

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF PALM BEACH COUNTY
September 28, 2017, 4:30 p.m.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chair Weber called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m. The meeting was recessed at 5:00 p.m. and reconvened at 5:05 p.m.

Present:

Robert M. Avossa, Ed.D.
Thomas Bean
Paulette Burdick
James Martz
Vern Melvin
Debra Robinson, M.D.
Thomas P. Weber

Excused: Greg Langowski, Vince Goodman, Tom Lynch.

A. Invocation – led by Chair Weber

B. Pledge of Allegiance – led by Chair Weber

C. Presentations

1. Presentation on Bullying – Kim Mazauskas, School District of Palm Beach County

Kim Mazauskas, Compliance, Prevention, and Intervention Coordinator, Department of Safe Schools, School District of Palm Beach County, stated that in 2008 the State of Florida passed the "Jeffrey Johnston Stand Up For All Students Act" Senate Bill ("the Act") requiring school districts to establish policies prohibiting bullying and harassment. Compliance to the Act is integral for a school to receive Safe Schools appropriation monies. October is bullying prevention and awareness month. Palm Beach County schools now have a list of expectations posted to do with student respect and responsibility, and the school district has requirements for positive interpersonal conduct around school. The intent is to universalize and make certain behaviors and positive interactions the norm, before any negative behaviors may deteriorate into bullying. Some State requirements of the Act are to have an anonymous hotline to report bullying, procedures for informing parents of targets and aggressors in a timely fashion, documentation of investigation and intervention, and follow up monitoring, counseling and support for both targets and aggressors. Other entities that take bullying calls are 211 and Crime Stoppers. Amendments to the Act were passed in 2014 which included the addition of cyber-stalking and cyber-bullying. The School District (SD) will investigate reports received whether the bullying happened on a school campus or elsewhere, not all states operate in this manner, although Palm Beach County does. Another aspect of the amendment of 2014 was regarding teen dating and breaking up hostility, this formerly was not considered bullying, and the amendment now allows for a student safety plan and student stay-away agreement. The SD is accountable to SESIR (the State reporting system), investigation summaries must be submitted, and there may be an overlap into the Civil Rights arena where the student may be ESE or have an IEP, or the incident is as a result of racial or religious bias. The bullying requirements overlap with Civil Rights laws. Safe Schools and the Information Technology department work together in collaboration with TechSafe, a comprehensive, age-appropriate annual training for all students. It includes cyber-citizenship, cyber-literacy, and cyber-security, among other subjects. Safe Schools gives guidelines and supports for the schools, the classrooms, the individuals, parents, and the community. The core level supports include all the social-emotional learning and prevention pieces which

