



CHILDREN'S TRUST
OF ALACHUA COUNTY

SPECIAL JOINT MEETING WITH BOCC & CTAC - MINUTES

May 06, 2024 at 4:00 PM

County Admin Bldg., Grace Knight Conf. Room, 12 SE 1st Street, 2nd Floor, Gainesville, FL 32601

Call to Order

Board of County Commissioners Chair Mary Alford called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Roll Call

PRESENT

CTAC Chair Lee Pinkoson
CTAC Vice Chair Ken Cornell
CTAC Member Tina Certain
CTAC Member Mary Chance
CTAC Member Nancy Hardt
CTAC Member Maggie Labarta

BoCC Commissioner Chair Mary Alford
BoCC Commissioner Vice Chair Charles Chestnut, IV
BoCC Commissioner Ken Cornell
BoCC Commissioner Anna Prizzia
BoCC Commissioner Marihelen Wheeler

ABSENT

CTAC Member Shane Andrew
CTAC Member Judge Denise R. Ferrero
CTAC Treasurer Cheryl Twombly

Agenda Review, Revision and Approval

Motion to approve the agenda made by Vice Chair Cornell, Seconded by Member Certain.

Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Motion to approve the agenda made by Commissioner Prizzia, Seconded by Commissioner Chestnut.

Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Discussion Items

1. Access to Health Care for Youth Update

The Children's Trust reported that it will be releasing a Request for Proposals for Youth Access to Health Care and that the community health worker model has been incorporated into the RFP. The plan is to address dental health, children's well-being, and health care in both the city and rural areas, potentially including a mobile healthcare unit.

CTAC Executive Director Marsha Kiner asked the County about the funding for their current Community Health Care Worker Program. Commissioner Prizzia explained that the program is currently a pilot and is administered by the Alachua County Health Department and CareerSource, using American Rescue Plan/Revenue Recovery dollars and CareerSource funding. In partnership with the University of Florida, they collect data, recruit community health workers from impacted neighborhoods, provide them with training, and place them with community-based clinics and organizations. After a set period of time, those clinics and organizations provide the funding for the position.

Claudia Tuck, Director of Alachua County Community Support Services, added that there is currently insufficient funding to continue paying a significant number of community health workers long-term, so additional funding would be beneficial as the program moves forward. Member Cornell reiterated the importance of this program, he noted that the RFP is open now through May 30, 2024, with a total award allocation of \$600,000.

2. Comprehensive Literacy Plan Update

At the previous joint meeting with the Children's Trust and the BoCC, the Trust was tasked with creating a Comprehensive Literacy Plan for Alachua County. ED Kiner reported that the committee has been meeting consistently and have reached out to the UF Lastinger Center to assist with a county-wide comprehensive needs assessment.

Pam Chalfant, from the UF Lastinger Center, provided an overview of the project goals, timeline, and phases. Phase One launched last month to collect existing data from community partners, Phase Two will involve collecting new data through classroom observation, surveys, focus groups, and interviews with organization and district leaders, educators, early learning providers, committee, and community members. Phase Three will analyze the data and finalize the report.

The Board Members and Commissioners discussed the scope of the project and remarked on the importance of community buy-in, and the support of school administration in the implementation of interventions. It was suggested to look at school attendance correlations, include representation from health care professionals, use community health workers, and work closely with teachers to utilize their insights. Suggestions also included consideration of longitudinal data trends, the role of social determinants, and ensuring the plan addresses the systemic nature of literacy challenges. When completed, the literacy plan will promote literacy outcomes across all ages in Alachua County.

3. Gun Violence Update

Carl Smart, Deputy County Manager, reported on the County's actions regarding gun violence prevention efforts. The County has passed a resolution declaring that gun violence is a public health crisis, they have signed a memorandum of understanding to form a partnership with the City of Gainesville and Santa Fe College to develop strategies to address gun violence, and they have appropriated \$150,000 to support prevention strategies.

Brittany Coleman, Gun Violence Intervention Program Manager, reported on the City of Gainesville's efforts, such as community engagement, providing trauma-informed outreach, and a focus on youth and those with lived experiences. In addition to matching the County's \$150,000 and passing a similar resolution, they have created a framework called IMPACT GNV incorporating DOJ and CDC models and community feedback. Specific initiatives include developing a social media awareness campaign, exploring grant funding opportunities, and hosting crisis intervention and de-escalation workshops.

