

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

March 30, 2017, 4:30 p.m.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

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

Present:

Thomas Bean

Vince Goodman

Greg Langowski

Tom Lynch

James Martz

Dennis Miles

Thomas P. Weber

Excused: Robert M. Avossa, Ed.D; Paulette Burdick; Debra Robinson, M.D

A. Invocation – led by Vince Goodman

B. Pledge of Allegiance – led by Chair Weber

C. Presentations

1. Teen Triple P – Tina Hallyburton, Program Officer (CSC); Debbie Newell, Program Supervisor, Parent-Child Center; Olga Viera, Program Supervisor, Center for Family Services; (family) Melody Ellison and daughter Chyna Maiden

Tina Hallyburton, Program Officer stated that CSC had been implementing the Triple P core program since 2009 for children ages 0 to 12, and that Teen Triple P was new to CSC's system. She stated that Triple P is an evidence-based system of parenting and family supports which is used around the world. Two agencies provide the Triple P program: Parent-Child Center and Center for Family Services. She introduced Debbie Newell, Program Supervisor from Parent-Child Center, and Olga Viera, Program Supervisor from Center for Family Services. Implementation of Teen Triple P began in June, 2015 for ages 12 to 18, with English, Spanish, and Creole-speaking therapists who traveled county-wide to deliver the program. Teens participate in the program and meet with a therapist. In fiscal year 2015/16 over 200 parents had been served in the Teen program, and the number was expected to increase for fiscal year 2016/17.

Goals of Teen Triple P were listed as:

- Increase parents' competence in managing common behavior problems and developmental issues in teenagers
- Reducing parents' use of coercive and punitive parenting practices
- Improving parents' communication about parenting issues
- Reducing parenting stress associated with raising teenagers.

Strategies for Teen Triple P were outlined as: developing positive relationships; increasing desirable behavior; teaching new skills and behaviors; managing problem behavior; and dealing with risky behavior.

Outside agencies that refer clients to the provider agencies are:

- ChildNet (for court-mandated clients) to reduce risk and to develop a good communicative relationship with the family
- Department of Children and Families' Child Protective Investigators for those clients that had been

- visited but did not have a court case, to reduce risk of families entering the system
- Juvenile Probation Officers (JPOs) from the detention center referred both teens and parents
- Officer Castro from First Defender’s Program encourages parents to get involved (although it is volunteer)
- At the community level collaborations are in effect with Boys Town, Henderson Behavioral Health, Center for Family Services, and local middle schools and high schools for referrals.

Client families attended the meeting and gave testament to the program, stating:

“It taught me patience, my son did a 360 degree turnaround from his behavioral problems.”

“My counselor would come to my home or McDonalds and if I needed to talk, she listened. It taught me patience – I’m more calm and now take time out for myself.”

“Triple P has taught me a lot, it’s taught me how to keep my anger down. Last year my GPA was 1.7 and now my GPA is 2.4. It’s taught me certain things and how to respect family.”

“At the beginning I was at her school 3 or 4 times a week, but with the tools Triple P offered we made it through. Chyna wanted to fight, and had mental health issues and thoughts of suicide. Without Triple P I don’t know whether I would be here either because I was about to lose it. What they offer, the counseling and case management, has really helped my family a lot.”

“I used to scream at my 11 year old daughter and 14 year old son, they were lazy and didn’t want to do any chores or follow instructions. I feel fortunate to have participated in the Triple P program to use the strategies that were taught. What worked well for me was finding the time to spend quality time with my children, like playing with them, or going to the movies. I learned how to talk respectfully using a firm voice with them, and not scream. I now sit down with them and discuss my expectations before starting any new chores. I am more consistent in following through, and I give them rewards (such as spending my time with them) when they do well. I have learned that discipline and structure is also love.”

