



**CHILDREN'S TRUST**  
OF ALACHUA COUNTY

## **CHILDREN'S TRUST REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

October 14, 2024, at 4:00 PM

Alachua Co. Health Dept., T. Coward Auditorium, 224 SE 24th St., Gainesville, FL 32641

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### **Call to Order**

**Chair Pinkoson called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.**

### **Roll Call**

#### **PRESENT**

Chair Lee Pinkoson

Vice Chair Ken Cornell

Treasurer Cheryl Twombly – attended virtually

Member Tina Certain

Member Mary Chance

Member Judge Denise R. Ferrero

Member Nancy Hardt

Member Maggie Labarta

#### **ABSENT**

Member Shane Andrew

**Motion made by Member Chance, Seconded by Member Certain to allow Member Twombly to participate virtually due to extraordinary circumstances.**

A physical quorum of five members voted on this motion.

Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

### **Agenda Review, Revision, and Approval**

**Motion to approve the agenda made by Vice Chair Cornell, Seconded by Member Chance.**

Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

### **Consent Agenda**

1. Board Attendance YTD
2. 9.9.2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
3. 9.9.2024 First TRIM Hearing Minutes
4. 9.23.2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
5. 9.23.2024 Final TRIM Hearing Minutes

6. 9.23.2024 Board Meeting Evaluation - Survey Results
7. FY 2024 Budget Report (August)
8. FY 2024 Checks and Expenditures Report (August)
9. FY 2024 Programmatic Award and Expenditures Report (August)
10. September Sponsorship Applications

## **General Public Comments**

### **Chair's Report**

Chair Pinkoson expressed his appreciation and highlighted the remarkable job that Liz Cayson, Community Engagement Manager, has done with the Trust in regard to sponsorships and engagement.

#### 11. Annual Evaluation of Executive Director

The Board Members discussed the evaluation of the Executive Director. Chair Pinkoson said, "We are very fortunate to have Marsha, I think that things are going very well, she's done an excellent job with public perception and there's a much better working relationship with the providers." Vice Chair Cornell mentioned that ED Kiner's self-assessment was as good as any he'd ever seen. He said, "After just two short years, it really shows how blessed we are as an organization and as a community to have Marsha back home. She has done an amazing job of getting us to a strategic plan and building some of the best staff in the state." He spoke about the community engagement in board meetings and workshops, commenting that the public is giving of their time and talent due to Marsha's outstanding leadership. Member Labarta added, "I think Marsha's done an excellent job; the community is more engaged than it has been in any time prior. So, I agree that she has done a really good job, an absolutely fine job." Member Hardt said, "I always think that when you have a really good executive, you should offer them professional development or coaching, not because I think she's wanting, but because she deserves to be her best self."

**Motion made by Vice Chair Cornell, Seconded by Member Chance to accept the Executive Director's Annual Evaluation with gratitude, provide professional executive development and/or coaching of ED Kiner's choice, offer a 360-degree evaluation review, and provide an additional 5% to her annual salary, effective October 1, 2024.**

Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

ED Kiner thanked the Board for their continued support. She said, "Truly, from the bottom of my heart, I want you all to know that there is nowhere else I would want to be than right here with you. The heart that this community has for children, the consistent work of the people in this room, and the Board's support of the work we do is very unique, and it makes me proud to be a representative of children and families here at home. So again, thank you, thank you, thank you."

She also expressed her gratitude towards her team saying, "A leader can't be successful without having good people. If I am able to go out into the community and do all the things that I do, it's because I have a Kristy Goldwire making sure things get done, a Scott Sumner making things happen, and then so on and so forth, every single staff member is a rock star,

and I am grateful to them for the work that they do. If I'm doing something good and great, it's because I have a good and great team. So, thank you all for what you do to support me.”

### **Executive Director's Report**

#### 12. 10.14.2024 ED Report

ED Kiner reported on the success and completion of the TRIM process, extending thanks to team members Nicole, Scott, and Ashley for their hard work. She praised Shardé Goodloe from Goodwill Industries for organizing the TeensWork Alachua End of Summer Celebration, and arranging a wonderful speaker - Romona Jackson, Board Chair of the Education Foundation. ED Kiner updated the Board on the progress of the building renovation and reported that the Guardian Ad Litem team had moved in successfully. She introduced and welcomed Dr. Amy Wagner as the full-time Research, Planning, and Evaluation Coordinator. Her report also highlighted the Lights On Afterschool Fall Festival co-hosted by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida scheduled for October 24th from 4:30-6:00PM.

#### 13. Comprehensive Literacy Plan and Assessment September Update

CTAC has reached out to the University of Florida Lastinger Center to conduct a county-wide Comprehensive Literacy Needs Assessment. UFLC has requested a no-cost extension to ensure they have adequate time to analyze the data, prepare the report, and present it to the Committee and all funders.

