

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF PALM BEACH COUNTY
COUNCIL MEETING
September 22, 2016, 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chair Langowski called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Present:

Robert M. Avossa, Ed.D.
Thomas Bean
Vince Goodman
Kathleen Kroll
Greg Langowski
Dennis Miles
Shelley Vana
Thomas P. Weber

Excused: Thomas E. Lynch; Debra Robinson, M.D.

A. Invocation – led by Vince Goodman

B. Pledge of Allegiance – led by Chair Langowski

C. Presentations

1. The Children's Place at Home Safe ("Home Safe") – Healthy Beginnings Hospital Liaison Program – Elizabeth Clark, Program Officer (CSC); Matthew Ladika, Chief Executive Officer (Home Safe); Paloma Prata, Director of Prevention Services (Home Safe)

Elizabeth Clark, Program Officer (CSC), introduced Matthew Ladika, Chief Executive Officer (Home Safe) and Paloma Prata, Director of Prevention Services, Home Safe. Ms. Clark stated that Home Safe was one of two entry agency programs in CSC's Healthy Beginnings' System of Care, and that it was the agency serving the needs of families with children from birth to age five. She stated that Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies was the entry agency that served the needs of pregnant women and expectant families. She stated that both programs played a key role in providing a range of services so that children were born healthy, were safe from abuse and neglect, and were ready for Kindergarten.

Ms. Clark stated that the presentation would focus on the Hospital Liaison program where CSC universally offered the Healthy Start Infant Risk Screen, in each of Palm Beach County's maternity hospitals. Matthew Ladika thanked the Council for Home Safe's partnership with CSC. Paloma Prata stated that Home Safe had two contracts with CSC, one program was named Growing Smart, and the entry agency. She stated that within the entry agency there

were different services, one of which was the Outreach Program. She showed a slide depicting a van and stated that it was a mobile office where three outreach navigators went out into the community and conducted education about the healthy beginnings system, and also completed the Ages and Stages questionnaire with families. She stated that there were two navigators who helped with Medicaid and food stamps applications, and that there was a DCF access worker who worked closely with Home Safe. She stated that there were also developmental consultants who visited the families in the home or at the location of a child care provider, whichever was easiest for the family. These consultants delivered the second-level tests to determine which services the family was in need of from the Healthy Beginnings System.

Ms. Prata stated that the Hospital Liaisons worked at all 10 maternity hospitals in Palm Beach County, and were present from Monday to Friday. She stated that all mothers were screened either the day before birth or the day after having given birth. She stated that Infant Risk Screen asked questions such as: "Is Mom married?" "Is the father of the baby present?" "Was the baby born 4lbs 7oz and above?" in trying to determine risk factors. She stated that they also completed a section on post partum depression, and there was a parent questionnaire. She stated that the parent questionnaire looked at any history of domestic violence, substance abuse, and previous involvement with DCF. She stated that the hospital liaison, upon having given the three screenings, where appropriate then offered available services to the family within the Healthy Beginnings System. She stated some referrals could be for the Child First program (for families that were high risk), nurse home-visits, or counseling.

Ms. Prata stated that from October 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 there had been 12,760 babies born in Palm Beach County, and the Hospital Liaisons, together with the birth certificate registrars, had screened 98% of the babies. She stated that they were estimating that there would be another 4,000 babies born between July 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016.

Ms. Prata stated that the Hospital Liaisons went through a folder which was given to the mom, and which contained a lot of educational material such as safety, safe sleep, and breastfeeding. She stated that she had folders with her if Council members would like to review the folder. She stated that the liaison would ask each mother whether she had a safe place for the baby to sleep, a crib or a bassinet, and if the answer was no, the mother was referred to a navigator who would go to the home and give the mother a Pack and Play, and also provide more in-depth sleep education. She stated that they had delivered 221 cribs from October to August 31st. She stated that through the partnership with the Literacy Coalition the liaisons gave each family a book to start a family library. She stated that services were also available after the mother left the hospital with the baby, and the business card of the liaison was included in the folder.

