

MINUTES

	Meeting Title:		2018/2019 CSC Annual Planning Session	
	Date:	6/28/18	Time:	12:30 p.m.
	Location:		2300 High Ridge Road, Boynton Beach	
	Chair:	Tom Weber	Scribe:	Lisette Usborne
Participants:	Council Members: Thomas Bean; Paulette Burdick; Judge James Martz; Vern Melvin; Debra Robinson, M.D.; Jose Luis Rodriguez, Esq.; Tom Weber			
ADVANCING EQUITY				
Decision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council committed to advancing equity as a Guiding Principle. • Council members expressed an interest in joining a Groundwater Analysis if offered in Palm Beach County. It was suggested to invite BRIDGES members. It was also suggested to invite United Way, County Commissioners, Community Alliance, Early Learning Coalition, other community partners, and community members. 				
BRIDGES				
Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The map shows most BRIDGES locations on the coast with two in the Glades and one in west Lake Worth. Have we looked at satellite BRIDGES in other locations for one day per week to engage more families? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This has not been considered yet, the plan was to have the ten sites as individual focus points, ensuring they had a solid footprint. This could be a future consideration. • When a family is referred, are they able to actually get there? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Besides BRIDGES sites, they also conduct activities in non-traditional settings (churches, etc.). Also, each BRIDGES has a linkage/partnership to a community school, as well. • How many families are added each year? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Within the target population, the number of families added (within the specific Census tract, who were pregnant, and/or were raising children from birth to age 8) in FY 2016 there was a drop to 546 families, and in FY 2017 it increased to 620 families. They served more families (because families were served who were outside of the Census tract), but a theoretical underpinning is that if you can impact 65% of your families, that is the tipping point. In FY 2017 BRIDGES actively served a little over 3,000 families. • Through BRIDGES, has CSC had a change of perception in these communities (a trust issue)? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Building trust is the ongoing work of BRIDGES. ○ One recommendation was community action planning. How do we truly accomplish that without forcing the community or forcing CSC's desired outcomes? Some communities do very well with certain outcomes and some don't. • What type of pressure does the BRIDGES team experience to become something other than BRIDGES? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is a lot of pressure because they are only a staff of eight per site. In some cases it seems that if anyone wants to do anything in that particular community, BRIDGES is the place to go to, whether or not it is meaningful for BRIDGES to take on that role. • We've had BRIDGES for 5 years, we should be able to look at it and see if the program is working the way it's supposed to and if there are any changes that need to be made. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ From the evaluation recommendations the BRIDGES Directors are being challenged to conduct community conversations to ask what are the community needs. Once this is specified, CSC needs to be willing to support those recommendations and be OK with that, even if it doesn't immediately touch a child outcome. A recommendation was to conduct true community action planning, noting that it will look different in each of the 10 different communities. 				

- If we are really listening to the community and what they want, it may not be the (designated) four child outcomes that we are impacting. We need to figure out the measurements and be accountable, but it may not be what we originally set out to do.
- We have some very bright people in the communities that can have their own small businesses and can be successful. How can we go beyond what we do here for children, and work with Chambers of Commerce, banks and insurance companies to advocate for them? It's institutional racism, some people bear the burden more than others. We should make some of our peers uncomfortable and encourage them to go to the racial equity program.
- Rather than seeing the annual list of all of CSC's funded providers, is BRIDGES doing all it can do to identify community-based services, whether these are mom and pop or small business? We are used to our niche providers that are evidence-based, but are we doing all we can do? Perhaps it would be worthwhile to pursue so that we can say that we are supporting small business providers too.
 - We have an RFP process that includes 30 staff members looking at equity across our entire organization, including our RFP process.
- How often is there a periodic review of the Programs List to see if we need to make a change? Is there a middle ground between going to RFP every 2 years and having the same provider for 10 years?
 - Many of CSC's funded organizations receive the majority of their funding from CSC. Without CSC funding they would go out of business.
 - We do the Comprehensive Program Performance Assessment (CPPA) on an annual basis to measure whether the programs are delivering services with fidelity according to the contract. The Strategy Review and Allocation Analysis (SRAA) –whether we have the right programs in place– happens every 5 to 6 years and is scheduled for discussion later at this Planning Session.
 - One strategy put in place 3 years ago was the Great Ideas Initiative as a way to expand our reach. Current providers are not eligible to apply for this funding, it is designed to reach grassroots organizations.
- How are we reaching out to these organizations?
 - The distribution process is pretty global, reaching out to the various Chambers of Commerce, information sessions, access to neighborhood posts and also sending information to foundations and agencies. There is a comprehensive list of organizations informed, and we can continue to work on it to ensure it is being distributed as broad as possible. In 2017 there were over 150 different organizations that came to information sessions to hear about the Great Ideas Initiative.
- What about going out to the communities and getting people in the communities with ideas?
 - This may become a different variation of the current Great Ideas Initiative. The current applicants must be a nonprofit that has been in existence.
- The important part of the discussion between sustained funding or RFP is the metrics. Now we have moved to how the program benefits the children (instead of submission of paperwork), I am more comfortable with the automatic renewal.
- Can we establish an apprenticeship program to give the mom and pop providers the criteria to be able to apply for CSC funding?
 - The Great Ideas Initiative's rules include being a nonprofit for a minimum of two years.
- One concern that we always have is the fidelity of taxpayer's money going to the community, which is why the two year rule for Great Ideas was in effect. BRIDGES could act as the sentinel in the neighborhood to determine the continued fidelity of the services, and could hold them accountable for the neighborhood and CSC. BRIDGES could recommend a replacement if the mom and pop was not performing to expectations.
- In summary, discussion has determined that neighborhoods need to be able to help themselves and be given the power to do so.

