



Item:

Youth Mental Health Programs (Bonnie Wagner & Kristy Goldwire)

Requested Action:

The Board is asked to receive information.

Background:

The Children's Trust currently funds three organizations to provide mental health programming to children and youth in Alachua County.

- Child Advocacy Center – Reducing Trauma Therapy Program
- Pace Center for Girls – Reach Community Counseling
- UF Health Shands Psychiatric Hospital – Partners in Adolescent Lifestyle Support (PALS)

So far in FY2026, across these programs, 592 children and youth were served. Therapeutic services provided include individual, family, and group therapy. Additionally, funded programs offer case management, mental health education, suicide prevention, and support groups. Service provision occurs in locations across Alachua County. Mental health services are available in fourteen Alachua County schools via Reach Community Counseling and/or PALS. All programs offer in-office sessions. Options available to meet via telehealth, at home, or in other community locations vary by program.

Each program exhibits success in meeting “better off” outcomes. These successes include children and youth improving mental health well-being and symptoms, increasing coping skills and knowledge in addressing trauma reactions, improving or maintaining positive relationships, acceptance of others, improving mental health concerns, having no juvenile justice involvement following program completion, achievement of treatment goals, and receiving mental health care that they wouldn't have been able to access otherwise.

Attachments:

Board Presentation – Youth Mental Health Programs on 9-28-2026

Programmatic Impact:

Mental Health Programs support the following Trust goal:

Goal 1: All children and youth are healthy and have nurturing caregivers & relationships.

Fiscal Impact:

Budget Allocation – FY2027

Overall Total - \$405,859

Partners in Adolescent Lifestyle Support (PALS) – \$123,724

Reach Community Counseling – \$123,690

Reducing Trauma Therapy Program – \$158,444

Recommendation:

Receive the information.