CHILDREN'S TRUST REGULAR BOARD MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

October 12, 2026, at 4:00 PM

CTAC, 4010 NW 25th Place, Gainesville, FL 32606

CHAIR CHANCE called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Mary Chance (Chair), Ken Cornell (Vice Chair), Lee Pinkoson (Treasurer), Tina Certain, Dr. Nancy Hardt, Bob Page, Judge Phillip A. Pena, Dr. Lisa Tate

Agenda Review, Revision, and Approval

Member Cornell moved for the approval of the consent and regular agendas to include the addition of a budget adjustment item added to the consent agenda**.** Member Pinkoson seconded the motion. Member Certain requested more information about the added item. CTAC Executive Director Marsha Kiner explained the item corrects a scrivener's error. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Consent Agenda

1. Board Attendance YTD
2. 9.17.2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
3. 9.17.2026 Regular Board Meeting Evaluation – Survey Results
4. 9.17.2026 First TRIM Hearing Minutes
5. 9.28.2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
6. 9.28.2026 Regular Board Meeting Evaluation – Survey Results
7. 9.28.2026 Final TRIM Hearing Minutes
8. FY 2026 Budget Report (August)
9. FY 2026 Checks and Expenditures Report (August)
10. FY 2026 Programmatic Awards and Expenditures Report (August)
11. FY 2026 4th Quarter Financial Report to the BoCC
12. FY 2026 4th Quarter Financial Report
13. Sponsorship Requests

General Public Comments – none

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Chair's Report

Chair Chance passed around a thank you card from Dr. Maggie Labarta and announced that Member Melissa Walker is retiring at the end of the month. A new DCF administrator will join the Board in November.

14. Executive Director Annual Review

Chair Chance reviewed the results of ED Kiner's annual evaluation and shared the Personnel Committee's feedback. **Member Cornell moved:**

1. **The Board accepts the Executive Director Performance Evaluation with the recommended goals for 2026-2027.**
2. **The Board approves a 6.8% percent salary increase for the Executive Director.**

Member Pinkoson seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

Executive Director's Report

15. October 2026 Executive Director Report

ED Kiner passed around a recognition award CTAC received from Just for Us Education. Kiner thanked the Alachua County Public Schools district for their assistance in getting the CTAC Special Needs survey distributed to parents. There will be two Focus Groups in partnership with the schools next week.

Correspondence received from the City of Gainesville City Manager regarding the Gun Violence Initiative was shared. ED Kiner publicly expressed her disappointment with the sentiment of this correspondence. CTAC's process for Board presentations, including backup information requests, were outlined. Moving forward, staff will make sure expectations are very clear for any provider presenting to the Board. Presentations will be removed from the agenda if they do not appear to be appropriately prepared. ED Kiner asked that staff be afforded time to fully research, vet, and make a recommendation to the Board before embarking on future initiatives. Chair Chance referenced Dr. Maggie Labarta's previous comments about the importance of assessment prior to action. Member Certain shared that she understands ED Kiner's request but is concerned about limiting a Board member with potentially more knowledge of a particular area. ED Kiner asks that staff be given a period to report back on the best ways for the Trust to get involved in initiatives. Judge Pena commented that people often think any endeavor can be thought to be of benefit to children – which could lead to a loss of focus. Member Pinkoson asked what would become of unutilized CTAC-funded computers labs. ED Kiner shared her intention to inquire about them at her upcoming meeting with the Gainesville City Manager.

Presentations

16. Afterschool: Program Impact and Insights

CTAC Research, Planning, and Evaluation Coordinator Bonnie Wagner provided an update and overview on the CTAC-funded afterschool programs. In FY25-26, seven organizations at nine sites throughout the county served over 300 children. All children served meet the scholarship eligibility criteria – the majority are below 200% of the poverty line. Demographics show 65% of the participants are African American and 60% are female. There was 74% attendance, 60% program utilization, and 55% children returning from the previous year. Wagner noted that performance metrics are different for middle and high schoolers, adding that middle schoolers have less time during after-school due to later dismissal. This explains in part why middle school engagement in enrichment programs is lower. Although academics are not a required component of afterschool programs, 82% of youth saw improvement in their literacy skills assessment using various academic improvement curricula. Social-emotional development is included among the positive afterschool program outcomes, with 92% of participants measured as proficient or demonstrating improved social-emotional skills. Member Pinkoson asked about participation numbers and safety responses from youth program participants and suggested changing the wording of future survey questions to reduce neutral responses. Member Page remarked on the intense capital outlay per child and inquired about the rationale and strategic goal connection. Wagner explained the expenditure falls under the education goal but addresses safety too. Youth served in the

afterschool program are at higher risk, economically disadvantaged, and unable to participate without CTAC funds. Dr. Hardt asked for clarification on who benefits from the enrichment and received confirmation that all children in the program, not only CTAC scholarship children. Member Cornell echoed Dr. Hardt and Member Page and commended all the providers for stepping up. He highlighted the outstanding performance measures and improvements in literacy and math. Neither of which were required. Member Certain commented that Kids Count has been using UFLI for years and the program started doing it due to academic need. Judge Pena commented that he is always looking for ways to get academic components addressed, including loss of credits. He recommended that credit recovery should be explored and incorporated to help youth get back on track to graduate. ED Kiner responded that the Board can determine what they want to change or add such as a discussion on cost per child during the RFP Workshop on Afterschool. Member Cornell stated that he would like to know if there is a specific provider(s) the Trust can focus on to address loss of credits.