<p>include how a student manages himself/herself and how he/she manages relationships. In addition, there are supplemental pieces for children who may have been in incidences of bullying or at risk for using aggressive behaviors. The supplemental pieces are individual and intensive. The structure is for the school to be the first line of defense, followed by area support offices, and Safe Schools which supports both the schools and families. The online resource pages include a Home page showing compliance resources (for SD employees), and the Safe Schools Bullying Prevention & Intervention page (for parents and the public) at www.palmbeachschools.org/safeschools/bullying_awareness_sy17/. Principals are held to an anti-bullying and compliance checklist, with 10 action items implemented annually. On the SD internal website there are classroom resources helping teachers establish expectations for the students and requirements for interpersonal relationships, which is a five-day plan. There are also student-led activities in this internal resource.</p> <p>Each school has a parent empowerment series with a handbook. The handbook is very clear in terms of expectations of students’ rights and responsibilities. Resources and updates are provided to parents using Edline. The Safe and Drug Free Advisory Committee has many programs which could be an asset to a school.</p>	
<p>How can we tell the efforts of the Safe Schools Department are working? How can we tell that all students are feeling connected to the school, or feel that they belong?</p>	<p>Many different types of data are reviewed, you cannot only look at disciplinary data. They include student opinion in the data assessment. They look at: the YRBS (given to middle school and high school students), the school effectiveness questionnaires, the school-based team reports, the investigation summary data, and other student opinion pieces.</p>
<p>Featured events include a “mix it up at lunch day”, a Pink Shirt Day, a Unity Day where all students self-monitor how they interact and react, amongst other events. The Safety Patrol now functions not only as environmental safekeepers, but also emotional and psychological safekeepers. The Safe School Ambassadors has 40 programs ongoing in elementary, middle, and high schools: they are taught skills on campus to look out for others. The “Do the Write Thing” essay is for all middle-schoolers, where the students are asked three questions: i) What is Youth Violence; ii) How has it affected me? and iii) What can I do about it? There are Peer Mediators, not used in bullying situations, but used in other interpersonal issues. Lastly there is a “No Place for Hate” initiative with the ADL in some schools.</p> <p>If Council members would like more information about any of these resources please contact Ms. Mazauskas at (561) 982 0922 or fax (561) 982 0950 and she will be happy to provide the resources.</p>	
<p>What else needs to be done in the Community?</p>	<p>Debra Robinson, M.D. stated that Safe Schools does great work. There is a lack of consistency across campuses. Although a wealth of programs was mentioned, it did not mean all programs exist on all campuses, it was dependent on the adults on campus and their belief system. She has requested social-emotional behavior coaches on each school campus because there needs to be one individual on each campus who owns the bullying work, instead of trying to figure out whose responsibility it is.</p> <p>Children have been punished in the past, without sharing with them expectations required of them. As part of Positive Behavior Support (PBS) one school posted that students are expected to wash their hands and flush after using the toilet. Part of PBS is to state the expectation and create the norm across campus. There needs to be one person on campus responsible for PBS and responsible for restorative practices. School-based teams look great on paper but oftentimes it is just another assignment for teachers to participate in, too often it becomes a paper-pushing activity. The School Board hears that case files have</p>

	<p>been closed, however there is little follow-up with the students to ensure they are participating in programs they have been referred to. There are now 17 social-emotional behavior coaches in the SD who share schools, and there needs to be more. By funding more coaches not only would more students be saved, but teachers would too. Teachers could then focus on teaching, instead of being involved in being a social worker or psychologist.</p> <p>Ms. Masauskas – where we need these coaches is not in the prevention stage but in a student’s supplemental stage where a pattern is being developed and the prevention measures haven’t quite stuck and it then progresses to the individual intensive stage. The burden placed on school counselors is very great, currently the prevention piece is OK, the policy and compliance is OK, but they need to work on students’ social and emotional skills. She recommended the book “Unselfie” regarding narcissism and empathy. The School District of Palm Beach County is one of the first districts in the State to have identified a continuum of social emotional goals from K through 12, and is now getting it implemented.</p> <p>The Safe Schools Department is working with AT&T on a new program entitled “A Soul Behind the Screen”, it is parent materials, already translated into Creole and Spanish. They are working with the PTA and another group to work on distribution for all parents to have.</p>
<p>The County provides funding for trauma-induced care. How is that working at the schools?</p>	<p>We would need to sit with each school and ask them how their school-based team is using the agencies. In terms of providing direct service, the Department uses cooperative agreements for trauma-based care. The cooperative agreements have all been newly redone and are on the SD website. If you go under RTI it contains the most updated list of cooperative agreements and the agencies that are providing direct services. However, sometimes families are assigned counselors, and for some reason the families do not take the students to appointments. Mayor Burdick asked Ms. Masauskas to call her to discuss it.</p>

2. Prime Time Palm Beach County – Alexandra Peralta, Program Officer (CSC); Suzette Harvey, President/CEO, Prime Time Palm Beach County, Inc.; Lisa Lindeman, Ph.D., Director of Research, Prime Time Palm Beach County, Inc.

CSC has funded Prime Time for over 17 years in an effort towards achieving its 4th goal: providing access to quality after school and summer programming. Access is addressed through CSC’s scholarship program administered by the Early Learning Coalition, and Prime Time focuses on the *quality* of out-of-school-time programming. Through its Quality Improvement System, Prime Time has served almost 160 sites, reaching over 17,000 children, this year alone.

