

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF PALM BEACH COUNTY
September 14, 2017

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chair Weber called the meeting to order at 5:14 p.m.

Present:

Paulette Burdick

Vince Goodman

Greg Langowski

Tom Lynch

Vern Melvin

Debra Robinson, M.D.

Thomas P. Weber

Excused: Robert M. Avossa, Ed.D; Thomas Bean; James Martz

A. Invocation – led by Vince Goodman

B. Pledge of Allegiance – led by Chair Weber

C. Presentations

1. New Council Member Vern Melvin

Chair Weber welcomed new Council member Vern Melvin. Mr. Melvin is the South East Regional Managing Director of the Department of Children and Families and has more than 40 years of experience in child welfare, most recently as Director of the Circuit 19 Guardian Ad Litem program.

2. Minutes

A. August 3, 2017 Council Meeting – A motion by Goodman/Langowski to approve the Minutes of the August 3, 2017 Council meeting as presented was approved by unanimous vote.

3. Public Comment – Agenda Items – N/A

4. Council Committees:

• Finance Committee

Tom Lynch stated that the Finance Committee had met, but had not had a quorum. There was consensus to approve: i) August 3, 2017 Finance Committee Minutes; ii) July 31, 2017 Financial Statements; iii) 2016/17 Budget Revision; iv) 2017/18 Budget; and v) 2017/18 Millage rate.

Vince Goodman asked whether there was a budget for any disasters. There was a small amount in contingency, but there was a large amount in surplus, a 34% contingency. Lisa Williams-Taylor, Ph.D. stated that there was \$500,000 set aside for emergencies. All providers had been

contacted to determine needs and damages (from Hurricane Irma). Some providers reported minor damage but nothing major. Agencies were working with skeleton crews to reach out to families to determine needs. Organizations would be allowed to use underexpended funds, with limits, to assist families for emergency needs such as food, water, and diapers.

Mr. Goodman asked how CSC reached out to the homeless. Dr. Williams-Taylor stated that there were different organizations that worked strictly in this area, creating affordable housing, etc. Some homeless families are serviced by some of CSC’s programs, such as pregnant mothers.

A motion by Goodman/Langowski to approve the Finance Committee Report in full was approved by unanimous vote.

- Personnel Committee – No report

5. Consent Agenda

1. Additions, Deletions, Substitutions - None
2. Items to be Pulled for Discussion – Agenda item 5A(2) (Reference #3) was pulled for discussion purposes.
3. Adoption of the Consent Agenda and Walk-in Warrants List

A motion by Lynch/Goodman to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of Agenda item 5A(2) (Reference #3), and approve the Walk-in Warrants list was approved by unanimous vote.

A. Program

1. Resolution #17-020 Authorizing United Way Hunger Relief Infrastructure and Project Support – Approved by Consent
2. Resolution #17-021 Authorizing Increase to Palm Beach State College – SEEK Scholarships and ACHIEVE Awards for FY 16/17

<p>How many people are served in the SEEK program and the ACHIEVE program, individually? Would we determine that this program is successful ?</p>	<p>CSC had asked the Institute of Excellence in Early Education at Palm Beach State College to reach out to child care centers to market the scholarships so that more practitioners use the services. SEEK is dedicated to improving the quality of Palm Beach County’s early childhood education environments through professional development, and ACHIEVE is a salary supplement, given to practitioners that were in-network and in Strong Minds early childhood centers. The number of practitioners in each program varies each month, the exact figures will be provided to you, but it is between 2,000 and 3,000.</p>
<p>How do we rank it to know that the scholarship grantee is a better teacher?</p>	<p>There are different evaluations undertaken to ensure transfer of knowledge from the classroom into practice. The evaluations being used, and how the practice itself is evaluated will be provided.</p>

<p>Is it recognizable to the school system that children coming in from these programs are better prepared?</p> <p>What curriculums are used?</p>	<p>There is an evaluation of the Strong Minds system that is currently underway, CSC currently has preliminary data, but the full evaluation will be finished in 2018-19. There are other components, such as coaching and technical assistance which are also part of Strong Minds, in addition to the SEEK and ACHIEVE scholarships. The evaluation will look at all the supports to determine the participants’ school readiness. There is new readiness tool in the State, and it will be in place for the next three years, making it easier to evaluate. We can provide an update on Strong Minds and share some of the different assessments used. Different centers use different curriculums, there are many for them to choose from to use with the children.</p>
<p>Is there a database system that could be flagged when a preschool teacher had completed the SEEK scholarship, and have her students compared to a control group?</p>	<p>No, we do not track this at this time.</p>

A motion by Burdick/Langowski to approve Resolution #17-021 authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to execute the necessary amendment(s) to approve an increase of \$80,000 to the allocation for the SEEK/ACHIEVE program from \$1,165,994 to \$1,245,994 for fiscal year 2016/2017, effective September 15, 2017 was approved by unanimous vote.

B. Business

1. Warrants List – Approved by Consent
2. Proclamation Recognizing September 2017 as Infant Mortality 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. Community Events – Two events were highlighted where the new Parenting Apps were featured: a launch event at the Palm Beach County Zoo, and WXEL Day at Roger Dean stadium.
2. CSC Employee Receives MBA Degree – Dr. Williams-Taylor congratulated Chris Jacob, Director of Information Technology, for achieving his MBA degree.

3. Update on Hurricane Irma

- All CSC staff are safe and accounted for with minimal damage reported. Many are still without power.
- We have contacted our providers to get updated on any issues/damage. We have heard from most, and many still are without power. Some minor structural damage reported by a few. They are still trying to get their organizations back up and running. Many have skeleton crews reaching out to families to determine needs. We are allowing organizations to use under-expenditures (with limits) to assist families for emergency needs (food, water, diapers, etc.). We also have budgeted contingency dollars if other needs arise (per our policy).
- We have housed remote Early Learning staff here so they can reach out to families in need of child care. We are also hosting approximately twelve 211 staff so they can continue to provide services since they cannot work at their building. Their call line staff are being hosted at the EOC.
- We have heard from 2 agencies where there is an immediate need in the GLADES and for the residents of Stonybrook in Riviera Beach who have been displaced after their roof collapsed. We have begun a donation collection with our staff.
- As I mentioned in my email, many of the funders have been organized for just this type of event and have been in contact already, they are meeting again next week to see if we need to respond.

Great Ideas Initiative

- We received 78 applications for our Great Ideas Initiative. The timing for review and decision making was postponed due to the hurricane, so there will be a walk-in item at the next Council meeting that will either be "For Informational Purposes Only" or for approval if the dollars are in excess of the \$750,000 already approved. CSC wants to focus this year on grassroots organizations with a budget of \$1 million or less.

Presentations

- We moved presentations until our next meeting on the 28th, so that meeting will be extended in time – we will need to recess for TRIM at 5:01 p.m. and then reconvene afterwards to finish our meeting.

9. **Legal Reports**

1. September Meeting Dates/Times

Thursday, September 14, 2017 - Council Meeting 4:30 p.m., TRIM Public Hearing 5:01 p.m.

Thursday, September 28, 2017 - Council Meeting 4:30 p.m.; TRIM Public Hearing 5:01 p.m.; Prevention Partnerships for Children, Inc. Board Meeting – upon conclusion

It is imperative to have a physical quorum at each of the TRIM hearings; a quorum for TRIM would be a representation by 6 Council members, not including the Judge. Tom Sheehan thanked Council members for their attendance.

10. Individual Appearances – Non-Agenda Items – N/A

11. Council Comments – None

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:34 p.m.



~~Vincent Goodman, Secretary~~

THOMAS P. WEBER, CHAIR



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