<p>How did you find out about Triple P?</p>	<p>Newspaper, phone books, internet, everything.</p>
<p>For clarification, look at page 3 of the handout (PowerPoint) “Teen Triple P Strategies”, numbers 3, 4, and 5. Please give examples how these are taught and implemented.</p> <p>How do you get a kid with problems to trust you?</p>	<p>Teaching new skills and behaviors: Parents are taught to develop a contract with their children, one thing that is addressed are the risky behaviors that could happen.</p> <p>Dealing with risky behavior: Positive reinforcement and redirecting takes place. Risky behaviors could be smoking, drugs, skipping school, and things like going out and not telling the parent where they would be.</p> <p>The youth is connected to an individual therapist in addition to the family Triple P services. A client gave a testimonial that his 11 year old son was still traumatized by his uncle’s death when he had been 5 years old, and prior to the Triple P program had been holding it in for 6 years.</p>
<p>What resources do the agencies need to reach more children?</p> <p>How many practitioners are there?</p>	<p>Agencies reported that they were at capacity and there were limited therapists. Even though they were at capacity there was not currently a waiting list.</p> <p>Four at Parent-Child Center and four at Center for Family Services.</p>
<p>If you had more resources would you have 8 positions?</p>	<p>Yes. We do try to match our therapists to our families, so the staff represents the community mix. It helps with engagement and with reaching the families. The program has been very well received. The program is set up where the teen has to be present and a part of the program gives the teen a voice which is very important to them.</p>

Where are the fathers?	A client explained that her ex-husband was the one that found the program and enrolled her but had refused to participate himself. It was explained that in 70% of the cases the referral is for the teen and the mom and that it was very uncommon for a father to participate in the Triple P program.
There are 200 children enrolled in the program, how many do you expect to serve in 16/17?	Over 130 have already been served in 16/17.
What is the average length of time a client remains in the program?	Ten sessions (weeks). Clients expressed that they were not ready to leave the program.
What are the challenges/weaknesses with the program?	Fatherhood engagement is a challenge.
What percentage of clients are referred by the Court system?	Approximately 20%.

2. Minutes

A. February 23, 2017 Council Meeting

A motion by Bean/Goodman to approve the Minutes of the February 23, 2017 Council Meeting 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 that day and that the external Auditors had been present and had reviewed their audit of fiscal year 15/16. He stated that the Finance Committee recommended approval of the FY 15/16 audit.

He stated that the Finance Committee approved the February Financial Statements and the Minutes of the February 23, 2017 Finance Committee meeting.

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

Chair Weber thanked CFO Jennifer Diehl for the excellent audit results.

5. Consent Agenda

1. Additions, Deletions, Substitutions - None

2. Items to be Pulled for Discussion – Agenda items 5A(2) (Reference #3), 5A(3) (Reference #4) and 5B(2) (Reference #6) were pulled for discussion purposes.
3. Adoption of the Consent Agenda and Walk-in Warrants List

A motion by Goodman/Langowski to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of Agenda items 5A(2) (Reference #3), 5A(3) (Reference #4) and 5B(2) (Reference #6), and approve the Walk-in Warrants list, was approved by unanimous vote.

A. Program

1. Resolution #17-003 Authorizing Increased Allocation for the Florida Department of Health-Palm Beach County Program – Approved by Consent
2. Resolution #17-004 Authorizing Amending Funding Mechanism for Swim Lesson Vouchers

<p>It looks like we committed to match dollar-for-dollar any contributions made by businesses up to \$50,000, but that we haven’t spent very much because not many business had committed funding?</p>	<p>There had been issues with the ambassadors (Palm Beach County Fire Rescue) being spread too thinly, focusing on other issues. Vouchers from the Drowning Prevention Coalition become available April 1, 2017. If contributions are made later towards the end of the summer they would be scrambling to allocate the funding for swim lessons.</p>
<p>Is the window for contribution closed, or is it just tight right now?</p>	<p>The window is tight.</p>
<p>This recommendation is just to allocate the remaining \$40,000 earmarked as match funding?</p>	<p>This is correct. An analysis of the swim voucher program was performed, determining the most-used Zip codes and the viability of distributing the vouchers through various groups and summer camps. They wanted to add a parental component to educate parents on the importance of swim lessons, so they had gone to all 10 BRIDGES sites, and if parents attended a 45 minute presentation on water safety they could receive vouchers. This had been a successful strategy with a request for a total of 544 vouchers.</p>
<p>Would the remaining \$40,000 cover the 544 vouchers?</p>	<p>It would cover that, and distribution to summer camps. They could also distribute to the County and YMCA for discounted vouchers whereby parents would pay \$35 for lessons instead of \$50. They had asked the Drowning Prevention Coalition to approach summer camps in which children are recipients of CSC scholarships, and provide vouchers to those children. 32 summer camps had expressed interest in this program.</p>
<p>We had originally projected a need for \$100,000 and it was currently \$50,000. Child drownings happen each year so there is definitely a need for the program, so this should be discussed.</p>	<p>The numbers had been reviewed with the Drowning Prevention Coalition, and they are confident that should the Council go above the \$40,000 proposal (for example to \$60,000) that the money would be well-used. The nature of the voucher is that they are time-limited and do expire, so</p>

