



CHILDREN'S TRUST REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

April 07, 2025 at 4:00 PM

CTAC, 4010 NW 25th Place, Gainesville, FL 32606

Call to Order – Vice Chair Twombly called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Cheryl Twombly – Vice Chair, Tina Certain – Member, Mary Chance – Member, Dr. Kamela Patton - Member, Lee Pinkoson - Member, Hon. Susanne Wilson Bullard – Member.

Board Members Attending Virtually: Ken Cornell – Board Chair, Dr. Nancy Hardt – Member.

A quorum of the Board was physically present. **Motion made by Member Certain, seconded by Member Chance to allow Chair Cornell to participate virtually due to extraordinary circumstances.** Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Agenda Review, Revision, and Approval

Member Pinkoson moved for approval of the agenda, seconded by Member Certain. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Consent Agenda

1. Board Attendance YTD
2. 3.10.2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
3. 3.10.2025 Board Meeting Evaluation - Survey Results
4. FY 2025 Budget Report (February)
5. FY 2025 Checks and Expenditures Report (February)
6. FY 2025 Programmatic Award and Expenditures Report (February)
7. BOCC Interlocal agreement
8. March Sponsorship Applications

General Public Comments

Jamie Bass (Camp Manger, Alachua County BOCC - Cuscowilla Nature Center) gave comment about RFP scoring discrepancies. Vice Chair Twombly asked her comments be tabled until Agenda Item 12.

Chair's Report - None

Executive Director's Report

9. Executive Director's Report

CTAC Executive Director Marsha Kiner provided a recap of the CTAC Open House and Building Dedication on 3/29/2025 and expressed appreciation for all partners, staff members, and board members who contributed to the success of the event.

Introduced the new Parenting Playbook Resource Guide and the Program Handbook that are now available.

Lastly, ED Kiner shared her gratitude to the CTAC team who kept things running smoothly in her absence.

Presentations

10. BDO Engagement - Internal Controls and Fiscal Infrastructure Assessment

CTAC Chief Financial Officer Scott Sumner presented the assessment provided by BDO focusing on high-impact, low effort recommendations from the gap analysis. Some changes are already being implemented, such as separating duties for cash receipts and improving bank reconciliation processes. The assessment cost \$70,000, under the \$100,000 budget. The Finance Committee reviewed many of these items in detail. Board members expressed appreciation for the clear, easy-to-read reports provided by BDO.

Old Business

11. Comprehensive Literacy Needs Assessment Report and Recommendation Overview

CTAC Early Childhood Coordinator Mia Jones, joined by Mary Bratsch-Hines and Pam Chalfant from the University of Florida Lastinger Center provided the Board with the literacy needs assessment report that was first requested in May 2023. The report, developed through extensive community engagement, highlights the importance of early childhood education and identifies gaps in literacy achievement across different student groups. Key recommendations include enhancing awareness and coordination of existing resources, providing focused support for families, and expanding professional learning opportunities for educators. Staff requested the Board approve contracting a consultant to develop "Alachua Reads," a centralized hub for literacy efforts in the county. Member Certain expressed opposition to engaging another consultant to the same results. Certain further commented that the school district should have a central role in addressing reading disparities. Dr. Patton made comments to reiterate Member Certain's points and shared concerns about better using the resources that are already available to students and families. Chair Cornell commented in agreement with Member Certain with immense concern for the number of African American students not reading at grade level. ED Kiner explained the literacy plan development is a heavy lift for CTAC staff, and someone is needed to bring the necessary partners together collectively to move forward. Member Pinkoson commented on the K-3rd grade reading deficiency as well. Dr. Hardt agreed and stated that a consultant is needed for this educational and social plan. Chair Cornell wants CTAC to focus on age zero to 5 year/olds and the school district to focus on Kindergarten and up. Dr. Patton suggested replacing the terminology

of consultant to contracting someone to be the “backbone” for the collective impact. Vice Chair Twombly suggested a “facilitator”; agreeing that an additional person is needed to do this work. The board supported the overall recommendations, particularly emphasizing the need to focus on African American students and securing funding from various community partners for implementation.

Member Pinkoson moved the Executive Director bring this item back next month with a specific recommendation based on what was discussed and update the Board on the requested facilitator, seconded by Member Certain.