Ms. Prata stated that Home Safe had four offices, in West Palm Beach, Lake Worth, Belle Glade, and Boca Raton. She stated that when liaisons visited the mothers in the hospital they were offered Child First, Growing Smart, nurses, or therapy, and that all families who lived in the proximity of a BRIDGES were also connected with the BRIDGES and given a calendar of

events. She stated that the liaisons also made some external referrals to agencies outside of the Healthy Beginnings System.

2. Minutes

A. September 8, 2016 Council Meeting

A motion by Goodman/Bean to approve the Minutes of the September 8, 2016 Council Meeting as presented was approved by unanimous vote.

B. September 8, 2016 TRIM Public Hearing

A motion by Avossa/Weber to approve the Minutes of the September 8, 2016 TRIM Public Hearing as presented was approved by unanimous vote.

3. Public Comment – Agenda Items

4. Council Committees

- Personnel Committee

Chair Langowski stated that the Personnel Committee had approved the Minutes of the September 8, 2016 Personnel Committee meeting, and the travel meal allowance protocol.

A motion by Goodman/Bean to approve the Personnel Committee report was approved by unanimous vote.

- Finance Committee – no report

5. Consent Agenda

1. Additions, Deletions, Substitutions – none.

2. Items to be Pulled for Discussion – Agenda items 5A(3) (Reference #5), 5B(2) (Reference #8), and 5B(3) (Reference #9) were pulled for discussion purposes.

3. Adoption of the Consent Agenda and Walk-in Warrants List

A motion by Goodman/Weber to approve the Consent Agenda [with the exception of items 5A(3), 5B(2) and 5B(3)] and Walk-in Warrants list was approved by unanimous vote.

A. Program

1. Resolution #16-032 and Exhibit "A" – 2016/2017 CSC Funding Allocations – Approved by Consent

2. Resolution #16-031 Authorizing Increased Allocation for Nutrition Services – Approved by Consent
3. Great Ideas Initiative Update

Dennis Miles stated that 24 agencies had been approved for funding and asked what the notification process was for those that had not been approved. He stated that he had received a call from one of the applicant agencies.

Kasha Owers, Director of Program Performance, stated that the Great Ideas Initiative guidelines specified that staff would bring the funded applicants to the Council for informational purposes only. She stated that, at this time, they were also requesting to fund over the \$500,000 limit by an additional \$9,700. She stated that the Great Ideas Initiative guidelines always called for them to release, on September 23rd, a list of agencies that would be receiving the grants. She stated that, based upon the Council's approval, the recipient list would be uploaded to the CSC website the following day.

Ms. Owers stated that CSC had received 125 eligible applications, and that 101 of those applications would not receive funding. She stated that those 101 applicants would receive a declination email that thanked them for applying, and stating that the total cost of all applications totaled \$2.7 million, and that funding was limited to \$500,000. She stated that the letter also outlined that CSC would be happy to talk to any applicant about the quality of their application and where it could be improved for the next time.

Mr. Miles reconfirmed that the decision had been made and that there was no appeal process. Ms. Owers stated that she would be happy to discuss the applicant's application with them. Lisa Williams-Taylor, Ph.D. stated that the Great Ideas Initiative process followed the exact same process as CSC's RFP process, that the Inspector General had come in and also reviewed the process and rating.

A motion by Bean/Kroll to approve the Great Ideas Initiative funding recommendations, and approve an additional \$9,747.38 from FY 15/16 under-expenditures for such funding, was approved by unanimous vote.