IMPACT stands for:

- Improve access to mental health services, social support, and the arts
- Mobilize and enhance existing community-based services and groups
- Prioritize public health and safety efforts in areas most impacted by gun violence
- Analyze gun violence data
- Center youth
- Track progress

The City of Gainesville is also working with community partners, such as the Willie Mae Stokes Community Center, to create a network of Violence Interrupter Partners (VIP) who aim to use prevention and intervention strategies to support positive structure and interrupt violence. They focus on schools, after-school programs, churches, and groups for justice-involved individuals.

Jarell Whitehead from Strong-Minded Mentoring shared a proposal for a community-led program called Cease Violence in the Hood. He introduced Cure Violence Global CEO Dr. Monique Williams, Director of US Programs Cobe Williams, and organization ambassador Joakim Noah.

Dr. Williams explained their interruption model which aims to identify individuals at the highest risk of violence perpetrators and/or victims, work with local organizations to help deal with their mindsets, behaviors, and resource needs, and then to change community norms. The strategy is multi-faceted, multidisciplinary, and requires everyone at the table. She noted that the CVG model is a data-driven, scientific, evidence-based approach which offers training and best practices to provide results. The community collaboration requires an implementation agency to be the backbone for a sustainable strategy.

Pastor Gerard Duncan stated that there are 700 parolees under 33 in our community, and these are usually the individuals who commit these offenses, statistically. This model requires mentors from the local communities, who can build relationships and meet people where they are, without judgement. It requires a collaborative, evidence-based approach to addressing violence, with community members, local government, and organizations working together towards this common goal.

Motion made by Commissioner Prizzia, Seconded by Commissioner Wheeler, to ask County staff to work together with the CTAC board to explore and put together the budget needs for implementing the cure violence model in Alachua County.

Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Motion made by CTAC Vice Chair Cornell, Seconded by Member Labarta, to direct CTAC staff to work with the City Manager and the County Manager to provide up to \$250,000 of one-time funding to enhance the community-based program gun violence efforts and bring back recommendations withing 30-60 days for the CTAC board to consider immediate funding.

Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

4. Homeless/Foster Youth Programs Update

BoCC Chair Alford introduced this item and asked about the current status of this issue. Claudia Tuck, the Director of Alachua County Support Services, reported that the County does not have specific programs for youth aging out of foster care. While it is recognized that this population is at risk of homelessness, the numbers are currently not high enough to warrant targeted grant funding. However, she did note that any youth aging out of foster care can receive assistance from the County, such as help with rent, utilities, deposits, and move-in costs, as well as access to the homeless continuum of care services.

CTAC Executive Director Kiner informed the members that the Children's Trust has allocated up to \$750,000 of this year's budget to Resource Centers across Alachua County, which can assist this vulnerable population. The group discussed the importance of collaborative solutions and the need to further explore possibilities to locate additional funding sources.

5. TeensWork Summer Internship Program

ED Kiner reported on the Children's Trust's TeensWork Alachua Program, which partners with Goodwill Industries and Minority Business Listings to give kids on-the-job experience, work readiness training, and job coaching support. Currently in its third year, the discussion focused on those former and future 16–17-year-olds that would quickly age out of the program. CTAC has been in conversations with the County, the City of Gainesville, the Chamber of Commerce, and local industries to discuss how these internships could be supported to potentially turn into permanent jobs.

Carl Smart, Deputy County Manager, reported that he is looking into County departments, such as Parks and Recreations, Community Support Services, Public Works, Fleet, and others to find ways to place students this summer. ED Kiner mentioned a similar program with CareerSource and inquired about a future collaboration. Commissioner Prizzia suggested that her colleagues reach out to facilitate an introduction. She also advised that a conversation with Santa Fe College regarding job training could be productive.

6. YMCA Partnerships for Teen Centers

The Children's Trust is exploring a partnership with YMCA which aims to create a county-wide Teen Center model. It has been shown that giving teens something to do can positively affect the rates of gun violence in a community. YMCA CEO Angela Howard confirmed the capacity to expand, however with only one location and lack of ability to provide transportation, collaboration is needed. ED Kiner inquired if the County had any vacant or underutilized buildings that could assist in this mission. Commissioner Prizzia mentioned that the Archer Community Center may have capacity, and that the City of Hawthorne is thinking about building a Community Center facility. The group agreed on the need for greater collaboration and information-sharing between the county, municipalities, and community organizations.

Board Member Comments

General Public Comments

Adjournment

BoCC Commissioner Chair Alford adjourned the meeting at 7:09 PM.