpayers of Palm Beach County has consequently also been reduced.

**Q: Are all the needed personnel positions fully funded?**

A: Within CSC or within the provider agencies?

**Q: CSC.**

A: We are at 99 employees, and there is an FTE count of 104, so we are actively recruiting. Staffing is fully funded in the budget.

Budget staff and Program Performance Officers work with the agencies on a regular basis to build the budgets to ensure that CSC funds the necessary positions in order to implement the programs.

**A motion by Langowski/Burdick to approve October 26, 2017 Finance Committee Minutes and the September 30, 2017 Financial Statements, including the Finance Committee report was approved by unanimous vote.**

- Personnel Committee – no report

### 5. Consent Agenda

1. Additions, Deletions, Substitutions – N/A
2. Items to be Pulled for Discussion – Agenda item 5B(2) (Reference #4) was pulled for discussion purposes.
3. Adoption of the Consent Agenda and Walk-in Warrants List

**A motion by Burdick/Goodman to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of Agenda item 5B(2) (Reference #4), and approve the Walk-in Warrants list was approved by unanimous vote.**

A. Program

1. Resolution #17-029 Authorizing the Early Intervention Assessment Team Program – Approved by Consent

B. Business

1. Warrants List – Approved by Consent
2. Resolution # 17-028 Authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to Execute a Memorandum of Agreement for Disaster Recovery Assistance among Children's Services Councils of Florida

**Q: What service do we surrender to those organizations? How do we plan on helping them when a disaster strikes?**

A: The agreement provides a variety of ways to help other Children's Services Councils, although, as noted, no CSC has to do anything. It may be the case that Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County is not providing anything, but may be getting something from another CSC. Assistance could be in the form of office space, providing computer usage, providing staff, or providing funding with payback requirements. This agenda item is a broad agreement, and when something is to be utilized in this manner there will be a separate, specific agreement stating who will be doing what, and if funding is involved, how it will be taken care of. Although we immediately think of a disaster as a hurricane, there could be other types of disasters such as a fire, or a faulty building, which could also be covered by this agreement.

**Q: Will it be brought back to the Council with a dollar amount if it is used?**

A: Yes, if payment is to be made it will come back to the Council for approval; there is a \$500,000 contingency fund that would be available.  
If something happened to the CSC building there is insurance to cover it, although the deductible for the insurance must be paid. In the case of a disaster it could be submitted to FEMA, and in 2017 FEMA paid 90% of damages when it usually pays only 75%.

**A motion by Langowski/Burdick to approve Resolution #17-028 authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to execute the Memorandum of Agreement for Disaster Recovery Assistance and, if applicable, provide/receive mutual assistance to/from other Florida CSCs in recovering from a disaster, pursuant to the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement and any separate document memorializing the specific assistance that may be worked out between the CSCs involved in the assistance effort, was approved by unanimous vote.**

3. Proclamation Recognizing January 2018 as Mentoring Awareness Month – Approved by Consent

## 6. Non Consent Agenda

A. Business – N/A

B. For Informational Purposes Only – N/A

## 7. Walk-In Items – N/A

## 8. Chief Executive Officer's Report

1. Summer Camp Update – Summer camp scholarships are funded in collaboration with the County's Youth Services department, BRIDGES and DJJ. CSC increased funding by \$472,000 which provided the opportunity to serve 402 more children in 2017 than in 2016. Capacity for special populations (children involved in the dependency system) was also increased. There were increased efforts around academic enrichment camps focusing on math and reading, as well as opportunities for children in foster care and homeless children. The Youth Services department contracted with a Special Needs camp for the first time in 2017. The BRIDGES offered 700 summer camp scholarships to families who participated in the BRIDGES Summer Reading program. There is a chart in the CEO Report which shows how many more children were served in 2017.

**Q: Were there any children remaining on wait lists?**

A: We were able to serve all the children on the wait lists.

2. 2016 Great Ideas Initiative Update - A program highlighted from the 2016 Great Ideas initiative was a film club for teen students ages 13 and older through the Achievement Centers for Children & Families. Forty teens participated in the film club, which culminated in them producing a documentary entitled "Delray Beach: Past, Present, and Future". A premiere screening was held in September at the Spady Cultural Heritage Museum, with parents in attendance.
3. Healthy Beginnings Workforce Capacity Building - As part of the 2016 Planning Session the Council approved further exploration how to increase workforce capacity within the Healthy Beginnings system, specifically regarding capacity of mental health providers. A two-year pilot scholarship program has begun to be implemented, with a focus on increasing capacity of bi-lingual mental health providers and helping them meet licensure requirements.
4. Ongoing Strategy Review Process - The Council Planning Session will take place in June, 2018; the strategy review process is ongoing. Behavioral health has been identified as an emerging theme and a potential area of focus for refinement and expansion in the Early Childhood System of Care. The provision of mental health services may reduce expulsion in childcare and support trauma focused care (substance abuse and domestic violence). The team will prioritize research into additional mental health services and results and recommendations will be forthcoming at the Planning Session.
5. Florida Grade Level Reading - CSC was recognized by the City of Delray Beach for its work in Grade Level Reading. Marsha Guthrie was on a Birth to 22 panel in November and presented CSC's work in this area.
6. CSC's Angel Tree - Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies is the agency selected as recipient of this year's Angel Tree. We hope to fulfil wish lists for 60 children, please contact Elsa Sanchez if you would like to participate.
7. Leadership Roundtable December 11<sup>th</sup> - The Board Chairs of provider agencies will come together December 11<sup>th</sup> to celebrate our joint successes over the past year. Council members are invited to attend.

8. End of Year Staff Celebration Luncheon - The end of year staff celebration luncheon will be at the Boynton Beach Intracoastal Park Clubhouse on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Council members are invited to attend.
9. CSC Partners with United Way, CBS 12 News and Palm Beach County Food Bank - CSC partnered with the United Way, CBS 12 News and the Palm Beach County Food Bank in Project Thanksgiving to ensure the entire community enjoyed a hearty holiday meal.
10. 2018 CSC Calendar - If Council members would like more 2018 calendars to distribute, please let Elsa Sanchez, Senior Executive Assistant, know.
11. Winter Book Distribution – the CEO Report contains details about winter book distribution to schools.
12. Digital Divide – Computer Donations - CSC donated 58 Dell Desktop computers, 57 laptops, and 38 Dell docking stations to the School District of Palm Beach County. These items will be directed to Park Vista school, Seminole Ridge, and families in need of a computer.
13. CSC is Awarded the Urban League's Bell Ringer Award - The Bell Ringer Award from the Urban League was displayed.
14. Legislative Delegation in Belle Glade – At the beginning of December CEO Lisa Williams-Taylor, Ph.D., spoke in Belle Glade to the Legislative Delegation regarding the opioid crisis and substance abuse of newborns.
15. Florida Association of Marriage and Family Therapy's Student of the Year - Dr. Williams-Taylor congratulated Debbie Manigat, Program Officer, for being recognized as the Florida Association of Marriage and Family Therapy's Student of the Year.
16. 2018 Council Meeting Dates – The 2018 meeting dates are included in the CEO Report as a reminder for the upcoming year.

## 9. Legal Reports

1. Certificate of Compliance with Conflict of Interest Policy – The Certificate of Compliance with Conflict of Interest Policy form is due from each Council member by the January Council meeting; most have already been submitted.

(Later Note: by December 12<sup>th</sup> all had been submitted.)

## 10. Public Comment – Non-Agenda Items – N/A

## 11. Council Comments – N/A

## 12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

  
Vincent Goodman, Secretary

  
Lisa Williams-Taylor, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer