



Item:

Comprehensive Literacy Plan and Assessment Update (Marsha Kiner and Pamela Chalfant)

Requested Action:

The Board is asked to receive this update.

Background:

In May 2023 the Children's Trust board had a joint meeting with the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners. During that meeting the Children's Trust staff were tasked with creating a Comprehensive Literacy Plan.

The Committee has met 5 times since May with the next meeting scheduled for May 20, 2024.

Meeting highlights:

- Purpose, literacy gaps from member perspectives, and others who should be included in the plan development.
- Reviewed and discussed the work completed by Alachua County Campaign for Grade Level Reading and
- Reviewed and discussed research and plan completed by Dr. Sunshine Moss.
- Talked with other communities like Martin County CSC who has established Martin Reads!
- Reached out to the Moonshot Community Action Network of Indian River who has a nationally recognized community initiative.

It was determined that a comprehensive needs assessment was needed to help inform the development of a comprehensive literacy plan aimed at improving literacy achievement for all students. In October 2023, Executive Director Kiner reached out to the UF Lastinger Center to begin a discussion about the plan development and a coordinator for the project.

At the last meeting held on April 15, committee members were divided into three categories: Early Learning, K-12, and Community. Each group discussed and considered:

- Where we have been in the past?
- Where do we want to be in the future?
- Where are we now and what date can we contribute?

Committee members indicated what data is available from their organization or others. Lastinger has started scheduling individual organization meetings for early May, to dive deeper into literacy resources and needs in Alachua County.

Who's at the Table:

We know that schools can't do it alone, and that it will take our entire community to reach our goal for children to be ready for kindergarten and 90% reading on grade-level by the end of third grade. To help with the creation of the plan, staff pulled expertise from:

Alachua County School District	United Way of North Central Florida
Alachua County Library	Alachua County Campaign for Grade Level Reading Advisory Board
UF Anita Zucker Center	Florida Campaign for Grade Level Reading
UF Lastinger Center	Greater Gainesville Chamber of Commerce
Early Learning Coalition of Alachua County	University of Florida Literacy Institute
Gainesville Thrives	Peak Literacy
Cuscowillia Nature and Retreat Center	One Community Health and Wellness Center
Episcopal Children's Services	

These organizations selected a representative with expertise in the space of early learning, K-12 Education systems, and Community.

Cost of Literacy Needs Assessment:

The total project cost is \$175,000.00 with approximately \$75,000 of in-kind services provided by the Lastinger Center. It is being funded in collaboration as follows:

Children's Trust of Alachua County	\$62,500.00
Alachua County Board of County Commission	\$62,500.00
Alachua County School District	\$50,000.00
University of Florida Lastinger Center	\$75,000.00 In-kind support which includes 2 additional Lastinger Center team members and additional personnel support

Project Phases and Overview:

Three Phases of the Comprehensive Needs Assessment

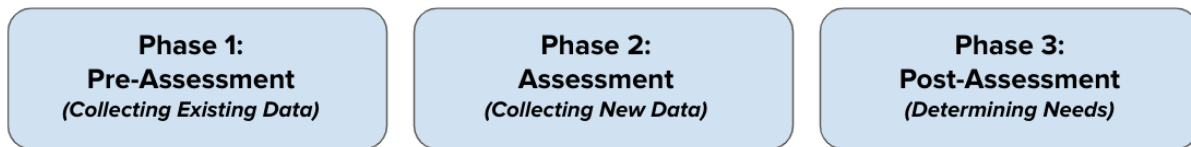


Figure 1: Three Phase of the Comprehensive Needs Assessment adapted from Witkin & Altschuld (1995).

Programmatic Impact:

Goal 2: Children & Youth Can Learn What They Need To Be Successful

Fiscal Impact:

\$175,000.00

Recommendation:

The Board is asked to receive this update.