	<p>for those that have expired, the funding is freed-up to reissue vouchers to others. The later you go into the summer, the harder it is to get kids into the program and completed before the start of the school year. Any unused vouchers will roll over to the Drowning Prevention Coalition's next year budget, so the funding would eventually be used.</p>
<p>Do the Boynton Beach, Lake Worth and Delray Beach City pools do swim lessons?</p>	<p>Yes. Boynton Beach – Denson pool; Lake Worth – pool closed (had participated in voucher program previous year); Delray Beach – Pompey Park.</p>
<p>When the Community Alliance is briefed of all deaths in Palm Beach County it is very rare that there are no drowning deaths reported. I strongly support the voucher program for swim lessons to be funded to the extent possible.</p> <p>Chair Weber asked the Council whether they would like to allocate more funding provided there was a justified need.</p> <p>What would your recommendation be?</p>	<p>I agree, we need more money.</p> <p>For a total funded amount of \$75,000. Council members concurred.</p>

A motion by Bean/Goodman to approve Resolution #17-004 authorizing; i) transfer of \$40,000 from the swim voucher match program to the Drowning Prevention Coalition to fund additional swim lesson vouchers for the summer of 2017; and ii) authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to execute the necessary documents to amend the existing agreements with the Palm Beach County Volunteer Fire-Rescue Association and Board of County Commissioners, effective April 1, 2017 was approved by unanimous vote.

A motion by Bean/Goodman to fund the Drowning Prevention Coalition in an additional amount of \$35,000 (one agreement for a total of up to \$75,000) was approved by unanimous vote.

3. Resolution #17-005 Authorizing Termination of Contract with RTI, International

<p>Is Child First the program for children caught between divorce or separation?</p>	<p>Child First is the program that combines a care coordinator with a Masters-level clinical therapist who go into the home and work with very high-risk families. Families that have domestic violence, substance abuse, or homelessness. It is a home-visiting program.</p>
<p>It sounds like the evaluation firm dropped the ball.</p>	<p>There were challenges with the study, so the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation decided not to move forward with it. It does not mean that they are not interested in it, but one of their reasons was that Connecticut no longer needed an</p>

	RCT (randomized controlled trial) to continue funding the program. The sustainability of the program was one of Robert Wood Johnson’s drivers to support the study, and they were one of the main funders of this study.
Are we still planning to evaluate the program?	Yes, we are still planning to evaluate the program. We have been doing the planning since 2014, and we may decide to work independently with this organization. In addition, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation had indicated to CSC that they were interested in working with us to evaluate our own local programs. This will be brought back to the Council.
It is unusual that they left their funding with CSC.	The JPD Foundation already allocated \$250,000 and they said it could be used for general operating expenses. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation were remitting directly to RTI International for the study, but they had demonstrated support for possible future funding for CSC’s program(s).
Shouldn’t we ensure that the \$250,000 they are giving us goes to this program and not general operating expenses?	That is really CSC’s decision because they had designated general operating expenses in order to give CSC leeway in its usage.
Why wouldn’t you use it for this program?	We don’t have a reason why not.

A motion by Lynch/Martz to approve Resolution #17-005 authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to execute the necessary documents to terminate the contract with RTI, International, effective April 30, 2017 was approved by unanimous vote.

B. Business

1. Warrants List – Approved by Consent
2. Proclamation Declaring April 2017 as Child Abuse Prevention Month

A similar Proclamation has already been approved by the County Commission and by the Community Alliance.
 One of CSC’s four goals is that children are safe from abuse and neglect, and it has created a Healthy Beginnings system in order to operate towards achieving this goal.
 CSC invests over \$28 million per year in the Healthy Beginnings system, and over \$12 million of this amount has a direct outcome objective of preventing child abuse and neglect (and those programs are evaluated on whether they are doing so).

