



CHILDREN'S TRUST
OF ALACHUA COUNTY

PROGRAM FUNDING WORKSHOP

MINUTES

April 17, 2023, at 9:00 AM

CTAC, 802 NW 5th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601

Call to Order

Chair Tina Certain called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Roll Call

PRESENT

Chair Tina Certain

Vice Chair Lee Pinkoson

Treasurer Ken Cornell

Member Judge Denise R. Ferrero

Member Nancy Hardt

Member Maggie Labarta

Member Patricia Snyder

Member Cheryl Twombly

ABSENT

Member Shane Andrew

Agenda Review, Revision and Approval

Motion to approve the agenda with the addition of a discussion of the Environmental Scan made by Vice Chair Pinkoson, Seconded by Member Cornell.

Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Discussion

1. Programs by Category (and Environmental Scan)

Director of Program Operations, Kristy Goldwire, presented on currently funded programs classified by goal and by the ages of 0-5 and 6-18. Birth to five spending is ~1.6M, six to eighteen is ~5.2M, and birth to 18 programs are funded at ~450K. She also provided a breakdown of programs based on topic, such as literacy, mental health, mentoring, a focus on

family supports, and/or on reducing violence. The Board requested a further breakdown of the 6-18 category, either by individual grade or by elementary, middle and high school. Members received a copy of the Environmental Scan – a document produced by Bonnie Wagner, the Trust’s Research, Planning, and Evaluation Coordinator. This provided population statistics and demographics across Florida and compared indicators of Child Well-Being data in Alachua County.

2. Multi-year vs Single year Contracts

The Program Award and Expenses document shows the currently funded programs in this year’s budget. The Summer Camp and Enrichment Providers have a three-year contract, the TeensWork Alachua providers have a three-year contract, and the Help Me Grow Alachua program has a five-year contract. All the other providers highlighted in green on the document have funding that will expire September 30, 2023.

Funding Priority Discussion

The Board discussed and reached a consensus to agree with the concept from Prismatic’s Listening Tour, to have funding allocated in buckets by age group. A future RFP will include language to encompass the meta-programming concept whereby third parties train or incorporate the tenets/principles that run through all the age groups.

While still in the process of determining funding priorities from the Board’s Strategic Plan, there will be some providers that will experience a lapse in funding due to their contracts ending on September 30, 2023. Staff recommended a one-year funding renewal for these programs. The Board discussed the options of non-renewal, a 6-month renewal, or renewing for one year. As these funds would be pulled from the Trust’s Fund Balance, the Board reached a consensus to renew these contracts for an additional 6 months, ending on March 31, 2024. As additional RFPs, which reflect the Board’s funding priorities, are released, these providers would have the opportunity to apply for further funding dependent on how their program meets the priority topic.

3. Afterschool RFP

Upon the first release of the Afterschool RFP in 2021, the goal was to expand existing services and ensure children had safe places and enriching programs. These would be specifically for low-income families, IEP or 504 plans, SNAP benefits, and children in foster and kinship care. Six providers were funded and complete their contracts this year.

Prior to the release of a new Afterschool RFP, the board has the opportunity to add or change priorities and performance measures. Should the program be an opportunity to ensure children have somewhere safe to be after school, or should they address a certain need, i.e., literacy? Should they support the public school curriculum, and/or support special needs; and do we want to ensure the children with IEP and 504 plans are also low income?

Trust staff recommended changing the minimum qualifications to bid by removing the requirement that applicants are a current summer provider, as well as making validation in the Community Foundation's Philanthropy Hub a deliverable, instead of a requirement to bid. The board discussed the requirement that providers provide services four days per week at a minimum of 1.5 hours. They discussed if there should be different requirements for those serving elementary, middle, or high school aged students.

It was proposed that the high school programs should focus on things like career exploration, job skills, apprenticeships, career technical education, and college or postgraduate preparation. A third party could teach life skills, soft skills, effectively managing interactions, and conflict resolution. The staff and board agreed that this initiative to focus on teen centers should be incorporated into a future RFP.

Member Pinkoson brought up the topic of incorporating a literacy requirement into the afterschool programming. This would include performance measures which would provide data on literacy improvement through the semester or school year. Member Labarta mentioned that the Trust would have to provide the funds so this requirement could be implemented by the providers, or through a third party that would visit the program and teach the curriculum.

Like the first RFP, the board agreed that awarded funds should be used to expand programs, not supplement them; and continue to prioritize low-income families and improving literacy skills in grades K-12.

General Public Comment

Next Meeting Dates

Regular Board Meeting - Monday, May 8th, 2023 @ 4:00 PM
Children's Trust of Alachua County, 802 NW 5th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601

Regular Board Meeting - Monday, June 12th, 2023 @ 4:00 PM
Children's Trust of Alachua County, 802 NW 5th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601

Adjournment

Chair Tina Certain adjourned the meeting at 12:22 PM.