



CHILDREN'S TRUST JOINT MEETING WITH ALACHUA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

June 11, 2026, at 4:00 PM

County Administration Building, Grace Knight Conference Room

Meeting Notes

Commissioner Ken Cornell called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Roll Call

BoCC Members Present: Commissioner Ken Cornell (Chair), Commissioner Marihelen Warren, Commissioner Charles S. Chestnut, Commissioner Anna Prizzia (Vice Chair), Commissioner Mary Alford
CTAC Board Members Present: Mary Chance (Chair), Lee Pinkoson (Treasurer). Dr. Nancy Hardt joined the meeting remotely. *Quorum was not established for the Trust; no action was taken by the CTAC Board.*

Agenda Review, Revision and Approval

Commissioner Wheeler moved for adoption of the agenda and consent agenda as printed. Commissioner Chestnut seconded the motion; which passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

1. Property Tax/Truth in Millage Presentation

Discussion Items

2. Alachua County Reads Initiative Monthly Update
Dr. Heidi Keegan (Alachua County Reads) joined by Leah Gallione (Executive Director, PEAK Literacy), provided an overview of the ACR initiative and delivered program metrics from PEAK/Catalyst partnership. 25,000 individual lessons were completed. Upcoming, there will be a July 15th workgroup. ACR.org virtual hub is set to launch on August 1st. 24 literacy tubs were distributed to various organizations in the county to support 900 students throughout the county. The BoCC and CTAC investment in this collaborative have resulted in a coordinated strategy and a sustainable system. Comm. Alford suggested enlisting the Sheriff, community leaders, and other uniformed personnel to read the Dolly Parton Imagination Library books as they are sent to build excitement and encourage participation.
Comm. Prizzia asked how the virtual hub usage would be tracked. Dr. Theresa Beachy (Chief Organizational Strategist, Center for Nonprofit Excellence) informed her the site will have trackable features to help record how many people interact with it and in what way.

Public Comment on the topic: Kali Blount (Resident) commented that the most important time is birth – five, then 6-25 – there must be more support for families to get their children into early learning centers to support early child literacy. Dr. Vincent Miller (Executive Director, Aces in Motion) introduced himself and emphasized the importance of access and partnerships with local clergy. Christi Arrington (Executive Director, Girls Place) appreciates the efforts on behalf of the students and voiced a desire for a stronger bridge linking the programs to the school system.

3. Family Eviction and Housing Stability Convening

CTAC COO Kristy Goldwire presented and brought forth the following recommendation to the Board:

1. Fund two case managers at Family Promise of Gainesville in the amount of \$118,000.00 annually for two (2) years which will only serve families with children; and ask that the City and County match the CTAC case manager funding.
2. Request the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners and each of the municipalities where Family Resource Centers are located allocate additional funding for Family Resource Centers to expand support for emergency needs, including Emergency Rental Assistance for eviction prevention.

Dr. Hardt stated that Alachua County should be very proud of its work for housing adults, but virtually nothing is done for homeless children. She noted that 20% of the families in crisis will be better off after temporary support/assistance and asked the BoCC to assist Family Promise. After thanking Comm. Alford, Dr Hardt, and the Trust for organizing the convening, **Comm. Prizzia moved the two-part recommendation from CTAC and further moved:**

3. Refer this presentation to the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee to identify ways to make funds for rental assistance more flexible, recognizing that the County has allocated \$300,000.00.
4. Refer to the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (MTPO) the issue of transportation and the need for more flexible funding and transportation options for families.
5. Work with Career Source to make their services more accessible and other economic development agencies on ways to have more approachable strategies for job hunting, training, and retooling people for quality jobs.
6. Coordinate with the Community Action Agency and encourage more programs not to require eviction for eligibility.
7. Begin conversation with all institutions that have facilities that could be used for housing homeless families.

Comm. Chestnut seconded the motion.

During discussion of the motion, Comm. Alford reminded the boards that some municipalities cannot afford to match funding for the family resource centers. Alford further voiced the difficulties newly working individuals face and the need for gap childcare assistance as well. Member Pinkoson thanked ED Kiner and staff for convening the conversation and thanked Dr. Hardt for being a champion for this issue. Pinkoson stated the Trust would like the County to prioritize the family so they can help a larger number of individuals. CTAC's funds are very limited; it would only be seed money for the next 2 years. Pinkoson noted that the County and City are better equipped to fund this work long-term while CTAC assists by housing the case managers at the Family Resource Centers. Comm. Wheeler reminded the boards that Community Action Agency can keep people in their homes and that money must be spent monthly. Chair Chance asked if there is a way to reach out to other communities who have been successful in coming up with creative solutions to these issues. Comm. Alford reminded the boards there are many people who will be losing benefits soon and to be aware of where resources are placed. Comm. Prizzia emphasized that there is currently no shelter in this area that supports families.