Decision:

- Support for BRIDGES and exploration of community engagement and action planning.

MEASURING OUR IMPACT

This discussion was addressed at the Council Meeting as a walk-in item.

KINDERGARTEN READINESS ASSESSMENT TOOL AND DISAGGREGATION OF DATA

This discussion was addressed at the Council Meeting as a walk-in item.

SRAA PRIMARY APPROACH AND STRATEGIES

Discussion:

- Mango Bay was funded by the Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network, and was recently defunded. Gratitude house was lost. Where are pregnant moms and babies supposed to go? The County is working with them to see if there are any unexpended funds to use in an emergency situation. The County puts \$21 million per year into housing, and it's not enough. The County has recently been informed that the State homeless grant is also gone.
- Is there a group of people who are looking at the horizon (Collective Impact) and determining the upcoming needs, and looking for grant opportunities? Or are they saying how do the existing organizations work to better that?
 - Both. In Birth to 22 there is a funders group. Once issues are identified there is an opportunity to reach out for grant funding. This issue has not come up during those conversations, it will be brought back to that team and noted that this is a significant issue in our community.
- People who need the affordable housing are at work when the County Commission meetings take place. Does that mean that CSC speaks for the children in this arena?
- Please describe what 'epigenetics' means?
 - Understanding that there is an opportunity to strengthen the connections in the brain within the early years. There is much environmental impact on a child at this time, and traumatic experiences early on will have a big impact on brain development. This is evident through brain scans and research. It is the science of brain development that now supports what is known from working with children that have been exposed to negative experiences at a young age.
- The epigenetics that I have researched is cross-generational, so it's everything you've mentioned, but it gets passed-on. It's being scientifically documented that past trauma can affect new generations genetically and not just behaviorally.
 - This shows the importance of continuing the two-generational work, working with families over time, but there is lifespan development and stress over time, and understanding and recognizing that. It impacts CSC's ability to change outcomes, and it's cumulative.
- Do we have enough mental health workers in Palm Beach County?
 - We do not have sufficient mental health workers at the present time. We have a pilot program within Healthy Beginnings to provide scholarships in this area. We are creating an ability to have more mental health providers in our system to provide the services that we need. There is additional work we need to do with regard to partnerships with universities to get more capacity, and to not lose our mental health workers to private organizations.
- Is the funding adequate?
 - We'll let you know. It started in April of 2018. Our initial focus is supporting the current Healthy Beginnings workforce, so the mental health worker needs to be in a CSC-funded program to access these dollars. They can get up to \$5,250 tuition reimbursement to go back to school for formal education and/or credentialing on modalities focusing on early childhood.
- What age kids?
 - In the Healthy Beginnings system, from pregnant moms through children up to age five. Also with BRIDGES staff and Teen Triple P, anyone serving those populations.
- When school opens after summer break we will see an onslaught of information regarding kids' behavioral health. Is CSC ready to take that on? How do we contemplate integrating Juvenile Justice's approach with the School District and Law Enforcement? How do we ensure it happens fast? It's one thing to send a copy with a psychology degree to a home to evaluate a kid, but it's not likely to solve the problem. It seems like it's a niche that will fall to CSC, the question is whether we prepare for it now, or prepare for it after we find out no one else is doing it.
 - We are working closely with the School District on their bid process, we have \$500,000 budgeted to put into mental health services for the upcoming fiscal year. The idea is to do a pilot in 35 to 40 schools with a mental health therapist who would become part of the school culture. The pilot would focus in elementary and middle schools.

- Are we going to fund the full pilot or are we splitting it with the School Board?
 - We will fund positions at select schools.
- How many schools do we have in Palm Beach County?
 - 187. The School District is getting \$4.2 million from the State, which includes Charter schools.
- If the program looks good, would we consider increasing the funding?
 - We would look at the budget for the next year and look at increasing the Millage rate.
- Will the therapists be trained on all of CSC's capabilities with other services?
 - It is our hope that the positions will be filled by providers that are already in our system and already doing some work within the School District.

