



Agenda Item Summary

File #: 23-00192

Agenda Date: 1/23/2024

Agenda Item Name:

Children's Trust of Alachua County Recommendations to the Governor

Presenter:

Claudia Tuck, Community Support Services Director, 352-231-0058

Description:

In accordance with Ordinance 18-08 that created the Children's Trust of Alachua County, five of its 10 members are appointed by the Governor from a list of names recommended by the Alachua County Board of Commissioners. Previously, the Board selected three names each for the seats being vacated by Dr. Labarta and Dr. Snyder. These names were submitted to the Governor's Appointments Office. Our lobbyist spoke with the Director of the Appointments Office who advised to submit three additional names for the seat being vacated by Dr. Labarta. As of December 22, 2023 applications have been received from Dr. Carolyn Komanski, Lauren DePaola, Lem Purcell, Sabrina Peoples, Dakeyan Graham, Kay Abbitt, Christopher Klug, Dr. Denise M. Brown and Lisa Denning Tate.

Recommended Action:

Select three names to recommend to the Governor for consideration in filling the seat being vacated by Dr. Labarta.

Prior Board Motions:

On December 13, 2022 the Board of County Commissioners (Board) unanimously recommended the following individuals for consideration by the Governor:

For the Incumbent seat of Dr. Snyder: Patricia A. Snyder, Mary L. Chance, Adam O. Joy

For the seat vacated by Dr. Labarta: Rachel M. Coleman, Henry S. Pennypacker, Shannon D. Prieto

Fiscal Note:

n/a

Strategic Guide:

Social and Economic Opportunity

Background:

On 2/27/18 the Board of Commissioners adopted Ordinance 18-08 creating the Children's Trust of Alachua County and placing it on the ballot for a referendum. The Ordinance defines the Trust as a 10 member board comprised of five designated members; the superintendent of schools; a local school board member, chosen by a majority of the School Board of Alachua County; the district administrator from District III of the Department of Children and Family Services, or his or her designee who is a member of the Senior Management Service or of the Selected Exempt Service; one member of the

County Commission, chosen by a majority of the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners; and a judge assigned to juvenile cases.

The remaining five members are appointed by the Governor, and shall, to the extent possible, represent the demographic diversity of the population of Alachua County. After soliciting recommendations from the public, the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners shall submit to the Governor the names of at least three persons for each vacancy occurring among the five members to be appointed by the Governor, and the Governor shall appoint members to the council from the candidates nominated. The Governor shall make a selection within a 45-day period or request a new list of candidates. All members appointed by the Governor shall have been residents of Alachua County for the previous 24-month period.

During the 11/6/18 General Election, 61.96% of those voting approved the referendum creating the Trust and providing it with the authority to levy up to .5 mil. In response, on 12/11/18, the Board of County Commissioners considered 71 applications received for possible nomination to the Governor. The Board selected 15 names and placed them into five groups of three each, for possible nomination to staggered terms of one, two, three, and four years.

On 2/14/20, Governor DeSantis appointed Dr. Karen Cole-Smith to a one year term, Charles (Lee) Pinkoson to a two year term, and Dr. Snyder and Dr. Labarta to a three year term, and Dr. Hardt to a four year term.

In response to the expiring term of Dr. Cole-Smith, on 12/8/20, the Board of Commissioners nominated Dr. Cole-Smith, Elizabeth Patton, and Robert Paige for consideration by the Governor. To date, the Governor has not made an appointment for that expired term. Since then, Dr. Cole-Smith and Elizabeth Patton both requested the Governor's Office remove their names from further consideration. On 11/28/22, Dr. Cole-Smith submitted a letter to the Trust resigning her position effective 1/18/23. A copy of the resignation letter was subsequently sent to the Governor's Office.

On 12/14/21, in response to the expiring term of Charles (Lee) Pinkoson, the Board nominated Charles (Lee) Pinkoson, Ray Holt, and Kathy Dixon for consideration by the Governor. To date, the Governor has not acted on these nominations.

On 12/13/22, the Board nominated Patricia A. Snyder, Mary L. Chance, and Adam O. Joy for the Incumbent seat of Dr. Snyder and Rachel M. Coleman, Henry S. Pennypacker, Shannon D. Prieto for the seat being vacated by Dr. Labarta. On 6/23/23, the Governor's Office issued a press release appointing Mary Chance to the Children's Trust of Alachua County for the incumbent seat of Dr. Snyder.