



Item:

Comprehensive Literacy Plan Update (Marsha Kiner and Mia Jones)

Requested Action:

1. The Board is asked to allow staff up to 90 days to work with the Community Foundation along with the Center for Non-Profit Excellence to coordinate next steps in the creation of the comprehensive literacy plan and activities as recommended during the joint meeting with the BOCC.
2. The Board is asked to invest \$550,000.00 as an initial investment for the CTAC community literacy initiative.

Background:

Since the completion of the Comprehensive Literacy Needs Assessment report, The Lastinger Center for Learning has presented an overview of the report and recommendations at two meetings. The following motions were made from those meetings:

April 7th CTAC Meeting: Member Pinkoson moved the Executive Director to bring this item back next month with a specific recommendation based on what was discussed and an update on the requested facilitator.

April 21st Joint CTAC/BOCC Meeting: The County Commission earmark a budget of at least \$250,000 this year from the County to partner with the Children's Trust and the Non-Profit Center for Excellence to work with key literacy organizations, stakeholders in the community, and the School Board to develop a plan for implementation and evaluation of this reform based on recommendations in this needs assessment. Bring back to the Board within 90 days what a map of that plan is and a formal budget by the end of the budget cycle so that if there is more money needed or if there is other funding needed, we can allocate it before the end of the budget cycle. 2. Write a letter to the School Board asking them to adopt the needs assessment and recommendations in this report.

A presentation on the Comprehensive Literacy Assessment Report is scheduled with the Alachua County School Board Members on May 20, 2025. At this meeting, the Children's Trust staff will share the motions made at the other board meetings and next steps.

Update

1. The Children's Trust staff reached out to the Comprehensive Literacy Assessment Committee members in March and April for feedback to start planning for phase 2 of developing a literacy plan. The Comprehensive Literacy Assessment Committee was provided with the final assessment report. They were asked to review the assessment and recommendations with their organization and leadership team in the next 30 to 60 days.

2. A hard copy of the report was provided to CTAC board members, School Board members, the Library District, and BOCC board members. The report has been placed on the CTAC website and will also be placed on the Lastinger for Learning website. The link has already been shared throughout the community. At the League of Cities April meeting, ED Kiner also informed the municipalities that the literacy needs assessment had been completed and there will be opportunities for collaboration with all of the Literacy Partners.

3. The Children's Trust staff has requested May meetings with the following:

- The Center for Non-Profit Excellence and the North Central Florida Community Foundation.
- North Central Florida United Way
- Anita Zucker Center
- The Learning Alliance
- Reach out and Read
- Barbershop Books

Programmatic Impact:

Goal 2: Children & Youth Can Learn What They Need To Be Successful

Fiscal Impact:

N/A

Recommendation:

Approve the requested action