Suzette Harvey, CEO/President of Prime Time Palm Beach County stated that Prime Time had been established in 2000 by a group of visionaries who had determined that the quality of after school programming in Palm Beach County was very uneven. Prime Time is the only nonprofit independent organization in the State that does this kind of in-depth work with aftercare providers. Over 25,000 students are served with hands-on learning each year, and more than 900 professionals are provided with support and training. A range of services and supports are offered to more than 250 afterschool programs across

Palm Beach County.

CSC is the primary funder, with additional support received from the Palm Beach County Youth Services Department, the Wallace Foundation, and a 3-year grant from the Farris Foundation (for elementary school kids). Prime Time's work has garnered national attention, both the Moss Foundation and the Wallace Foundation have looked to Prime Time's work for many years, and Prime Time has been included in many publications including Youth Today and After School Today. Prime Time's work has been described as: "cutting edge" and "has set the bar for other quality improvement system models for school-age and adolescent youth around the United States and Canada".

Prime Time has 149 afterschool programs currently participating in their Quality Improvement System. It has worked with Palm Beach State College for the past 10 years to develop both a credit and non-credit pathway for out-of-school time practitioners. More than 900 practitioners have participated in 105 trainings facilitated by Prime Time staff, on 27 topics. More than \$280,000 has been offered to practitioners in scholarships and incentives in the past year alone.

Providing children with a range of life experiences increases a child's overall success. Prime Time subcontracts with content-expert organizations to provide hands-on enrichment to help children address the opportunity gap, particularly for low-income children who may not have an opportunity for these experiences. It is addressed in four areas: academics, health and wellness, integrated arts, and positive development. Partners include: the Science Museum, the Zoo, Center for Creative Education, Junior Achievement, Lake Worth Playhouse, Young Singers, Aspira, the ARC of Palm Beach County, and Green Mouse Academy (which does technology, robotics, and game design).

Due to CSC's funding, Green Mouse Academy was able to hire a full time coordinator in the past year who is coordinating the FIRST Lego® League robotic competition. Over 1,000 children in Title 1 schools were able to participate in competitions in Palm Beach County, and nearly half of the Lego® League team participants were from underserved communities.

High quality after school programs offer not only academic benefits, but social and emotional development also. The research shows a dosage effect in this regard – the more time and involvement in high quality out-of-school time programs leads to greater benefits. Prime Time achieves positive youth outcomes by working with the out-of-school-time programs and practitioners, therefore it has an indirect impact on youth. It helps programs develop more well-trained, educated staff who use best practices to create supportive environments with enriching experiences.

In 2014 the American Institutes for Research found that attending high quality programs in Palm Beach County led more children to move to the next grade on time. Multiple years of data show that youth are highly engaged in the expanded learning opportunities, in addition developing social-emotional regulation, and self-management skills. Social-emotional skills are being measured at the beginning and end of each year, and it is currently being combined with school data and child demographic data to gauge the impact of high quality programs.

Prime Time Palm Beach County was awarded a grant to promote social-emotional learning from The Wallace Foundation together with its partner, the School District. The four-year initiative's goals are to improve and align experience with inclination to foster children, social-emotional learning across the school day, and after school. Wallace's outcomes for this initiative are to see a positive effect on a safe and supportive school climate, positive interactions, building relationships, closing the achievement gap, and increasing graduation rates. With CSC's support Prime Time was able to hire a STEAM specialist (including Arts) who works closely with the STEAM-content experts such as Green Mouse Academy and Lego® League to provide training and coaching to afterschool practitioners to help them conduct informal science in out-of-school time.

A video was played which was produced for Lights On Afterschool, a national celebration of afterschool which happens across the country.

<p>Why are only half of the 137 schools (in which Prime Time worked) getting the STEAM support? Science, Technology, Engineering and Math are the businesses which seek a highly qualified workforce. We should be trying to do more of it.</p> <p>If there is a waitlist, would Prime Time come back before the Council to inform that more was wanted, and Prime Time was unable to provide it, that it had reached capacity?</p>	<p>The enhancement happens at the school sites where the after school provider contacts Prime Time for service. It would be an opportunity for Prime Time to provide more awareness to school sites of what is available to them upon request.</p> <p>Yes. Prime Time needs to better inform the afterschool community.</p>
<p>Please send the link regarding the research by the American Institute about school promotion.</p> <p>Talking to youth at a school revealed that they want to be rappers. All rappers have great language skills, does Prime Time have any staff to conduct workshops in Spoken Word? Please inform Dr. Robinson as soon as an individual is identified.</p>	<p>It will be sent.</p> <p>If there is not currently an educator subcontracted, Prime Time will find one. Next year an RFP will be released to find subcontractors for those programs that are resonating with the youth.</p>
<p>Dr. Avossa recognized Ms. Harvey for achieving the Wallace Foundation grant. He stated that it was not an easy Federal grant to get, and it fit with the School District’s strategic planning and would accelerate much of the work the School District had identified as a system.</p>	<p>Ms. Harvey thanked Dr. Avossa and stated that 145 communities had been considered and 6 communities had been chosen, one of which was Palm Beach County.</p>
<p>Judge Martz described how his son had begun with Lego®, continued to Home, went on to Open Challenge, and his interview with Elon Musk at SpaceX was a discussion of his experience in each of them. It was these experiences that got him hired at SpaceX, and he was currently designing the Mars craft, and is a Mission Director part-time. He stated that these programs really worked, and it had started when he was in 7th grade.</p>	<p>Lisa Williams-Taylor, Ph.D. stated that when you go to the afterschool sites and you see children that have never had these experiences before it opens up their whole world.</p>

3. Zip Code Report – Jennifer Muñoz, Community Planning & Partnerships Officer

The Zip Code Report (similar to the current one) had originally been produced by CSC in 2010, and as a result of the recent Community Needs Assessment it was decided to produce another Zip Code Report in order to examine community data at the Zip code level.

The Community Needs Assessment had been presented to the Council in January, 2017, and had been undertaken to inform the Healthy Start Service Delivery Plan 2018-2022, which is required by the Department of Health and is to be completed every five years. The Community Needs Assessment will also be used as part of CSC’s Strategy Review and Allocation Analysis. The previous Zip Code Report had been used for placement of some of CSC’s services such as the BRIDGES place-based initiatives. Many of CSC’s funded agencies had reported to CSC that they had found the Zip Code Report useful in their internal planning efforts and proposals. The Zip Code Report would be shared in order to create awareness around a community’s needs, in addition to identifying areas that are experiencing high disparities.

Data for the Community Needs Assessment was collected in multiple ways, and was collected from community residents and providers. Data was specifically collected for parents of young children and

pregnant women. The data was cross referenced, and overarching themes were identified to determine community needs. All reports are available on the CSC website, if help is needed to navigate data please notify us.

Indicators were selected based on CSC priority areas, focusing on pregnancy, birth outcomes and early childhood. To ensure some of the social determinants of health the "Community Needs Index" was used. The first indicator examined was poverty; children in poverty are at the greatest risk of negative social, cognitive, and health outcomes. Other indicators examined were birth outcomes: late or no prenatal care, low birthweight babies, and premature babies. The percentage of teen births was examined, for these purposes it represents births to 15 to 19 year olds. Teen pregnancy has a big impact on educational, social, and economic lives of young people. Indicators examined regarding early childhood education and school were: not ready for school, not reading on 3rd grade level, and high school graduation rate. The indicator of child care needs was new, and was calculated by looking at the number of children residing in the Zip code that were in 150% poverty which was a qualifier to receive subsidized child care. That figure was calculated, then the number of children actually receiving the child care subsidies was subtracted, showing the estimated need for child care in that community. Extensive research shows that having accessible, high-quality child care positively affects childhood growth, physical development, physical health, cognitive, behavioral, and school outcomes.