 A designated CSC staff member is working with the Department of Children of Families and Child Net to create, revise, and implement the child abuse prevention plan. The plan focuses on prevention and early intervention strategies to keep children out of the welfare system. There is a permanency plan

(for which Children’s Home Society takes the lead on), and there is a Prevention Plan. One focus area in the plan is mental health and substance abuse. CSC’s response to this focus area would be to expand its services for mental health and substance abuse, and implementation of the Child First program, in addition to the provision of the Teen Triple P program.

Larry Rein, Executive Director of ChildNet stated that ChildNet had begun October 1, 2012, as an emergency procurement, to operate the foster care system, under contract with the Department of Children and Families. It had been a case management crisis which had been brought under control fairly quickly due to excellent collaboration with Children’s Home Society to whom ChildNet subcontracted.

From July, 2013 the number of children removed from their homes because of abuse, abandonment, or neglect increased by 50%, from approximately 50 children per month to nearly 90 children per month. In addition, the number of children in foster care increased by 50% from 1,300 to more than 1,800.

Child Net had been able to survive that crisis because of its great support. CSC had been part of that support; by funding the Legal Aid Society’s foster care project and juvenile advocacy program there had been no problems with kids stuck at the front end, waiting for paperwork. Foster care funded by the state level was now funded fairly, compared to other jurisdictions. Historically, Palm Beach was relatively under-funded, and an equity formula was devised (and supported by Senator Negrón) which helped more money make it into Palm Beach County. The number of children in care had dramatically increased, and the funding had remained static. The Legislature and the Department of Children and Families, for three consecutive years, had authorized special appropriations to Palm Beach County through ChildNet. Special appropriation funding for those three years had totaled over \$11 million.

Palm Beach County was now in a good position with a tremendous relationship between ChildNet, The Department of Children and Families, CSC, the School system, an incredibly involved judiciary system, and an incredibly involved legal community (both Legal Aid and Children’s Legal Services (CLS) – the DCF attorneys).

The two major causes for (the general foster care population of) children being removed from their homes in Palm Beach County at the current time are: i) parents engaged in substance abuse, or ii) parents engaged in domestic family violence. Prevention (preventing abuse) needs to shift the way it looks at substance abuse and domestic violence.

If records were reviewed for the past three years of teenagers entering foster care, in 50% of the teenage cases it was due to behavioral problems: parents had abandoned their children because they can no longer take their behavior, delinquency, or mental health problems. The foster care system now has a disproportionate number of teenagers with a unique set of challenges, that their parents couldn’t handle.

There needs to be a community-wide effort to address the teen issue. Three years ago there had been no foster homes in Palm Beach County: foster children had been spread out all over the state of Florida. The inventory of foster homes had been increased by nearly 100% in three years and nearly all of the children who were spread out had been brought back to Palm Beach County.

Palm Beach County remains last in the state in foster homes for teenagers.

Intensifying and expanding the Teen Triple P program is a great start in the right direction. In addition, we need to work on meeting the mental health needs of these children when they are younger.

<p>What is the process by which someone reports abuse?</p>	<p>They call the hotline, it’s a statewide hotline 1-800-96-ABUSE.</p>
<p>Does the caller have to identify themselves?</p>	<p>No, they are protected by law, and their identity</p>