Public Comment on the motion: Kali Blount commented on the upcoming AHAC meeting, use of vacant space School Board properties, challenges at the CareerSource, and further commented that the overall problem with housing is getting affordable units in quality conditions. Claudia

Tuck (Director, Alachua County Community Support Services and Chair, Homelessness Continuum of Care) and Jacob Torner (Vice President of Programs, Taskforce for Ending Homelessness) provided information on the taskforce and upcoming activities/action items. There will be a Family Resource event on June 12th at the United Way. Comm. Wheeler asked that Tacachale be invited to the convening on June 16th. Jerome McIntyre (Councilman, City of Waldo) asked if anything is being done for low-income housing and homeowners and business owners in the rural communities. Stacy Merrit (Partnership for Strong Families) thanked everyone for listening, appreciates the convening. Merritt agrees with Comm. Prizzia that flexibility and the trust to be able to provide a larger variety of support to families in need is appreciated. Partnership for Strong Families is happy to be part of the conversation around placing case managers in their sites. Christi Arrington shared that through the course of processing CTAC scholarships, she has noted that many families of four were in the \$20,000 - \$30,000 dollar per year threshold.

The BoCC's motion passed by unanimous vote.

4. Emergency Assistance and Family Resource Centers

Belita James (Director of Program Operations, Children's Trust) provided a report on the emergency food distribution during November 2025 and provided an update of recently established family resource centers in Micanopy, East Gainesville, High Springs, and Hawthorne. They are currently working on establishing a center in Newberry, as well. Satori Days (Community Stabilization Program Manager, Department of Community Support Services) provided an overview of the community resource centers and services funded by the County.

5. Nonprofit Lifecycle Pilot Program

Marsha Kiner (Executive Director, Children's Trust of Alachua County) reported to the boards that the Trust recently completed its FY 2027-2030 strategic plan and in doing so, developed a goal focused on building the capacity of Trust-funded providers. Comm. Prizzia expressed interested in seeing what comes from this program and hearing about the outcomes next year.

Public comment: Sherry Kitchens (President & CEO, Child Advocacy Center) spoke highly of their experience working with Dr. Beachy and the Center for Nonprofit Excellence on the lifecycles project back in April and May. Their participation allowed them to look at what they need to do as a Board to be stronger, improve Board/Staff relations, and complete their own strategic plan.

Jeff Parker (Executive Director, IGB Education) commented that he appreciates the capacity building, BoCC funding of their Gun Violence programming, and CTAC funding of their enrichment, mentoring, and summer programs. Parkers shared concerns about the recent loss of funding for enrichment and mentoring programs.

General Public Comments

Kali Blount thanked CTAC for what they are doing with Gainesville Housing and brought attention to inaccuracies he recently heard on the radio regarding a CTAC-funded program.

Board Member Comments

Comm. Wheeler asked about Parker's comments about RFPs. ED Kiner explained that CTAC is not releasing any until there is more information about what happens with funding.

Comm. Prizzia commented that she recently met with the mobile outreach clinic and OB/Gyn clinic, both of which are experiencing major cuts. The commissioner will be bringing ideas for collaboration.

Comm. Chestnut commented on the importance of this tax proposal. Alachua County is really missing industry - there is not a lot of income going around.

Comm. Alford shared that a program she has been working on with the Health Department was picked to be part of a national cohort for public health mapping and comparing vaccination rates and hospitalizations for school-aged children. The commissioner would like to present this information to CTAC when it is available as they will need a small amount of money to do community outreach.

Member Pinkoson thanked the BoCC for having us and helping us with children of Alachua County. Chair Chance voiced her agreement.

Chair Cornell asked the BoCC to approve an emergency purchase order in the amount of \$413,890.00 to replace equipment at the Transfer Station; **Comm. Prizzia moved for approval of the request.** Comm. Chestnut seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously by the BoCC.

Chair Cornell adjourned the meeting at 6:19 pm