The number of children scoring not ready for school was examined, the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Assessment screener was used. Children scoring ready for school are more engaged in their early school years which had a positive effect on social achievement and graduation. The number of children not reading on 3rd grade level (in 3rd grade) was determined by using the Florida Standard Assessment. Children not reading at 3rd grade level by the end of 3rd grade were four times more likely to drop out of high school. The rates of high school graduation were also included in the report, a high school diploma enables a person to pursue higher education and would open more doors and long-term career opportunities.

Community indicators included child abuse – the percentage of children ages 0-5 with a verified case of abuse or neglect. Exposure to an environment of abuse and neglect can affect a child's development and overall well-being.

The community needs index looked at a number of different indicators which focused on income, cultural barriers, educational barriers, insurance barriers, and housing barriers. Zip codes that scored between 4.2 and 5.0 were considered highest in need.

Council members were provided with a large spreadsheet with the data on all of the indicators by Zip code. The first columns were included for reference purposes – total births, number of families, number of families with children under 18, residing in each of the Zip codes.

Each indicator was ranked, looking for areas that performed poorly. Red indicators show the top 20 (or bottom 20) Zip codes for Palm Beach County. The three highest scoring Zip codes (with poor indicators), with an equal (top) score of 11 indicators were 33404 in Riviera Beach, 33407 in West Palm Beach, and 33435 in Boynton Beach.

A map of Palm Beach County was displayed with the poorly-performing Zip codes shown in red (high risk); areas of medium risk were shown in orange, and areas of low risk in yellow. 19 Zip codes were considered high risk (with more than 7 indicators in the red), 12 Zip codes were considered medium risk (with 3 to 6 indicators in the red), and 21 Zip codes were considered low risk (with 0 to 2 indicators in the red).

Example maps and data tables were shown from the report. A Zip code map of a specific Zip code was shown. Areas of families with children living in poverty were colored, the color darkened when the density of the families with children living in poverty increased. (The darker the color, the more families with children living in poverty were in that area). The title of the map was a Community Asset Map; the assets in this particular Zip code included: a (CSC-funded) BRIDGES, 23 quality early learning programs, 5 quality after school programs, a Youth Empowerment Center, a Community Action Service Center, a Florida Department

<p>of Health Clinic, with more clinics located just below southern border of the Zip code.</p> <p>In addition to the map visual, a data table was presented showing social factors which all influenced health and child outcomes. The percentages were presented within the Zip code, compared with the percentage in the county overall. In the three (top scoring, i.e., poorly performing) Zip codes outlined there was a much higher percentage of Black and minority populations than in Palm Beach County overall, the unemployment rates were almost double the rate of Palm Beach County overall, the median household income was lower than Palm Beach County overall, and there was a higher percentage of individuals who did not have health insurance.</p> <p>The environment we live in, the systems which interact, and the policies we set help create some of these barriers to the child outcomes we’d like to see in Palm Beach County. We really need to look at using this information and maps to work with the community to look further at the root causes. An examination of community assets will also be performed to determine how to support the good work already ongoing in those communities. To help reduce inequalities within Palm Beach County, more resources and effort should be prioritized in these Zip codes.</p> <p>The full report is available on the CSC website.</p>	
<p>In determining the estimated child care needs, children of what ages were considered?</p> <p>For the third grade reading, what level on the FSA was considered grade level?</p> <p>I live in 33407 and it is uncomfortable when you talk about my neighbors. We need to talk about how we help the community to support itself, instead of the well-meaning people coming in to “help” you.</p>	<p>Children from age 0 to 5.</p> <p>It was already classified as reading on grade level or not reading on grade level; we are assuming it was level 3 and above.</p>
<p>For the indicator being ready for school, do we know how many children are enrolled in VPK?</p> <p>“I will go back and look at the map, because in some of our Zip codes, some families are not made aware of VPK and encouraged to wait until Kindergarten. I encourage one of my Commissioners to go into one Riviera Beach community to encourage parents to participate in the programs” said Mayor Burdick.</p>	<p>The number for child care needs included VPK, Head Start, CSC scholarships, and state-subsidized scholarships. The number who were <i>potentially</i> eligible for any type of scholarship was calculated, then the number of children who were <i>actually</i> receiving scholarships (provided by the Early Learning Coalition) was subtracted.</p>
<p>In the percentage of children scoring “not ready for school”, is the determination taken from the Kindergarten screen given by the School District? I would argue that the numbers are actually worse that what has been depicted in these figures.</p> <p>These are forced rankings, which means that the income disparities exacerbate the gap we see. If we looked at the entire area of south Florida down to Miami, we’d get a better idea of where the area of Riviera Beach might be, compared to similar demographics in other communities. You will always have a couple at the bottom with a score of 10 or 11 with a forced ranking. A graduation rate as high as 85.5% is shown as red, and I would be happy to have a graduation rate in the 80’s. It shows that we have done an extraordinary job of getting kids across that line in those</p>	