Decision:

- The consensus is for CSC to advocate in the housing arena, but not provide funding.
- Approval of SRAA recommendations.

SUMMER CAMP DISCUSSION

Discussion:

- Do we pay the full camp scholarship or do parents pay a portion of it?
 - CSC pays the full amount, there is no co-pay assessed. The County puts in \$430,000 - \$450,000 each year from a cash-based perspective, plus all the administrative support.
- Is it correct that it is \$900 to \$1,000 per child for the full ten weeks?
 - Correct.
- Is CSC increasing the funding because we are offering more scholarships, or because the County's share has gone down, and CSC is picking up the slack?
 - More children are being served.
- I would want to see more camps that have an academic opportunity so that the kids don't fall behind, especially if they are coming from disadvantaged-income families.
- Is there any reason why we can't maintain it at \$4.5 million, or increase it to \$5 million?
 - We don't know whether the full \$4.5 million will be expended this year, because registration grew exponentially. We'll know a lot more as we get the final reports in the fall.
- What are the other potential camp options?
 - How insistent is the Council on having the camps be academically-enriched or literacy-enriched? One out of every four camps is an EEC camp.
- With the increase in funding, is the capacity being increased by having additional sites, or just increasing the current site capacity?
 - Increasing current site capacity, as the County has already secured the summer camps who will be accepting scholarships. The EEC (educational enrichment camps/academic camps) are typically planned to be at 60% capacity by the Youth Services Department (YSD). When the additional CSC funding was granted in May, the capacity that was available was largely at the EEC. Some families may have experienced limited choice- space at an EEC or no camp, as everything else would be at capacity.
- What if some of the funding goes towards transportation costs, in addition to scholarships?
 - We have not heard that transportation is a barrier in getting kids to and from the camps.
- Please explain the family choice more fully.
 - Perhaps a child has been in summer school, so a parent may not want an academic focus for camp. The choice for an academic camp may be limited in other enrichment activities, and there may not be opportunities to go outside. Parents research which camp they want their child to engage in, they may choose a basketball or soccer camp.
- We currently have a pool of 129 camps, but there are many more in the county. Do you know how many other camps we'd be comfortable recommending for the scholarship slots?
 - YSD manages the entire administrative aspect, including outreach and recruitment. They cast the net very wide, and camps must submit an application if they want to be considered. YSD has not indicated there is a capacity challenge in placing eligible children in a camp.
- The number of calls to the DCF abuse hotline drops significantly in the summer. It is not because abuse and neglect reduces significantly in the summer, it's because the kids are not in school so the teachers don't see it. Camp is important as a protective factor for these kids.
- Because you will take this summer's figures to study and determine trends, for the following year's budget development, it was suggested budgeting it at \$3 million, and not rely on reserves or contingency.

- Are the camps only available to poor kids?
 - The camp attendees are not only children who are at 150% of the poverty level. The CSC scholarships and YSD scholarships are entirely children who are at 150% or less, and we coordinate to maximize access. Within each camp there is a diverse population, it's not a low-income camp.

Decision:

- The Council expressed agreement with having family choice, and being able to provide CSC funding for both sports and academic camps. In the budget it is budgeted at \$2.2 million, and we have the availability to move under expenditures to bring it up to \$3.2 million. It was recommended to leave it at \$2.2 million, and hearing Council approval to increase that amount if needed. We can come back with more information (how many families were eligible) and do a budget amendment and move under expenditures.

STEM

Discussion:

- Does the program encourage a 50-50 split of each gender?
 - At the site visits of the three camps, in some there was a 50-50 split, and in others it was 60-40, but there was definitely a girl presence.
- The biggest takeaway is that by bringing this into the communities where the kids don't have access to STEM it will really help change the trajectory for these kids.

Decision:

- Continue funding of STEM and look at other opportunities for expansion.

STRONG MINDS

Due to time constraints this item was not fully discussed at the Planning Session, however, discussions pertaining to HB 1091 and implications to our Strong Minds system was discussed at the Council meeting.

BUDGET

(This discussion was addressed at the Council Meeting as a walk-in item.)

Discussion:

- The Finance Committee will bring forward the 18/19 Proposed CSC Annual Budget at the August 2nd Council meeting after slight tweaking.
 - The Millage rate of .6403 will be used, which was voted upon by the Council at the June 28, 2018 Council meeting (as part of the Finance Committee report).

FUNDING PROCESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Due to time constraints this item was not discussed at the Planning Session.

The meeting was recessed at 4:29 p.m. and discussion continued at the Council meeting.


 Vincent Goodman, Secretary


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