



Item:

Comprehensive Literacy Plan Update (Mia Jones and Marsha Kiner)

Requested Action:

The Trust has been asked to discuss funding and the next steps.

Background

The Trust was tasked with creating a Comprehensive Literacy Plan after a joint meeting in May 2023, with the Trust Board and the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners.

The staff convened a Comprehensive Literacy Planning Committee on May 30th, 2023. The planning committee includes representation from:

Alachua County School District	United Way of North Central Florida
Alachua County Library	Alachua County Campaign for Grade Level Reading
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

The planning committee has convened by zoom on July 19, 2023, October 11, 2023, and January 24, 2024. Additionally, meetings have been scheduled for March 18, 2024, April 15, 2024, and May 20, 2024. The first three meetings discussed the purpose of the planning committee, work completed by the Alachua County Campaign for Grade Level Reading, who should be included in the plan development, literacy gaps from members perspectives, reviewed the research paper completed by Dr. Sunshine Moss, and attempted to determine next steps. 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, ED Kiner reached out to the UF Lastinger Center to begin a discussion about the plan development and a coordinator for the project. After several meetings, Lastinger agreed to facilitate a Needs Assessment and partner with the Comprehensive Literacy Planning committee.

The University of Florida Lastinger Center is a nationally recognized leader in researching and creating innovative learning and educational strategies to improve the well-being of children from birth through age 18. The Center's extensive expertise in researching, creating,

implementing, and evaluating educational initiatives results in improved teaching and learning that advances youth development.

The Lastinger Center proposes utilizing Asset Mapping and a Three- Phase plan for assessing the learning needs of educators and students in Alachua County Public Schools. The timeline for the project is February 1, 2024- June 30, 2024. The cost is \$175,000.

In addition, the Children's Trust is collaborating with Peak Literacy and the Alachua County School District to pilot Peak's Literacy program in one to two Alachua County elementary schools during the summer. Peak Literacy utilizes Great Leaps which is used in several Alachua County elementary schools and is an evidence-based program. Although the timeline is projected for six weeks in Summer 2024, the location, cost, and final scope are pending. All three organizations will be meeting with potential school principals in early March to determine participation, direction, and next steps.

This report is intended to provide an update on the activities of the comprehensive literacy planning committee, share the proposal from UF Lastinger Center, and share the pending pilot project concept with Peak Literacy.

Attachments

Comprehensive Needs Assessment Proposal from UF Lastinger Center
Pilot project concept from Peak Literacy

Programmatic Impact:

Goal 2 – All Children and Youth Can Learn What They Need To Be Successful

Fiscal Impact:

The county pledged \$40,000 and the Trust pledged \$40,000 during the joint meeting last May. The proposal cost is \$175,000.

Recommendation:

Request for a split of the cost from all parties (BoCC, the Trust, and the School Board). This would equal approximately \$60,000 from each entity.