<p>communities, so keep that in context.</p>	
<p>A photo of a preschooler’s homework in private school in Broward County had been shown to child care practitioners in Palm Beach County, and those child care practitioners (working with children receiving subsidies) thought the homework was for a Kindergarten student, a 1st grade student, or possibly a 2nd grade student. There is a misalignment of standards, and we need to have an outside body look at Kindergarten readiness standards if we are serious about being ready for school.</p>	
<p>The promotion on billboards may not filter down into some neighborhoods. How can we assist those County Commissioners who want to go out into neighborhoods, or who want to be part of a community meeting, to encourage families to enroll children in VPK?</p>	<p>Lisa Williams-Taylor, Ph.D. will meet with anyone to share with them what CSC is seeing in the neighborhoods, and what CSC needs help with.</p>
<p>What percentage of families are spending 35% or more of their income on rent? It is a problem with the lowest wage-earners, but it is also a problem that is creeping up to the professionals, such as a teacher with a degree. This is a number that we need to be embarrassed about as a community. The School District is working with demographers and the County, and although there are plans to bring in a flux of houses, the prices start in the \$400,000 range which means they are in the \$600,000 range by the time they are on the market. These disparities mean that parents who spend so much on rent have to scrimp on other necessities for their children. The current hourly pay scale lowest goal of the School District is \$15 per hour (three years ago 1,250 employees were making \$8.05 per hour on average, and have now been raised to \$10.50).</p>	<p>The Council may be interested in the most recent issue of Fortune magazine which has the top 50 companies that are changing the world. On the last page it shows the East and West coast, and housing prices. It depicts how, in order not to spend more than 35% on housing, you need to be making \$x/hour. For all of the southeastern United States, on the East coast, Palm Beach County is the highest, falling into the \$24 to \$30 per hour ranges. We will send the Fortune magazine information to Council members.</p>
<p>Here is the link to the full report www.cscpb.org/zipcodereport, it includes the maps and tables of all 19 highest-risk Zip codes, plus data tables. Printed full reports were also offered.</p>	

2. Minutes

A. September 14, 2017 Council Meeting

Tom Sheehan stated that the in addition to approving the Minutes, that the Council needed to ratify the actions taken at the September 14, 2017 Council meeting. He stated that due to Hurricane Irma the meeting time had been changed and there had not been time to advertise seven days in advance. It was therefore necessary to ratify those actions.

A motion by Burdick/Robinson to approve the Minutes as presented, and ratify the actions taken, at the September 14, 2017 Council meeting was approved by unanimous vote.

B. September 14, 2017 TRIM Public Hearing

A motion by Burdick/Bean to approve the Minutes of the September 14, 2017 TRIM Public Hearing as presented was approved by unanimous vote.

3. Individual Appearances – Agenda Items – N/A

4. Council Committees:

- Finance Committee – No report
- Personnel Committee – No report

5. Consent Agenda

1. Additions, Deletions, Substitutions

Substitution: A substitution for Consent Agenda Item 5A(4) (Reference #6) was made. The revised agenda item contains details of programs and initiatives to be funded through the Great Ideas Initiative.

