



**CHILDREN'S TRUST**  
OF ALACHUA COUNTY

## **STEERING COMMITTEE VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES**

March 24, 2023 at 10:00 AM

Virtual Meeting [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_fm0\\_X-b5TuW42fSixc4dOQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_fm0_X-b5TuW42fSixc4dOQ)

---

**Meeting called to order by** Chair Cheryl Twombly at 10:00 AM

### **Roll Call**

#### **Present**

Cheryl Twombly  
Ken Cornell  
Pat Snyder  
Lee Pinkoson  
Barzella Papa  
Candice King  
Christi Arrington  
Marsha Kiner  
Kristy Goldwire

#### **Absent**

Bishop Chris Stokes

#### **Trust Staff Present**

Bonnie Wagner  
Diana Sanchez  
Demetrica Tyson

#### **Also Present**

Nikki Martin-Bynum  
Vashti Rutledge  
Dr. Tatia Prieto

**Agenda Review**

**Chair Cheryl Twombly**

## Discussion Items

1. Equitable Grantmakers (Nikki Martin-Bynum, Seek Higher Ground)
2. ~~Strategic Plan Layout (Nikki Martin-Bynum, Seek Higher Ground)~~ Did not do.
3. Impact Areas Prioritization (Vashti Rutledge, Seek Higher Ground)

## Discussion Impact Areas Prioritization (Vashti Rutledge, Seek Higher Ground)

The strategic planners led the discussion asking the group to take a deep dive by looking at all CTAC's goals listed below.

### CTAC Priority Areas:

- All Children are born healthy and remain healthy.
- All children can learn what they need to be successful.
- All children have nurturing, supportive caregivers, and relationships.
- All children live in a safe community.

Each breakout group was asked to answer the following questions and rank the selected outcomes.

- What are the key indicators that present immediate return on investment? Where is the greatest potential for impact?
  - What need is the Trust filling through this investment?
  - What has the community highlighted as a significant area of need?
- **Goal 1 All Children are born healthy and remain healthy.**

**Discussion:** This cycle focused on access to medical care, including payer source, accessibility to providers and providers who can meet families' specific needs.

- Increase access to medical care (primary care, prenatal mental health, preventative dental care}
- Strategy: community health workers & navigators to support: payer source enrollment, accessibility to providers and providers who can meet families' specific needs.

### Partner opportunities

- Housing System
- Food Accessibility
- Community Safety

### Financial Resource Prioritization

- Access to Comprehensive medical services
  - Navigation support to comprehensive medical services
  - Partnering with systems that impact children's health.
- **Goal 2 All Children can learn what they need to be successful.**

**Discussion:** This cycle focused on the intersection of what happens in community and school to support children’s educational growth. The group identified promotion and prevention activities that included:

- Increase the number of children enrolled in quality voluntary prekindergarten
- Increase the number of children who are ready for kindergarten
- Increase supplemental behavioral support for K-12 teachers
- Increase support for early learning teachers to understand challenging behaviors rooted in trauma

**Partner Opportunities**

- School System
- Early Learning Coalition
- Mental Health Providers

**Targeted Audience Discussion**

- If 58% of the child population is 9 and under - 60-75% of the population should be focused on children and their families in this age group.

**Financial Resource**

- Quality VPK
- Kindergarten Readiness
- 3rd Grade Reading Proficiency
- Positive Learning Environment.

● **Goal 3 All Children have nurturing, supportive caregivers, and relationships.**

Discussion: This cycle focused on exploring what’s available for families and centering on the benefits of family resource centers and maternal child health programs recognizing these support parent child bond/relationships.

**Partner Opportunity:**

- Child Welfare System
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse Providers

**Targeted Audience Discussion:**

- Age 0-5 - support families with programs like healthy start and home visiting
- Age 6 - 18 - support families with programs like Project Youth Bill

**Financial Resource Prioritization:**

- Programs that support parent/child bond
- Supporting community members who fill in the gap when children are removed from their homes. e.g. family, friend and neighbor care

● **Goal 4 All Children live in a safe community.**

The prioritization for this goal was done individually the group was asked to send feedback via email to [Dtyson@childrenstrustofalachuacounty.us](mailto:Dtyson@childrenstrustofalachuacounty.us).

Member 1:

- Adequate Prenatal care should help lower our current rate of infant mortality. It might also help other age groups as well by giving information to expectant parents that could help them realize dangers to children they may not have known about.
- Violent crimes I believe will take longer to solve, but hopefully with assistance in the afterschool programs, mentorship programs, and even family counseling programs, children can be taught there are better ways of communication than violence.
- Domestic violence will be a long-term issue. If we give our children the experience and instruction about what appropriate human interaction should be, in time we should see the numbers drop. Until then, we should continue to fund programs like CAC and Peaceful Paths.
- Hopefully, with time there will be less demand for these services.

Member 2:

- Expand community resource centers in outlying areas that are safe and trusted places for children to spend time, offer educational programs and where families can connect with resources /can connect to MH/BH services for adults and children.
- Offer parent education programs that work in conjunction with our local treatment providers and make resource connections to keep families stable and children safe while parents seek sobriety, etc.
- Work with DJJ to identify what the current juvenile crime trends are telling us (are there underlying BH issues, family violence history, gangs, etc.) before we tackle how to respond in this area. What are their trends telling us?
- Can our faith community be a support in the area of safety in their neighborhoods?

Member 4:

- Child Death Rate among 10-19 YO, which may include homicide, motor vehicle crashes, suicide. This can also include the segment that survived but were hospitalized.
- Domestic Violence Rate by County (Alachua is much higher than state avg). Violence in the home impacts a child's sense of safety and security in all aspects of their life, teaches lack of trust, learns to react to the world with anger/violence, etc.

- Violent Crime rate by county (Alachua is double the state avg)- children should feel they are safe at school, home or while playing in their neighborhoods.

**Financial Resource Focus:**

**Member 3:**

- Injury Prevention & Early Intervention
- Substance Abuse & Mental Health Therapy for youth
- Life Skills/Bullying Prevention for youth
- Training Labs & Technical Assistance for families

**Member 4:**

- Prevention campaigns/programs that focus on infant fatalities that can be prevented (unsafe sleep, accidental drowning, drug exposure prenatally, etc) to address child death and infant mortality rates.

**General Public Comments: none**

**Meeting adjourned at 12:03pm**