



## **CHILDREN'S TRUST - SPECIAL MEETING - WORKSHOP FOR LISTENING PROJECT MINUTES**

April 03, 2023 at 1:30 PM

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

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Meeting called to order at 1:30 pm by Steering Committee Chair Cheryl Twombly

### **Present**

Cheryl Twombly  
Ken Cornell  
Dr. Pat Snyder  
Lee Pinkoson  
Barzella Papa  
Candice King  
Christi Arrington  
Marsha Kiner  
Kristy Goldwire  
Elizabeth Cayson  
Dr. Nancy Hardt  
Dr. Maggie Labarta  
Tina Certain  
Shane Andrew  
Hon. Denise Ferrero

### **Absent**

Bishop Chris Stokes

### **Agenda Review, Revision and Approval**

Approval of the agenda also approves all of the items on the consent agenda.

Motion to accept and approve the agenda by Member L. Pinkoson.

Second by Member T. Certain.

### **Listening Project Report**

Dr. Prieto, Prismatic, discussed the overall project—the project path, limitations, whom they met, and what they heard. Dr. Prieto outlined the significant conclusions and recommendations the Prismatic team decided on in their report.

The joint Board and Steering Committee discussed the information presented asking for examples of her transportation recommendations for the Trust. The group asked what was different about this project in the Alachua County community versus other areas her team has worked. Various options to decide how to fund each goal were discussed by the group during the meeting. Some members felt the Trust should fill gaps but not be the payer in all areas. Other members thought that the Trust should take its time to review systems and barriers before making decisions.

## **Discussion**

### **Prioritizing Investments**

Nikki Martin-Bynum, Strategic planner with Seek Higher Ground, led the group in a rapid-fire discussion on how each member would rank their suggestions on prioritizing services or options for each of the current goals. Martin-Bynum shared the Steering Committee's suggestions from the March 24th meeting.

The joint group shared that they liked the suggestions from the Steering Committee and asked for a copy of the presentation to review.

### **General Public Comments**

Dorothy Benson, Board Chair of SWAG, shared the work of the Children's Services Advisory Board. Benson recognizes that the Trust is at an inflection point. She reminded everyone that all children and families benefit from the systems change.

Ross Ambrose spoke as a citizen who pays taxes, a business owner, and an elected official. Ambrose felt that the Trust should spend some of its resources on the "Why" and determine what should be changed to eliminate the need.

Anne Koterba, Board President of Aces in Motion, spoke to the importance of including older children in support. Intergenerational problems exist due to parents that were failed by the school system and others. She recommended seeking experts on systems change from outside of the county.

Dorothy Thomas, chair and founding member of The CHILD Center for Early Learning, asked the Board to consider dividing funding, but ensure that dollars reflect the desired outcomes. It is essential to change the whole system; changing parts of the system will not work longterm.

Charlie Jackson, of Project Manhood Youth Development, shared that he heard nothing new from the Listening Project Report. Jackson felt the Trust should be in alignment with all the county and school board. He stated one strategic mission plan for schools and homes would benefit children. Parent participation is essential.

Sherry Kitchens, Executive Director of the Child Advocacy Center, shared the importance of the Trust to focus on adverse childhood experiences. There are lots of programs and services for families, but some may refuse those services. The parents and families need to learn that the programs are there to help them.

Addison Staples, Executive Director of Aces in Motion, reminded the board that services provided must be preventive, developmental treatment, or rehabilitative. The data from the previous studies remains available. He stated this data isn't new and transportation remains an issue.

Member Cornell asked Staples to send the transportation recommendation to Executive Director Kiner.

Kate Williams, LMFT Brainpower Coordinator of Girls Place, asked the board to consider how mental health can be integrated into current programs. Williams informed the group that Telehealth is an essential tool, along with onsite training. These tools make things easier for staff and parents.

**Meeting adjourned at 3:58**