Public Comment – Aldrika Everett (Executive Director, Aces In Motion) commented that the same data is reflected in middle and high school students. It should be considered in the conversation as well. Carla Lewis (Greater Duval Neighborhood Association) commented that community organizations can help address this problem, educate community leaders, and aid in putting those resources back into the community. John Rollins (President and CEO, Motiv8u; Operations Director, North FL YMCA) likened the literacy needs to a vending machine, “If you don’t fix the machine, it will stay out of order. Don’t put money into a machine that is broken.”

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote. The Board also agreed to extended meeting times to cover all necessary discussion items.

12. Recommendation for Award – Summer Camp and Freedom School RFP 2025-01

CTAC Director of Program Operations Belita James presented award announcements and the staff recommendation for the Summer Camp and Freedom School RFP. There were no applications for the new Freedom Schools. The staff recommended funding summer camps at \$1.91 million and one Freedom School at \$80,000, totaling \$2 million. Member Certain advised that she may have misinformed Hawthorne about the Freedom School expansion. ED Kiner responded that no one applied for Freedom School, so staff recommend funding for one that will be identified.

Member Pinkson moved to:

- *Approve resolution 2025-03, Summer Camp and Freedom School RFP award recommendation,*
- *Authorize staff to negotiate and execute contracts with organizations that are within the approved board allocation, and*
- *Fund one freedom school, not to exceed \$80,000.00.*

Additionally, any reserve money that has been saved through negotiations will continue funding subsequent programs in order. Member Certain seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Member Pinkoson further moved that the balance fund all programs that scored up to 70 points for the next three years. Member Certain seconded the motion; motion passed by majority vote (1 dissent - Pinkoson).

Public Comment

Carla Lewis (Greater Duval Neighborhood Association) voiced concern and the need to understand why her organization is not being funded this year. She also asked about the

appeals process. ED Kiner responded that the Funding is in line with the strategic plan and CTAC's goals. The recommendation is based on and outlined in the RFP. ED Kiner stated that it is in the purview of the Board to increase the funding.

During public comment, Jamie Bass (Camp Manager, Alachua County BOCC - Cuscowilla Nature and Retreat Center) expressed her gratitude for CTAC funding received over the past three years and asked for consideration for her summer camp program.

James Miller (Executive Director, Mirror Image Leadership Academy) explained why his camp has a shorter duration (4 weeks) and requested board reconsideration.

John Rollins (Interim Operations Director, North Central Florida YMCA) was unable to get an application in on time and requested reconsideration – will not be able to serve his students in Micanopy, Hawthorne and Archer without CTAC funding.

Board Member Comments:

Chair Cornell stated if there is a place to use some fund balance to focus on literacy for African-American students – he is ready to have that discussion.

Member Certain commented to consider an additional allotment for summer camps, as she knew this was going to happen. She also stated that she cannot support a late submission in response to the YMCA. Member Certain asked to amend the motion to have staff bring back a recommendation on funding organizations that meet the criteria versus increasing the allocation.

Member Pinkoson reiterated that when creating the Strategic Plan, everyone knew this day was coming – sacrifices are going to have to be made.

ED Kiner thanked the Board for being thoughtful and hearing the providers. She expected this conversation and believed the Board would go into the fund balance. The Strategic Plan provides direction, but there are times when you may need to go outside of the plan. She stated that there is no time to come back to this subject; the Board must make a decision today.

CFO Sumner shared that fund balance is roughly \$7 million dollars. There should be a five-year financial forecast for where the Trust is headed. Additionally, there needs to be some discussion with providers about how their programs are funded.

ED Kiner further commented that CTAC cannot be the sole funder. Moving forward, providers are going to have to find additional funders for their programs. Ms. Lewis responded that the Trust came to her when it was founded saying it is a way to provide programs, create jobs, and serve more children. She is confused that there are \$7 million dollars in reserves but the Trust is not funding \$300,000.00 for her program this year. As a taxpayer, she will be pushing back.

Dr. Patton thanked the Board for thinking through this item a bit more. She would rather CTAC fund a little less during the year when they have the kids during the day than in the summer when they don't have them and they may get into more trouble.

New Business

General Public Comments

C. Lewis thanked the Board for being fluid and thanked ED Kiner for sharing her thoughts on funding. She will be strategic over the next 3 years on how to get funding. Chair Cornell thanked her for attending and emphasized that Greater Duval is needed.

J. Miller also thanked the Board and staff for the reconsideration. This will make a major difference in the 74 scholars they are serving.

Izzy Brazzel (Gainesville Circus Center) gave thanks to the staff and board members for such a wonderful Open House event. Most of the children who performed were scholarship recipients. They felt engaged not only as circus kids, but also as CTAC kids. They are planning to wear their matching CTAC shirts together soon.