<p>You specified that more than 1,500 children were victims of <i>verified</i> child abuse. How many children were victims of abuse that was not verified?</p> <p>Page8</p> <p>Is the 1,500 an extremely low number, would it be more realistic to assume it was 15,000?</p>	<p>will never be disclosed.</p> <p>There are three levels of findings on a case:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No indicators of abuse and neglect (an extraordinary amount of time is spent on false reports, retaliatory neighbor complaints/feuds, custodial issues. • Not substantiated – there may be evidence that some things are going on, but it doesn’t rise to the level where it could be verified. • Verified abuse and/or neglect. <p>1,500 is the number we should probably be at, we should do more to keep children in homes and intact while supporting them with sufficient services. Many in-roads have been made in the past year, new programs have been created to address needs at the front-end to serve those families before they need to be removed.</p>
<p>In the Agenda Item there is a list of activities and events related to Child Abuse Prevention Month, and the second bullet there is a flyer for an event for next Tuesday, with a Keynote Speaker who is a foster parent, having fostered 16 children and adopted 3 of them. This event would give a real first-hand view of the foster care system.</p>	
<p>(Judge Martz): From my viewpoint, the entire landscape of dependency in Palm Beach County is not status quo, it is a group of people working to change the status quo. An unacceptable answer is “because we’ve always done it that way”. The (CSC programs) Foster Children’s Project and the Juvenile Advocacy Project are incredible assets, and they make sure that our children’s voices are heard, which enables everyone involved to hear their voices and respond to the needs. Without that piece we would not hear what we hear, and it’s causing a lot of people to step up and say “Business as Usual is done, it’s time for us to do something differently”. I am easily able to reach Larry (Rein), and when you set that tone within ChildNet, it causes everyone within ChildNet to know that we’d better have a good answer to why we are doing what we are doing. I really appreciate his attitude and the “get it done” mentality we have in Palm Beach County.</p> <p>(Dennis Miles): In Palm Beach County – I oversee operations in three judicial circuits in six counties and the level of collaboration and relationships we have in Palm Beach County is rarely seen elsewhere. There is not the in-fighting, everyone is focused on solutions and it is unique.</p>	

A motion by Bean/Lynch to approve this Proclamation to raise awareness and recognize April 2017 as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

3. Proclamation Declaring April 2017 as Ethics Awareness Month – Approved by Consent
4. Resolution #17-006 Authorizing an Agreement for EveryParent Apps Maintenance – Approved by Consent
5. Resolution #17-007 Authorizing Entering into an Agreement with SHI International Corp. to Procure Microsoft Licensing – 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. Presentation at Southeast Evaluation Association (SEA) 2017 Annual Workshop

Lisa Williams-Taylor, Ph.D. recognized Dr. Laura Fleischman for her presentation at the Southeast Evaluation Association annual workshop.

2. Presentation at Florida State Head Start Association Annual Conference

Dr. Williams-Taylor acknowledged Shelley Parker for her presentation at the Florida State Head Start Association Annual Conference.

3. CSC Employee elected Governor - Palm Beach County Chapter of Institute of Internal Auditors

Dr. Williams-Taylor acknowledged and congratulated Ron Bazil, Director of Audit, in his election as Governor for the Palm Beach County Chapter of the Institute of Internal Auditors.

4. Birth Outcomes for Black Women Who Graduated College

Dr. Williams-Taylor stated that some research had been performed regarding birth outcomes for Black women who had graduated college vs. White women whose highest level of education was high school (and White women who did not graduate high school). She stated that there remained a huge disparity, they had tested the national research to see whether it held true in Palm Beach County, and that research had shown that it did: the birth outcomes for Black women who had graduated college had been poorer (in Palm Beach County).

The birth outcomes were statistically significant in low birthweight babies for this demographic group, and while not statistically significant, they also have much higher rates of infant mortality. She stated that if anyone was interested in the full report it could be provided to them.

Dr. Williams-Taylor stated that she had wanted to include it because at the April Planning Session they would spend significant time discussing disparities and what was proposed for programming to target these disparities.

5. CSC Celebrates Pink Shirt Day

Dr. Williams-Taylor stated that Pink Shirt Day was a bullying event, and a picture of staff was included in the CEO Report. The School District was invited to present to CSC regarding its

activities to address bullying, but had been unable to make it. It would be invited to present in May or June.

9. Legal Reports

1. April 27, 2017 Finance Committee Meeting – 2:30 pm, Annual Planning Session – 4:00 p.m., Council Meeting immediately following, (noticed for 6:00 p.m.)

Tom Sheehan, General Counsel, stated that the Agenda had listed the April Finance Committee to begin at 3:00 p.m. April 27th, but that this had been corrected to begin at 2:30 p.m. He stated that the Planning Session would begin at 4:00 p.m. and that the Council meeting would be directly following the Planning Session, and that it had been noticed to begin at 6:00 p.m.

2. Term for Board Chairs


Mr. Sheehan stated that at the last meeting he had been asked the term limit for the Board Chair, and had researched it. He stated that in the last 10 years there had been 4 Chairs, two of whom had served 3 year terms, and two of whom had served two year terms.

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


11. Council Comments – None

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:44 p.m.



Vincent Goodman, Secretary



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