



**Item:**

Comprehensive Literacy Plan and Assessment Update

**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.

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.

**Meeting Updates**

The Committee has met 7 times since May with the next meeting scheduled for September 16, 2024.

At the last meeting held on August 19<sup>th</sup>, the Lastinger Center Team Facilitators discussed the preliminary data gathered. The committee members were divided into three groups to discuss possible data interpretations and recommendations. Each group discussed and considered:

- What they observed in the data
- Some patterns/trends they noticed
- What did or did not surprise them about the data

Lastinger continues to schedule individual organization meetings for the fall, to dive deeper into literacy resources and needs in Alachua County. The survey remains open for community input. We are in Phase 2 of the project plan and moving towards Phase 3. The needs assessment is expected to be complete by late December 2024.

**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. Additionally, identifying the resources and needs of adult learners requires the assistance of community expertise currently engaged in that area. Expertise was pulled expertise from:

**Alachua County School District**

**United Way of North Central Florida**

<b>Alachua County Library</b>	<b>Alachua County Campaign for Grade Level Reading Advisory Board</b>
<b>UF Anita Zucker Center</b>	<b>Florida Campaign for Grade Level Reading</b>
<b>UF Lastinger Center</b>	<b>Greater Gainesville Chamber of Commerce</b>
<b>Early Learning Coalition of Alachua County</b>	<b>University of Florida Literacy Institute</b>
<b>Gainesville Thrives</b>	<b>Peak Literacy</b>
<b>Cuscowillia Nature and Retreat Center</b>	<b>One Community Health and Wellness Center</b>
<b>Episcopal Children’s Services</b>	

These organizations selected a representative with expertise in the space of early learning, K-12 Education systems, Adult Education, 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**

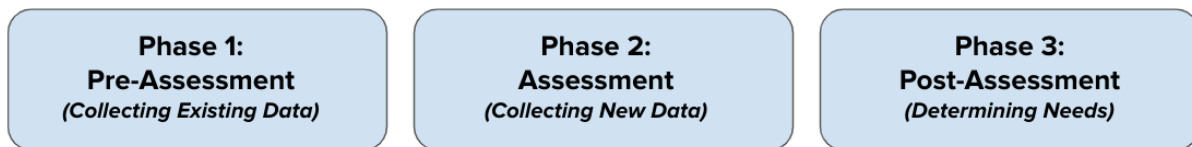


Figure 1: Three Phase of the Comprehensive Needs Assessment adapted from Witkin & Altschuld (1995).

**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.