



## CHILDREN'S TRUST REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 08, 2024, at 4:00 PM

Alachua County Health Dept, Thomas Coward Auditorium, 224 SE 24th St., Gainesville, FL 32641

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### Call to Order

**Chair Pinkoson called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.**

### Roll Call

#### PRESENT

Chair Lee Pinkoson  
Vice Chair Ken Cornell  
Treasurer Cheryl Twombly  
Member Tina Certain  
Member Mary Chance  
Member Judge Denise R. Ferrero  
Member Nancy Hardt

#### ABSENT

Member Shane Andrew  
Member Maggie Labarta

### Agenda Review, Revision, and Approval

**Motion to approve the agenda made by Member Certain, Seconded by Vice Chair Cornell.**

Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

### Consent Agenda

1. Board Attendance YTD
2. 3.4.2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
3. 3.4.2024 Board Meeting Evaluation - Survey Results
4. February 2024 Checks and Expenditures Report
5. Monthly Budget Review
6. Programmatic Award and Expense Report
7. February Sponsorship Applications

### Proclamation - Child Abuse Prevention Month

### General Public Comments

## Executive Director's Report

### 8. 4.8.24 ED Report

ED Kiner reported that the Early Learning Coalition has hired a new CEO, Ms. Xaviera White. She expressed thanks and excitement for her leadership and for the partnership we have begun to build. ED Kiner thanked CTAC staff for their hard work and reported that two staff members will be leaving this month – Mr. Deon Carruthers, Contract Manager and Ms. Diana Sanchez, Finance Director. The Board praised them for their work with the Trust and wished them well in future.

## New Business

### 9. Early Learning Coalition of Alachua County Funding Investment and Child Care Tuition Assistance Partnership (Mia Jones)

Early Childhood Coordinator Mia Jones shared two projects she has been working on with the Early Learning Coalition. The first was to assist ALICE families with tuition assistance to school readiness programs. An initial investment of \$150,000 would be able to help approximately 60 families get access to quality childcare and education. Member Cornell clarified that these families would receive 100% coverage of costs, however he questioned if more children could be eligible to participate, and reduce the waiting list, if some percentage could be covered by their families.

**Motion made by Vice Chair Cornell, Seconded by Member Certain to approve staff's recommendation to contract with the Early Learning Coalition of Alachua County for the creation of the Child Care Tuition Assistance Program funding category and provide an initial investment of \$150,000.00 along with future investments to sustain this funding category with ELC; to attempt to maximize the number of families and kids that could be met under this program; and to ensure the proper documentation is acquired from the Division of Early Learning and the Early Learning Coalition on the eligibility of the program.**

Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

ECC Jones also reported that through a partnership with ELC, a grant from the Division of Early Learning had been awarded of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding in the amount of \$350,564.35 to fund the Trust's Master Class and Accreditation Academy in partnership with BLI.

**Motion made by Vice Chair Cornell, Seconded by Member Certain to approve staff's recommendation to accept the Early Learning Coalition of Alachua County investment funds in the amount of \$350,564.35.**

Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

**Motion made by Vice Chair Cornell, Seconded by Member Certain that due to the unbudgeted/unexpected \$350,564.35 of ARPA funds, to ask that staff look at the potential outcomes of increasing the amount provided toward the partnership with ELC on the Child Care Tuition Assistance Program to maximize the number of kids served.**

Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

#### 10. Continuous Quality Improvement Update (Bonnie Wagner)

Research, Planning, and Evaluation Coordinator Bonnie Wagner presented on the ongoing efforts to improve outcomes for children and families through the Trust's CQI process. Results have been collected and analyzed from 59 of the Trust-funded organizations in 2023. This tool examines six areas including fiscal, operations, population focus, service delivery, performance measures, and data quality. Some of the measures were based on how well the provider met deliverables of their individual contracts, and others were based on their overall achievements and challenges. Staff found that several of the performance measures and data quality were impacted negatively by the programs' difficulties in meeting and retaining a sufficient staffing level for their programs. This process will be continually refined to ensure accurate data and improvement of performance measures among all providers in all categories.

#### 11. Approval of Youth Health RFP - To expand access to quality healthcare services for children and youth of families who are residents of Alachua County (Kristy Goldwire)

Director of Program Operations Kristy Goldwire presented RFP 2024-01 for Board approval. This RFP aims to improve access to healthcare services and will have a funding allocation of \$600,000, a three-year contract, and two renewal opportunities. Upon approval, the RFP will be released on April 11<sup>th</sup>, and all interested providers will be able to attend a Bidder's Conference and Office Hours with Trust staff. Participants that score within the potential funding range will be asked to make a Provider Presentation prior to award recommendation.

Recommendations from the Board Workshop on March 25<sup>th</sup> have been incorporated, including bonus points for the rural areas of Archer, Hawthorne, and Waldo, ensuring providers work with Medicaid, and that they provide an impact statement and community health worker implementation plan. Chair Pinkoson asked to extend the cone of silence on August 12<sup>th</sup> through the start of the regularly scheduled Board meeting that afternoon.

**Motion made by Member Certain, Seconded by Member Chance to approve Resolution 2024-02 and the release of RFP 2024-01, to approve the allocation of \$600,000 for Youth Health, and to authorize ED Kiner to appoint a review team of members with subject matter expertise.**

Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

#### Presentations

#### 12. Gainesville For All FY 24 Update on Gainesville Empowerment Zone (GEZ) Family Learning Center (Mia Jones and James Lawrence)

James Lawrence, President and CEO of Gainesville for All, updated the board on the GEZ's opening in August 2023 and its progress since that time. The center aims to provide children and families with a high-quality educational foundation and connections to vital social and community services. He stated that the ultimate goal of the program is to help close the achievement gap in Alachua County by engaging the community and the school district to address the root causes. Family engagement and early intervention have helped work towards this goal. Member Ferrero emphasized the importance of trauma-informed care for childcare providers and sent staff a link to DCF training programs: <https://www.myflfamilies.com/childcare/training/trauma-informed-care-courses-and-endorsement>. Mr. Lawrence highlighted his concern regarding continued funding for this program, and the ability to reach full capacity and as many families as possible. The Board discussed fundraising strategies such as grants from foundations, donations from

private individuals, and the potential to explore partnerships with other childcare centers in the area.

**General Public Comments**

**Board Member Comments**

**For Your Information**

Items in this section are for informational purposes only and do not require action by the Trust.

13. Comprehensive Literacy Plan Funding & Timeline Update

ED Kiner reported that the School Board may be able to contribute \$50,000 in funding.

**Next Meeting Dates**

Special Joint Meeting with Board of County Commissioners

Monday, May 6th, 2024 @ 4:00 PM

Alachua Co. Admin Bldg., Grace Knight Conf. Room, 12 SE 1st St., Gainesville, FL 32601

Regular Board Meeting - Monday, May 13th, 2024 @ 4:00 PM

Alachua Co. Health Dept, T. Coward Auditorium, 224 SE 24th St., Gainesville, FL 32641

**Adjournment**

**Chair Pinkoson adjourned the meeting at 6:16 PM.**