4. Resolution #16-33 Authorizing a Three-Year Agreement for Strong Minds Network Outcome Evaluation – Approved by Consent

B. Business

1. Warrants List – Approved by Consent
2. Proclamation Declaring October 2016 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Marsha Guthrie, Community Planning & Partnerships Officer stated that the Proclamation was to bring awareness to domestic violence in Palm Beach County, and to recognize that domestic violence did not discriminate. She gave statistics regarding domestic violence as outlined in the Proclamation. She stated that domestic violence could affect anyone at any time and affected all facets of the community, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, income, or sexual orientation. She stated that they recognized that there was a significant under-reporting with relation to the male population, and with relation to the LGBTQ community. She stated that they were partnering to continue to spread awareness to the issue, although the rates had continued to decline, and they congratulated partners in child welfare and education, and partners in the safety net process (including Home Safe), and stated that there was still much work that remained to be done, because there were whole facets of the community who did not report the domestic violence in their homes. She stated that they recognized there was significant trauma that happened to children as a result of domestic violence in the home.

Ms. Guthrie invited Council members to come to the Opening Ceremony commemorating Domestic Violence Awareness Month on October 4, 2016 at the Clayton Hutcheson Agricultural Center.

A motion by Bean/Avossa to adopt the Proclamation recognizing October 2016 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month was approved by unanimous vote.

3. Proclamation Declaring October 2016 as Palm Beach County Poverty Awareness Month

James Green, Director of the Palm Beach County Youth Services Department, gave statistics regarding poverty in Palm Beach County as outlined in the Proclamation. He invited Council members to participate in Poverty Awareness Week, October 17th through October 23rd. He stated that they were inviting residents to take public transportation for one full day, to spend around \$5 per day on food, and there would be a poverty simulation held in order to raise awareness of what it was like to live in poverty, and to change the attitudes and practices towards those living in poverty. He stated that they were working on developing a comprehensive strategy to reduce poverty in Palm Beach County. He stated that the simulation would take place in October, and again in November with CSC staff. He thanked the Council for joining together to fight poverty.

Vince Goodman asked what Palm Beach County was doing to remedy the poverty problem. Mr. Green stated that what they were currently doing was not comprehensive enough nor broad enough. He stated that they needed to begin with a common definition of what poverty really was. He stated that they needed to determine what constituted a living wage in Palm Beach County, which would be different from living wages in other parts of the state. He stated that they needed to look at ways to change systems in order to track poverty, and to be able to measure it. He stated that they were intending to work together with the Citizen's Advisory Committee and other divisions within community services to develop a comprehensive strategy towards measuring and reducing poverty, and creating economic opportunity.

Mr. Goodman asked whether the data had been disaggregated culturally, and asked who was in the most trouble, poverty-wise. Mr. Green stated that there was data available that had been disaggregated by race, although he did not have the information with him. Lisa Williams-Taylor, Ph.D. stated that they could bring the information back to the Council. She stated that since October would be Poverty Awareness Month, it was the perfect time to put information together to share with the Board.

Dr. Robert Avossa stated that with regard the School District, of the 190,000 children registered for school, 62% were eligible for free and reduced lunch. He stated that the number was growing, and the fastest growing group were Latino impoverished children. He stated that it was an epidemic, and if the community did not have truthful conversations how to impact poverty, it was only going to get worse.

Shelley Vana stated that one way to combat poverty was to pay enough money in wages/salary so that people had enough money to have a house and to eat. Dr. Avossa stated that the School District of Palm Beach County last year had moved its minimum wage from \$8.05/hr. to \$10.00/hr. He stated that there had been 1,300 people working at the School District who had been making \$8.05/hr. He stated that the School District's commitment over the next 5 years was to try to get to \$15/hr., and that the bus drivers were currently at \$14/hr. Mr. Green stated that the County had also passed a living wage ordinance. Ms. Vana stated that until people with power wanted to fix it, it would not be fixed.

A motion by Goodman/Vana to approve the Proclamation recognizing October 2016 as Poverty Awareness Month was approved by unanimous vote.

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. Follow Up from Planning Session – Summer Camp for Special Populations

Lisa Williams-Taylor, Ph.D. stated that discussion at the April Planning Session had included ways to increase summer camp scholarships, particularly to those within the juvenile justice system. She stated that CSC had partnered with the Department of Juvenile Justice and had provided summer camp for 17 high school students. She introduced Greg Starling from the Department of Juvenile Justice.