Substitution: A substitution for Consent Agenda Item 5B(1) (Reference #7) was made. The walk-in Warrants List had one additional item added since it was emailed Wednesday, September 27th. The revised walk-in Warrants List was at Council members' places. Lisa Williams-Taylor, Ph.D. stated that the only addition to the walk-in Warrants list was additional dollars to work with United Way on disaster relief due to Hurricane Irma.

2. Items to be Pulled for Discussion – Agenda item 5A(3) (Reference #5) was pulled for discussion purposes.
3. Adoption of the revised Consent Agenda and revised walk-in Warrants List

A motion by Burdick/Bean to approve the Consent Agenda as revised, with the exception of Agenda items 5A(3) (Reference #5), and approve the revised Walk-in Warrants list was approved by unanimous vote.

A. Program

1. Resolution #17-022 and Exhibit "A" – 2017/2018 CSC Funding Allocations – Approved by Consent
2. Resolution #17-023 Authorizing Fetal Infant Mortality Review Program – Approved by Consent
3. Corrective Action Plan for Sickle Cell's Community Voice Program

Since 2009 the Sickle Cell Foundation has received CSC funding for implementation of the Community Voice program. Community Voice utilizes community volunteers in targeted Zip codes to provide factual perinatal information throughout the community in an effort to reduce Black and African-American infant mortality. It is a community-based training of lay health advisors who reach out to residents in their communities and personal networks. They spread positive information and address a variety of healthcare concerns. Since inception the program has graduated over 5,000 lay health advisors and is known for a very high engagement of male participants.

CSC regularly assesses its funding programs by conducting on-site monitoring of programs as a means of verifying information, used as a part of the program assessment process, and compliance with contractual

requirements. Over the past several years there have been administrative and programmatic challenges with the organization as a result of these assessments. The agency had been placed on corrective action level one in FY 14/15 as result of findings from the CPPA (comprehensive program performance assessment). Requirements of the level one corrective action plan were met June 30, 2016, after being extended. The agency continued to struggle administratively.

In July, 2017, a routine on-site monitoring visit was conducted by the CSC Program Officer and Audit Specialist. At this time there was a review of HR files, client files, and policies and procedures. In addition, CSC staff followed up on findings from a previous audit (conducted in November 2016.) During the visit, significant program issues regarding timely submission and accuracy of contractual reports were revealed. Additional infractions included participant book distribution, fidelity of Community Voice participant test scores, and lack of overall oversight. Issues were discussed internally and an out-of-cycle CSC audit was conducted in August, 2017.

The out-of-cycle audit covered the period October, 2016 through June 30, 2017. Significant disallowances were the result of this audit. The CEO and Board of Sickle Cell are aware of the recommendations, and multiple discussions, technical assistance and communication was undertaken with regard to the organization’s needs and capacity in respect to the program implementation and fidelity. CSC wants Sickle Cell to exceed and meet the terms of the Community Voice program. Level 3 correction action will allow CSC to monitor and document performance compliance issues. Issues are specified with clear, attainable measures and targets.

I understand there are paperwork and program problems. Everything I know about the Community Voice program is outstanding. This is another example of why some agencies need (external) back office operations, so that the agency can serve the people and someone else can make sure the paperwork is in order. The community has basically not had the opportunity to heal itself, and if CSC asks the community to heal itself for us to measure it, it is important to look at things this way. The CEO of Sickle Cell was invited to the table.

Sholanda Warren, CEO of the Sickle Cell Foundation of Palm Beach and the Treasure Coast, agreed with CSC’s program officer, Shaundelyn Emerson, that there had been significant challenges that the agency has been facing. It is a very small agency and is in a community that has a tremendous amount of needs. There was a significant problem discovered in the audit and a great many changes have already been implemented to ensure that they don’t see those type of problems with the program again.

How much is CSC’s funding to this program?
 Does the program have other revenue streams?

Mayor Burdick has an intern through the DJJ program who participates in Community Voice. He has become very knowledgeable regarding his son and infant mortality, and what he needs to do be a good father.

For 2016-2017 the funding amount is \$678,979. CSC provides more than 80% of its budget and the County also provides funding.