Board Member Comments

For Your Information

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

13. Business Leadership Institute for Early Learning *V'Locity Masterclass and Accreditation Academy Spring 2024* Overview (Mia Jones)

14. Gun Violence Initiative Update

Next Meeting Dates

Joint Meeting with the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners - Monday, April 21, 2025 @ 3:00 pm

Alachua County Administration Building, Grace Knight Conference Room, 2nd Floor

Regular Board Meeting - Monday, May 12, 2025 @ 4:00 pm and go longer if needed.

Children's Trust of Alachua County, 4010 NW 25th Place, Gainesville, FL 32606

Vice Chair Twombly adjourned the meeting at 6:55 pm.



CHILDREN'S TRUST
OF ALACHUA COUNTY

Children's Trust Board Meeting

Sign - In Sheet

4/7/2025 from 4pm-6pm

Name	Organization	Email
Mary Bratsch-Hines	UF Lastinger Center	bratsch@coe.ufl.edu
Pam Chalfant	UF Lastinger Center	pchalfant@ufl.edu
Andrew Miles	G DNA	greteadua1@gmail.com
Jammi Bass	Cuscawilla BOCC Alachua County	jbass@alachuacounty.us
Cindy Thomas	Mendian Healthcare	cynthia-thomas@mbhc.org
CHRIST. APPINGTON	GIARIS PLACE, INC.	CHRISTI@GIARISPLACE.NET
Joy Cullinan	CDS	Joy_Cullinan@cdsf.org
Violet Kyong	Behavior Bricks	violetk@behaviorbricks.com
Allysen Marks	Kids Count	allysen@kidscountalachu.org
Pastor Adam Jay	Deeper Purpose	deeperpurposecc@yahoo
Izzy Brazzel	GSC	izz@gaimesvillecc.com
Jacquelyn Randall	city of hawthorne	Jrandall@cityofhawthorne.NET
Sherry Kitchers	CAC	Sherry@cacgaimesville.org
Shanda Goodloe	Goodwill / TWA	sgoodloe@goodwillnorthfla.org
Aldrea Everett	Aces in Motion	aldrea@acesinmotion.org



Sign – In Sheet

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CHILDREN'S TRUST
OF ALACHUA COUNTY

Visitor Check In

Name	Organization	Person Visiting	Time In / Time Out	
Pearlie Shelton				
Jacquelyn Raybolt	city of Hawthorne		3:55	
Andy Rf	G DNA	Meeting		
CHRISTY APPINANTON	GIACI PLACE			
Jay Cullinan	CDS	Meeting	4:00	
Shade Gordie	Goodwill/TWA	Board Mtg	4:00	
Mary Chana	CTACC	Bd Mtg	4:10	
Kamela Patton	"	"	4:10	
Violet King	Behavior Bonds	Meety	4:10	
Carla Lewis	G DNA	Board.	4:10	
Tyran Butler	UF Lasteringer Center	Bd Mtg	4:10	
Allysen Marks	kids count	Bd Mtg	4:10	
Sherry Kitchens	CAC	Bd Mtg	4:15	

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Children's Trust of Alachua County

802 NW 5th Ave, Suite 100

Gainesville, FL 32601

Dear Children's Trust of Alachua County,

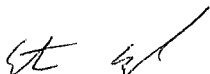
We are writing to express our sincere gratitude for the outstanding support we received from the NewboRN Home Visiting Program following the birth of our son last week. As physicians with backgrounds in pediatrics and newborn care, we are well-versed in many aspects of infant health and development. Yet, despite our medical training, the transition to becoming parents ourselves has been both exciting and humbling.

The guidance and expertise provided through this program have been invaluable, particularly in the areas of breastfeeding support and car seat safety. Having access to a knowledgeable and compassionate professional like Sandee Muir BSN, RN in our own home gave us the assistance and reassurance we needed in these critical early days. It is a testament to the incredible value of this program that even as medical professionals, we found the information, hands-on aid, and resources to be essential.

Knowing that families across Alachua County have access to such a well-structured and thoughtful initiative speaks volumes about the commitment of the Children's Trust to the health and well-being of newborns and parents. We wholeheartedly support the continuation of this program and hope that it remains a resource for families for years to come.

Thank you for your dedication to our community and for ensuring that families have access to the care and support they need during such an important time.

With appreciation,



Steven Raymond, MD



Izabela Oluwole, MD