Public Comment

Izzy Brazzel (Gainesville Circus Center) introduced herself to the new Board members and expressed gratitude to CTAC for the collaborative opportunities for afterschool providers.

Jennifer Reeves (UFLI) shared her experiences working with Willie Mae Stokes and Girls Place and described previous initiatives she knew of that worked in the county. Through collaboration and data sharing, it was discovered that many of the same few children were committing a large portion of juvenile crime. She said afterschool programs can reduce juvenile crime and assist with credit retrieval as has been done before. Children need after-school programs for a variety of reasons. Chair Chance suggested this be brought to a future workshop.

Allysen Marks (Executive Director, Kids Count) expressed gratitude for the support and connections they have among their provider network thanks to CTAC. She gave kudos to the CTAC Research and Evaluation staff because the work they do is so important. She went on to thank the Finance Department and Contract Manager Max DeZutter for being "tireless advocates". She also shared quotes from program participants including, "We have fun here" and "I feel safe here."

Christi Arrington (Executive Director, Girls Place) stated that it takes a community to raise a non-profit. Arrington agreed that there are so many that are willing and prepared to help. Her program has 50 girls supported by CTAC scholarships.

Kristin Kozelsky-Reed (Pace Center for Girls) informed the Board that Pace provides credit recovery for their students and would love to be part of future discussions on this topic.

Old Business

17. 2026-2027 Tentative RFP Schedule

Belita James, Director of Program Operations, walked the Board through the tentative RFP and initiative planning timeline. The Afterschool and Prevention RFP workshop is tentatively scheduled for January 25th. The tentative release date for this is February 12th. A Special Needs Board Workshop is tentatively scheduled for March 8, 2027. It is not yet determined if staff will recommend an RFP, however it would tentatively be released in June. The proposed Summer RFP would be released in fall of FY27. The Youth Health RFP Plan will include mental health with a possible Fall 2027 release. There is also consideration of possible bridge funding for the current CTAC mental health partners. Dr. Hardt asked what is actually being prevented under the "Prevention" category. DPO James suggested more information will be presented at the board workshop. ED Kiner added that staff may provide varied recommendations and let the Board determine the direction of the RFP. Dr. Hardt suggested that the Youth Behavioral Risk Factor Survey data would help inform the Board of important health and prevention areas to address.

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New Business

18. 2026-2030 Strategic Plan Implementation

DPO James, joined by Research, Planning, and Evaluation Coordinator Dr. Amy Wagner, provided an overview of goals and responsibilities. A timeline was shared that included the schedule for board updates and reporting. Dr. Wagner explained the implementation tracker and how CTAC will monitor the targets and measures. A team of staff members will be assigned to each goal. The tracker provides structure to discuss data for each goal. The first tracker monitors actions and the second monitors the results.

Judge Pena expressed alarm at the school safety and arrests statistics for the County and would like to receive this information broken down by school. Chair Chance asked if there is a way to keep a timeline so the Board can be reminded how much time is left and will there be a quarterly update? ED Kiner responded that the staff can determine how to include information in the monthly ED report to help provide a recurring update. Member Certain suggested there was a way to categorize meetings and the strategic plan alignment. ED Kiner said she would investigate how this could be implemented.

Dr. Hardt emphasized that if CTAC does something about preventing trauma, youth behaviors will improve. Judge Pena reiterated that identifying each individual school and breaking it down further will be more helpful in getting down to the crux of who these young people are. Member Cornell reminded everyone that the Trust expires in 2030 and will cease to exist if it is not renewed. He believes 2028 is the right time to put the Trust back on the ballot. He asked new members to think about a formal resolution to the Board of County Commissioners asking to extend CTAC from 2030-2050. According to Member Cornell, in six months, it will be time for the Trust to have this conversation. Chair Chance referred to the Florida Chamber's Prosperity Initiative on Poverty and commented that the Trust should be paying attention to efforts to bring in the right partners in those areas. In response to the Judge's point, Member Pinkoson added that CTAC is working from age 0 through 18. He stated that whatever can be done early will help down the road and ultimately have an impact on the numbers we are seeing. Director of Marketing and Communications Darlena Cunha presented the communications plan, which includes social media posts, website updates, press releases, and other community communication tools. Dr. Hardt suggested CTAC have a documentary or mini-documentary and mentioned Leigh Scott's documentary "Uncarcerated." She said staff should contact him and find out what he would need to complete a documentary to showcase CTAC's impact on the community.

General Public Comments

Ross Ambrose asked if CTAC sunsets, what would its legacy be? He challenged the Trust to look for a "Big Hairy Audacious Goal" (BHAG) to sell citizens on how the Trust not only helped children but also the larger community.

