



**CHILDREN'S TRUST**  
OF ALACHUA COUNTY

## **CHILDREN'S TRUST REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

November 04, 2024 at 4:00 PM

Alachua Co. Health Dept., T. Coward Auditorium, 224 SE 24th St., Gainesville, FL 32641

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### **Call to Order**

**Vice Chair Cornell called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.**

### **Roll Call**

#### **PRESENT**

Vice Chair Ken Cornell  
Treasurer Cheryl Twombly – attended virtually  
Member Shane Andrew  
Member Tina Certain  
Member Mary Chance  
Member Judge Denise R. Ferrero  
Member Nancy Hardt  
Member Maggie Labarta

#### **ABSENT**

Chair Lee Pinkoson

**Motion made by Member Certain, Seconded by Member Chance to allow Member Twombly to participate virtually due to extraordinary circumstances.**

A physical quorum of six members voted on this motion.

Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

### **Agenda Review, Revision, and Approval**

**Motion to approve the agenda made by Member Andrew, Seconded by Member Certain.**

Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

### **Consent Agenda**

1. Board Attendance YTD
2. 10.14.2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
3. 10.14.2024 Board Meeting Evaluation - Survey Results
4. FY 2024 Budget Report (September)
5. FY 2024 Checks and Expenditures Report (September)
6. FY 2024 Programmatic Awards and Expenditures Report (September)

7. FY 2024 4th Quarter Financial Report
8. FY 2024 4th Quarter Financial Report to the BOCC
9. October Sponsorship Applications

## **General Public Comments**

### **Executive Director's Report**

Vice Chair Cornell recognized Trust Member Shane Andrew for his service on the Board, as this will be his last meeting. ED Kiner presented him with an office plant in appreciation of his strength and wisdom in serving the children and families of Alachua County. Member Andrew thanked the CTAC Board and Staff for their excellent work to advocate and make a difference for children in our community.

#### 10. 11.4.2024 ED Report

ED Kiner reported on the success of the Lights On Afterschool Event hosted with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida, the UF Homecoming Parade, the Halloween collaboration with UF Card and GAL, and the Mentoring Convening Sessions. She also mentioned that Tu Fiesta Radio recognized the Children's Trust at one of their local events, presenting Community Engagement Manager, Liz Cayson, with a plaque of appreciation.

#### 11. Live Local Act Exemption

Florida Senate Bill 328 was passed in 2024. The Live Local Act provides a property tax exemption of up to 100% of the assessed value of a qualifying project's units. In order to qualify, a project must contain at least 71 housing units and must serve housing occupants with household incomes which are equal to or less than 120% of AMI. Local governments can choose annually to opt-in or out of the tax exemptions. As CTAC is a taxing authority in Alachua County, this will be brought back before the Board for a vote in December 2024.

The Board discussed the need for affordable housing for families with children, with a focus on those living in cars or motels. Member Hardt suggested contacting Anne Ray from the Shimberg Center to give a presentation on local issues and potential solutions.

## **Old Business**

#### 12. Child Care Tuition Assistance Partnership with Early Learning Coalition of Alachua County (Mia Jones)

Mia Jones, Early Childhood Coordinator, updated the Board on the partnership with the ELC to support the child care needs of ALICE families in Alachua County, as approved by the CTAC Board in April 2024. With a total investment of approximately \$359K, these funds will work to directly fund 31 students, which is half of the current ELC waiting list, and to fund a staff position to help onboard families, with a gross family income at or below 150% of the federal poverty level. Data will also be gathered on the success of these programs and measure the children's readiness for kindergarten.

13. Neighborhood Innovation Grant Pilot with Gainesville for All d/b/a Gainesville Empowerment Zone (GEZ) Family Learning Center

The Neighborhood Innovation Grant is built on the foundation of partnering strong neighborhoods, community partners, and quality early learning businesses to address school readiness and achievement gaps. This pilot is a one-year funding initiative of \$125K which will be used to increase the subsidy for the daily rate per child.

**Motion made by Member Certain, Seconded by Member Labarta to approve the recommendation to pilot the Neighborhood Innovation Grant with Gainesville for All d/b/a Gainesville Empowerment Zone Family Learning Center and provide an investment of \$125,000 for the project.**

Voted Aye – Members Andrew, Certain, Chance, Cornell, Hardt, Ferrero, Twombly

Voted Nay – Member Labarta

Motion passed by majority voice vote.

14. Gun Violence Funding Allocation - Allocation of Remaining Funds

At the October 2024 meeting, the CTAC Board was asked to approve \$500K toward gun violence prevention and intervention initiatives. The Board approved all but \$66,850 which had been allocated for two staffing positions. Following external discussions between the City of Gainesville, Alachua County, Santa Fe College, and other stakeholders, the Alliance members presented their revised recommendations. The revised proposal aims to fund two additional Youth Steering Committees, and any remaining funds added into the existing line item for grant-funded projects.

**Motion made by Member Labarta, Seconded by Member Certain to accept the revised proposal as noted.**

Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

**New Business**

15. Enrichment Programs – Evaluation Results (Bonnie Wagner)

Bonnie Wagner, Research, Planning, and Evaluation Coordinator, presented on the enrichment programs previously and currently funded by the Trust. Over the past three years, attendance has steadily increased from 6,772 students served (2022), 6,933 students served (2023), and 8,252 students served (2024). The number of sites, the expansion to rural areas, the quality of programming, youth enjoyment, and provider satisfaction have also significantly improved over this time. For FY2025, the Trust has invested \$1M to fund 16 providers with even higher targets for youth engagement and rural outreach.

**General Public Comments**

**Board Member Comments**

**For Your Information**

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

16. Comprehensive Literacy Plan and Assessment October 2024 Update

17. TeensWork Alachua - Employer Retention - Board FYI

**Next Meeting Date**

Regular Board Meeting - Monday, December 9th, 2024 @ 4:00 PM

Alachua Co. Headquarters Library, Meeting Room A, 401 E University Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601

**Adjournment**

**Vice Chair Cornell adjourned the meeting at 6:07 PM.**