



Item:

Mental Health Programs – Evaluation Results (Bonnie Wagner)

Requested Action:

The Board is asked to receive information.

Background:

The Children's Trust currently funds three organizations to provide mental health programming to children and youth in Alachua County.

- Child Advocacy Center – Reducing Trauma Therapy Program
- Pace Center for Girls – Reach Community Counseling
- UF Health Shands Psychiatric Hospital – Partners in Adolescent Lifestyle Support (PALS)

In FY2025, across these programs, 588 children and youth were served. Therapeutic services provided include individual, family, and group therapy. Additionally, funded programs offer case management, mental health education, suicide prevention, and support groups. Service provision occurs in locations across Alachua County. Mental health services are available in thirteen Alachua County schools via Reach Community Counseling and/or PALS. All programs also offer in-office sessions. Options available to meet via telehealth, at home, or in other community locations vary by program.

Each program exhibits success in meeting “better off” outcomes. These successes include children and youth improving mental health well-being and symptoms, increasing skills and knowledge in addressing trauma reactions, improving or maintaining positive relationships, being less apt to bully and accepting of differences, improving or maintaining a low risk level in substance use and mental health concerns, having no juvenile justice involvement following program completion, achievement of treatment goals, and having access mental health care that they otherwise wouldn’t have been able to access.

Attachments:

Board Presentation – Mental Health Programs – Evaluation Results on 2-9-2026

Programmatic Impact:

Mental Health Programs support the following Trust goal:

Goal 1: All children and youth are healthy and have nurturing caregivers & relationships.

Fiscal Impact:

Budget Allocation – FY2025

Overall Total - \$303,884

Partners in Adolescent Lifestyle Support (PALS) – \$114,442

Reach Community Counseling – \$114,442

Reducing Trauma Therapy Program – \$75,000

Recommendation:

Receive the information.