Christi Arrington (Executive Director, Girls Place) reflected on attending the One Nation, One Project Symposium recently where the City's Youth Steering Committee shared that a lot of youth do not know how to solve conflict and have no way of letting their stress out.

Board Member Comments

Member Certain would like staff to use Peach Jar to reach more parents and children in the county.
Member Cornell appreciated Ross' comments and is reminded to keep the focus on "trying to change the lake."

ED Kiner shared that CTAC has been covered on the Ilene Silverman Show (airing now on CBS and WUFT), as well as a segment on another CBS show called, "The 352" talking about what CTAC is and how Amendment 3 could possibly affect the Trust. Member Pinkoson caught the program and commented that ED Kiner did an excellent job.

For Your Information

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

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19. Help Me Grow Alachua August Newsletter

20. Early Childhood Learning Collaborative September 2026 Update

21. Alachua County Reads Monthly Update

Next Meeting Dates

Regular Board Meeting - Monday, November 9, 2026 @ 4:00 pm at CTAC, 4010 NW 25th Place, Gainesville, FL 32606

Annual Board Meeting & Inaugural Community Champions Awards - Monday, December 14, 2026 @ 4:00 pm at the Alachua County Library District Headquarters, 401 E University Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601

Additional dates – Alachua County Public Schools invited the Board to the District Office downtown on Monday, October 19, to meet with the Superintendent Search Firm.

Chair Chance adjourned the meeting at 6:09 pm.

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CHILDREN'S TRUST
OF ALACHUA COUNTY

Children's Trust Board Meeting

Sign – In Sheet

10/12/2026 from 4pm-6pm

Name	Organization	Email
Jennifer Reeves	UFLI	jreeves@coe.ufl.edu
Theren Beard	CNF	tbeard@cnecnf.org
Dr. Heidi Keegan	ACR	HKeegan@alachuacountyreads.org
Bob Page	Board	
Madison James	goodwill North FL/ Teenswork Alumn	mjames@goodwillnorthfl.org
Valentina Contesse	UFLI	contesse@coe.ufl.edu
CARISSA ARRINGTON	GIRLS PLACE, INC.	
Kristin Kozelsky Reed	Pace	
Sharde Goodloe	Goodwill	
Trelany Pennington	CSS	tpennington@alachua
Izzy Brazzel	GCC	
Allyson Marks	Kids Count	allyson@kidscountyalachua.org

CHILDREN'S TRUST
OF ALACHUA COUNTY

Item:

Approval of Budget Adjustment to Direct Community Service Contract – Contract #14664, Amplified Student Voice Coalition

Requested Action:

The Trust is asked to receive and approve a $4,249.76 adjustment to the FY2027 allocation for Contract #14664 – Amplified Student Voice Coalition.

Background

The FY2027 Budget reflects an allocation **of** $120,742.00 for Amplified Student Voice Coalition. During finalization of the FY2027 agreement with The Education Foundation of Alachua County, the contracted amount was established at $124,991.76**,** resulting in a difference of $4,249.76**.**

Attachments

N/A

Programmatic Impact:

N/A

Fiscal Impact:

$4,249.76 increase to the FY 2027 Allocation for Amplified Student Voice Coalition

Recommendation:

Staff Recommends Approval

Alachua County Public Schools

Join us for important

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

to share your input on the Superintendent Search

Monday, October 19; 6:00 p.m.
Howard Bishop Middle School Cafeteria
1901 NE 9th Street, Gainesville

Tuesday, October 20; 6:00 p.m.
Kanapaha Middle School Cafeteria
5005 SW 75th Street, Gainesville

WE WANT YOUR INPUT!

Communications Plan



- Constant Contact Bulletin
- Pinned Social Posts – general
- Social Posts – each goal separate as a series
- Social Posts – Goal 4 highlight
- Website Banner
- Press Release with plan attached
- Share on County socials

CTAC Board Meetings 2027

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November

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Board Meetings

Monday, February 8, 2027 at 4:00 PM
Monday, March 8, 2027 at 4:00 PM
Monday, April 12, 2027 at 4:00 PM
Monday, May 10, 2027 at 4:00 PM
Monday, June 14, 2027 at 4:00 PM
Monday, August 9, 2027 at 4:00 PM
Monday, September 13, 2027 at 4:00 PM
*First TRIM Hearing starts at 5:01 PM
Monday, September 27, 2027 at 4:00 PM
*Final TRIM Hearing starts at 5:01 PM
Monday, October 11, 2027 at 4:00 PM
Monday, November 8, 2027 at 4:00 PM
Monday, December 13, 2027 at 4:00 PM

Alachua County Public Schools

Spring Break - March 15-19, 2027

Holiday Closures

New Years Day - 1/1/2027
Martin Luther King Day - 1/18/2027
Memorial Day - 5/31/2027
Juneteenth, observed - 6/18/2027
Independence Day, observed - 7/5/2027
Labor Day - 9/6/2027