What happens if the changes don’t occur?

CSC does not question what the program is doing, but needs to make sure that its administration can function and support the program. While there is an issue with paperwork, the issue goes beyond the paperwork. We need to ensure the program is implemented correctly so that we get the results for the families. We have every belief that they can implement the corrective action and be successful. Staff will come to the Council with a recommendation for termination with Sickle Cell. CSC feels very strongly about the Community Voice program and wants it to remain in the community.

Dr. Robinson asked for the whole audit report. The financial audit report is currently in draft form and will be sent as soon as it is completed.

The financial audit findings are being worked out (additional paperwork will be made available to the auditor by the CEO), the auditor will finalize the report and the CEO of Sickle Cell will respond to the audit report via a management letter. From there the corrective action level three will be implemented to beef up the programmatic issues, and the fiscal issues will be worked upon. They expect a turn-around time of approximately 6 months.

A motion by Burdick/Martz to approve the Sickle Cell Foundation being placed on a Corrective Action Plan Level 3, with progress made toward this corrective action plan to be provided at a subsequent Council Meeting, was approved by unanimous vote.

4. Great Ideas Initiative Funding Decisions (Revised) - For informational purposes only; no action required.

B. Business

1. Warrants List – Approved by Consent
2. Proclamation Declaring October 2017 as Domestic Violence 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. Follow Up – Accountability for Subcontractors and Child Care Programs - A Council member had requested information regarding subcontractors: the information was included in the CEO Report.
2. CSC Staff Presented Nationally at Ripples of Transformation Community of Practice - Dr. Williams-Taylor recognized LaNita Sanders and Delores Haynes for their national presentation.
3. CSC Hosts "Addressing Equity within Early Childhood Systems of Care: A Forum to Help Guide Planning Efforts" - National consultants came to CSC to help with the next strategy review and allocation (SRAA) process to set CSC up for the next five years of planning. Consultants included:
 - Dr. Aisha Ray, Professor Emeritus at the Erikson Institute and Senior Advisor on Early Childhood Education at the National Black Child Development Institute.
 - Diane Umstead, Early Childhood Systems Director of Smart Start, and a fellow in the BUILD Initiative's Equity Leaders Action Network.
 - Dr. Denauvo Robinson, President and CEO of Albemarle Alliance for Children and Families.
 - Dan Torres, Director of Policy and Partnerships from Thrive Washington.
4. Infant Mortality Awareness E-Learning Module - The Council approved a Proclamation declaring September as Infant Mortality Awareness Month and an E-Learning has been created. The link

to the E-learning module is included in the CEO Report, it talks about the racial disparities that are being seen in birth outcomes.

5. Communications Update - CSC annually acknowledges the Providers and Programs that do the work in the community; a copy of the acknowledgement advertisement (to be displayed in the Palm Beach Post) was distributed.
6. CSC Achieves Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting - CSC has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (CAFR) for the fifth year in a row. Dr. Williams-Taylor acknowledged Jen Diehl, Chief Financial Officer.
7. CSC Employee Receives MCSE Certification in Cloud Platform and Infrastructure - Dr. Williams-Taylor recognized Charles Beneby, Network & Database Administrator for his recent achievement.
8. Florida CSC Public Policy Agenda - The four-page agenda covers all the issues that the Florida CSC is following on behalf of Children's Services Councils. They will not lobby on all issues, they will choose specific ones to advocate for at the state level. There will be more conversation in the future around what is happening at the legislative level.

9. Legal Reports

1. TRIM Meeting September 28, 2017 – 5:01 p.m. – the Council meeting will recess and TRIM will begin at 5:01 p.m.; the Council meeting will then reconvene.
2. Prevention Partnerships for Children, Inc. Board Meeting – there will be a brief PPC meeting upon conclusion of the Council meeting.

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

11. Council Comments – None

12. Adjournment

The meeting was recessed at 5:00 p.m., reconvened at 5:05 p.m., and adjourned at 6:07 p.m.


Vincent Goodman, Secretary



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