



## CHILDREN'S TRUST REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

December 08, 2025 at 4:00 PM

CTAC, 4010 NW 25th Place, Gainesville, FL 32606

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**Call to Order - Chair Cornell called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.**

### **Roll Call**

Board Members Present: Ken Cornell - Board Chair, Cheryl Twombly – Board Vice Chair, Dr. Maggie Labarta – Board Treasurer, Tina Certain – Member, Mary Chance – Member, Dr. Kamela Patton – Member, Lee Pinkoson – Member, Hon. Susanne Wilson Bullard – Member

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

**Member Pinkoson moved for the approval of the agenda and consent agenda** with the addition of Consent agenda item 7.5 – Approval of the 2026 meeting calendar. Member Chance seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

### **Consent Agenda**

1. Board Attendance YTD
  2. 11.10.2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
  3. 11.10.2025 Board Meeting Evaluation - Survey Results
  4. FY 2026 Budget Report (October)
  5. FY 2026 Checks and Expenditures Report (October)
  6. FY 2026 Programmatic Awards and Expenditures Report (October)
  7. Sponsorship Requests
- 7.5 2026 CTAC calendar

### **General Public Comments - none**

### **Chair's Report**

Special Presentations -

Chair Cornell recognized Vice Chair Cheryl Twombly at her final meeting and acknowledged her longstanding involvement with the Trust prior to its inception. Board members expressed appreciation for her leadership, community impact, and spirit of service, noting her role in shaping key initiatives that positioned the Trust for success. Vice Chair Twombly shared brief remarks of gratitude and reflected on the lasting legacy of the Trust's work for children and families in Alachua County. She was presented with a floral bouquet and a commemorative lantern in appreciation of her service.

Executive Director Marsha Kiner thanked outgoing Chair Cornell for his leadership of the Trust this past year. He was presented with a potted plant in appreciation for his service.

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

ED Kiner recapped her recent fly-in to Tallahassee and meetings with state legislators. She was well received by the property tax committee chair and will be back in January to continue discussions and speak on behalf of CTAC.

ED Kiner publicly thanked Junior Achievement, Eastside High School Principal Leroy Williams, and Program Coordinator Brookside McGraw for a wonderful 3DE Case Study on CTAC. The students had great ideas and some of which CTAC will be implementing. Member Chance seconded that.

The Board agreed to hold the Strategic Planning Workshop at noon on Jan. 26, 2026, followed by a workshop on the nonprofit lifecycle.

**Old Business** - none

**New Business** - none

### **Election of 2026 Officers**

**Dr. Labarta nominated Mary Chance (Board Chair), Judge Susanne Wilson Bullard (Vice Chair), and Lee Pinkoson (Treasurer);** seconded by Member Certain. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Cornell administered the oath of office to the newly elected officers whose term will begin on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Presentations**

#### **Head Start Summer Bridge Evaluation Results**

Bonnie Wagner, Research, Planning, and Evaluation Coordinator, presented an overview of the Head Start Summer Bridge program, noting services at five sites across the county. Fifty-four percent of participants resided in municipalities outside the City, and demographic data on race, address, and attendance were reviewed. Ms. Wagner noted lower attendance at rural sites, with transportation identified as a primary barrier. The Board discussed attendance challenges in Hawthorne and East Gainesville. Member Certain requested further analysis to identify underlying barriers to participation in rural areas. CTAC Director of Program Operations, Belita James, stated staff would bring the requested information back for follow-up.

Martha Cox, ECS4Kids Vice President for Grants and Government Relations, shared that they are working to disenroll children for nonattendance and then replace rather than continuing to count the student and track their nonattendance. Their team is focusing more of their discussions with families on exploring ways to improve attendance. Member Certain would like to have a conversation before deciding to disenroll students. Member Certain also asked if the staff is reflective of the students they are serving, as that may contribute to the trust factor. Judge Wilson Bullard asked how participants are identified and can some of the attendance challenges be addressed upfront. Are there options that can be offered now? ED Kiner asked if there is a role the Family Resource Centers can play to assist the program coordinator in getting additional resources to the enrolled families that can assist with attendance. Dr. Labarta would like to make sure the question of "why didn't you come" is asked in a way that is not accusatory. Parent surveys shared overall satisfaction with the program. The Summer Bridge Program children's learning gains outpaced non-participants. The Board agreed the outcome data should be shared to demonstrate the benefits of Trust funded programming and used to share with the public for Trust renewal discussions.

Dr. Labarta added that she would like to see something in the curriculum about the arts. Member Chance gave hats off to the program coordinators for the participants' gains. Member Certain questioned how many students were involved in the summer program (94). Member Pinkoson thanked both Bonnie and Martha for the information stating that this is exactly what CTAC is trying to do.

During public comment, Ms. Cox shared that Summer Bridge is one of the most important things they are doing. As a result, ECS4Kids is going to the state legislature to ask for matching funds to expand the program, using CTAC as a standard. Cox added that 20% of their staff are former headstart parents or alums.

#### **General Public Comments - none**

#### **For Your Information**

The following items were provided for informational purposes:

- Early Childhood Learning Collaborative
- Emergency Food Initiative Update
- TWA Requested - Cost Per Student Information

#### **Board Member Comments**

#### **Next Meeting Dates**

Finance Committee Meeting - Wednesday, December 17th @ 1:30 pm

Strategic Planning Workshop - Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup> – noon to 4:30 pm

#### **Adjournment**

**Chair Cornell adjourned the meeting at 5:13 pm.**



CHILDREN'S TRUST  
OF ALACHUA COUNTY

CHILDREN'S TRUST REGULAR MEETING

12/08/2025 from 4pm-6pm

CTAC Office, 4010 NW 25<sup>th</sup> Place, Gainesville, FL 32606

Attendance List

Name	Organization	Email address	Contact number
Martha Cox	ECOS4Kids	martha.cox @ecos4kids.org	904-535-0420
Nick Anschultz	Mainstreet Daily News	NAnschultz@mainstreetdailynews.com	
Alison Frank	CAO		
Christine Rivers	DTBD Dare to be different	info@daretobe different.com org	(352) 441-4551
Kelly McHenry	ACPS	mcclungkla@ alachuaschools.net	(813) 215-9155
Martha McRae	Goodwill	mmcrae@ goodwillnorthfl.org	912 674 9464
Shandé Goode	Goodwill	sgoodloe@ goodwillnorthfl.org	904.658-7350
Pete Karam	COE		
Garrison Valentine	AM I Kids	gvalentine@amikids.org	251-781-6446
Ezzy Bartz	GCC		