Greg Starling, Probation Chief, Department of Juvenile Justice of Palm Beach County, thanked the Council and stated that as a result of the assistance of CSC they had been able to keep the kids from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. He stated that from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. they had been able to add more resources and opportunities to expose the kids to additional things they would never have been exposed to, without this additional funding stream. He stated that a mentoring group with structured activities had come in, and it had allowed the kids to become a lot more invested. He stated that the previous summer they had lost kids over the course of the day, whereas this year they had managed to keep the kids until the end of the day, and throughout the entire summer. He thanked the Council on behalf of the Department of Juvenile Justice.

Vince Goodman asked Mr. Starling whether he was familiar with George Ellis from Miami. Mr. Starling stated that he was aware of Mr. Ellis who was in the intervention arena. Mr. Goodman asked how the DJJ Palm Beach County summer camp program compared to Mr. Ellis' program. Mr. Starling stated that he was not familiar with the exact program, although he knew that Mr. Ellis worked with youth on the front end in the prevention arena. He stated that the kids in the Palm Beach County DJJ summer camp program were dependent, on probation, high-risk, high-need youth with academic troubles, peer association issues, and criminal offenses. He stated that the kids in Mr. Ellis's program were first-time offenders and were less likely to re-offend. He stated that the kids in the Palm Beach County DJJ summer camp program had a high likelihood of re-offending, and they had been trying to ensure that, during the summer time when kids get in more trouble, they kept the kids occupied and they were re-integrated back into school.

Mr. Goodman asked what Mr. Starling needed to expand his program to become A-1. Mr. Starling stated that the program needed funding – he stated that it took money and resources to get things done. He stated that because of the population they were serving, not just anyone could provide those services. He stated that the group they had worked with during the summer, the service provider had demonstrated to him that he was equipped to work with those youth. He stated that because the program was voluntary, in previous years they had lost kids over the course of the day because there had been conflict, or because the kids had not been engaged. He stated that they had been able to maintain over 95% full attendance this year because the kids had been fully engaged.

Mr. Goodman asked for a success story. Mr. Starling stated that none of the kids had been arrested during the summer, which was a success. He stated that when more than 75% of kids finished the entire program, compared to less than 50% in previous years, that was a great success story. Judge Kathleen Kroll stated that Mr. Starling was not sharing how much work he had put into getting the right 'fit' as a service provider for these kids. She stated that it was amazing that the kids had stayed all day, and all summer, because it was a volunteer program. She stated that there had been nothing to force them to go. They had been picked up at their homes and delivered back to their homes. She commended Mr. Starling for all his effort and commitment to the program, and for the success of the program. She thanked the Council for its part in funding the program. She stated that it was a group of kids that, if kept on track, great successes could be seen educationally, and with employment in the future. She stated

that statistically, investing in the high-end kids is more bang for the buck than the front-end kids.

2. My Brother's Keeper Race to Equity Summit

Dr. Williams-Taylor stated that the CEO Report contained information regarding the "My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Race to Equity" summit (scheduled for October 7 & 8, 2016), and that it would focus on equity in Palm Beach County.

3. Trama Talks

Dr. Williams-Taylor stated that the CEO Report contained information regarding the "Trauma Talks" event (scheduled for November 3, 2016).

4. CSC Achieves Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

Dr. Williams-Taylor stated that CSC had received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the fourth year in a row. She congratulated Chief Financial Officer Jen Diehl, and the entire finance division.

5. CSC Receives Recognition from Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies

Dr. Williams-Taylor stated that CSC had received a beautiful commemorative plaque from the agency Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies (HMHB) which was celebrating its 30th anniversary. She stated that HMHB was one of CSC's first funded agencies in 1987.

9. **Legal Reports**

Tom Sheehan thanked Council members for their attendance in order to meet quorum requirements for the upcoming TRIM hearing, and thanked them for their attendance two weeks previously. He stated that upon conclusion of the TRIM hearing there would be a brief Prevention Partnerships for Children, Inc. Board meeting.

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

11. **Council Comments**

12. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.


Vincent Goodman, Secretary


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