**Motion by Vice Chair Cornell, Seconded by Member Certain to approve the project extension until the end of March 2025.**

Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

#### 14. Board Meeting Calendar for 2025

The Board was presented with meeting dates for calendar year 2025. Meetings will be held on the second Monday of each month with the following exceptions: no meetings will be held in January or July, the April meeting will take place on the first Monday due to Children's Week in Tallahassee, and the required TRIM hearings will be held on the second and fourth Mondays in September.

**Motion made by Member Labarta, Seconded by Member Chance to approve the Board Meeting Calendar for 2025 with the requested modifications.**

Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

#### 15. Adoption of Policy Updates to CTAC By-Laws

According to CTAC's By-Laws, the election of officers shall take place at the Annual Meeting. The Vice Chair shall assume the office of the Chair and the Treasurer shall assume the office of the Vice Chair. A new Treasurer shall be elected from the members of the Trust. Nominations for the office of Treasurer shall be taken and voted upon at the same meeting.

**Motion made by Member Labarta, Seconded by Member Certain to approve Resolution 2024-14 to amend Article II. - Meetings, Section 1. - Regular Meetings, to change the CTAC Board's Annual Meeting from the month of January to the month of December.**

Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

## **Old Business**

### **16. 2024 Extended School Year Literacy Pilot**

Leah Galione, Executive Director of PEAK Literacy, shared the results of the ESY Pilot, a summer literacy intensive project and collaboration between PEAK, CTAC, and the Alachua County School District. Incoming third graders at two local schools participated using the Great Leaps program model. This project aimed to increase grade-level reading by offering 15-minute daily reading instruction for up to 16 sessions – a total of four hours of instruction time. Of the 36 students, all of them showed progress in their reading. The 25 students who attended 10 or more sessions showed an average grade-level growth of .45 – equal to nearly half a school year of progress. The Board discussed the success and potential for expansion to other schools and the possibility of recruiting youth volunteers in need of community service hours.

## **New Business**

### **17. Summer Program Evaluation Results (Bonnie Wagner)**

RP&E Coordinator Bonnie Wagner shared evaluation results for three summer programs: TeensWork Alachua, Akwaaba Freedom School, and Midnight Basketball. Each of these programs has been funded by the Trust for the past three years.

TeensWork Alachua is a summer youth employment program which has seen a significant increase in youth served and job sites over the past three years. This year, 315 teens from 14-18 years of age worked across 97 job sites in Alachua County. On average, they worked 126 of a possible 150 hours and earned \$1,605. Of the teens, 94% reported they gained valuable work experience, skills, and job readiness, and 97% reported satisfaction with the program overall. There was also a significant increase in employer satisfaction, rising from 86% (2023) to 97% (2024). Chair Pinkoson asked if staff could see how many worksites had re-enrolled from last year.

Marla Meredith, Senior Program Manager with Goodwill Industries of Florida addressed the Board regarding business recruitment and sponsorships. She outlined plans to target businesses in rural areas and to understand their interests and challenges. She also aims to deepen connections with local clubs and chambers to foster corporate partnerships for future TeensWork collaborations.

Akwaaba Freedom School nearly tripled enrollment numbers over the three years, from 35 to 83 students this year. They offered a diverse range of activities, including literacy focus, character-building enrichment, creative storytelling, dance workshops, restorative justice, and community building. They also showed impressive results in reading improvement, confidence gain, and parent satisfaction. They surpassed all their performance measures with 100% of students maintaining or improving reading scores over the summer (the target was 80%) and achieved 88% for parent involvement (the target was 50%). The Board asked about the possibility of expanding this program to additional sites around the county.

Midnight Basketball is a once monthly program run over the summer months for a total of 5 sessions. While overall attendance dipped this year, the youth engagement has increased with 88% of participants attending two or more sessions in 2024, which is up from 11% in 2022, and 63% in 2023. The teens reported 100% positive interactions with the staff, 99% felt safe, 99% met new friends, and 96% left feeling motivated by the scheduled speakers. ED Kiner reported a recent grant which may bring similar sports opportunities to youth in Gainesville, she will update the Board as more information is shared.

### **General Public Comments**

### **Board Member Comments**

### **For Your Information**

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

18. Maternal and Child Health Initiative and Listening Sessions Preliminary Data Update

### **Next Meeting Dates**

Regular Board Meeting - Monday, November 4th, 2024 @ 4:00 PM

Alachua Co. Health Dept., T. Coward Auditorium, 224 SE 24th St., Gainesville, FL 32641

Regular Board Meeting - Monday, December 9th, 2024 @ 4:00 PM

Alachua Co. Headquarters Library, Meeting Room A, 401 E University Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601

### **Adjournment**

**Chair Pinkoson adjourned the meeting at 5:56 PM.**