

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF PALM BEACH COUNTY
January 28, 2021 Council Meeting
Via Microsoft Teams/Teleconference
Open to the public at 2300 High Ridge Road, Boynton Beach FL 33246 and via telephone

MINUTES

Present (in person):

Thomas Bean
Jose Luis Rodriguez
Tom Weber

Present (virtually):

Elisa Cramer
Kathleen Kroll
Debra Robinson, M.D.
Maria Sachs

Excused: Donald Fennoy II, Ed.D.; Vincent Goodman

1. Call to Order

Chair Bean called the meeting to order at 4:32 pm.

While some of our Council members are appearing via electronic means today, this meeting is subject to the Sunshine law requirement that our meeting be in a public place and that there be an in-person quorum.

- A. Invocation - Moment of silence led by Chair Bean.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Bean made the following comments:

You may have noticed that Mr. Goodman has been missing the last couple of Council meetings. We heard from him and he shared that both he and his wife have been sick. He asked that we share this with all of you. We let him know that our thoughts and wishes for their quick recovery are with them. Lisa sent them a card on behalf of the staff and the Board.

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge that Commissioner McKinlay will be leaving the Council. Melissa is with us today virtually. I want to thank Commissioner McKinlay for her engaged and thoughtful leadership on this council over the past 2 years and would like to present her with this plaque as a thank you for her commitment to the children and families of PBC. You will be missed Melissa.

Melissa has been replaced by Commissioner Maria Sachs, who is with us today. Commissioner Sachs is an attorney, former state representative and senator who is now a County Commissioner for District 5. We welcome Maria's experience and passion, and look forward to working together on behalf of Palm Beach County's children and their families. Welcome.

C. Presentations

1. Equity Presentation – Lisa Williams-Taylor, Ph.D., CEO; Beth Halleck, Evaluation Officer

Q: Chair Bean asked to help him understand what verified maltreatment means.

A: It is considered a verified maltreatment once it is verified that there are findings. The findings that can come out of a child protective investigation are either no-indicators, non-substantiated or verified. Verified is when there is evidence that says that maltreatment has happened.

Q: Chair Bean asked if this rate is higher because there are more calls made or because there is actually more mistreatment.

A: Elisa Cramer stated that so far, there are definitively more calls for Black families than White families. The majority of the calls that come to the Department of Children and Families statewide are no-indicators. There are disparities shown in the data on Black children. That is one of the issues that DCF is looking at. There is a group of entities, including CSC and others, that are getting together to look at the data. When we look at how long it takes to get to permanency, it is longer for Black children. DCF is looking at ways to remove race from decision-making to ensure that there are no implicit biases that affect decision-making.

Q: Chair Bean asked if we know who is making calls to the DCF hotline.

A: Elisa Cramer stated that DCF has information on reporter type. Predominantly from school based personnel, law enforcement and medical personnel. There are specific professions that are required to report abuse.

Chair Bean expressed an interest on how we can break cycles.

2. School Readiness – Debra Robinson, M.D., Council Member

Chair Bean thanked Dr. Robinson for sharing this data, which is enlightening.

Tom Weber stated that there is an obvious need, as even the high percentages are low. At both levels, there is less than 50% that are where we want them to be.

Q: Jose Luis Rodriguez stated that we usually see studies broken down by race. When we see that a disproportionate number shows that White students are scoring higher, is it because the middle class female score is pulling up that whole category?

A: Dr. Robinson explained that it can be the case that White students will outperform Hispanics and Blacks because of the culture and the climate in this country. There are examples where middle class Black students are tied with White students. It shows that there are two factors affecting the outcomes, race and poverty, and due to this country's history, race and poverty are intertwined. Generally speaking, if you compare poor Black to poor Whites to poor Hispanics, we will see the same pattern.

It was duly noted that even the high scores are not as high enough as we want them to be. We need to address that issue, too.

2. Minutes

- A. October 22, 2020 Council Meeting and October 22, 2020 Council Workshop
- B. December 3, 2020 Council Meeting and December 3, 2020 Council Workshop

Tom Weber clarified that on the October 22, 2020 he was in attendance, however, he did not have access to a camera. Changes will be made to reflect his attendance both to the Council Workshop and Council Meeting in October 22, 2020.

Due to a lack of quorum, the minutes for the Council Workshops and the Council meetings on October 22, 2020 and December 3, 2020 will be acted upon at our next meeting.

3. Public Comment – Agenda Items

- A. In person
- B. Phone

No public comments in person or by telephone.

4. Council Committees:

- **Finance Committee**

- **Items for approval**

- October 22, 2020 Minutes
- December 3, 2020 Minutes
- September 30, 2020 Unaudited Financial Statements
- October 31, 2020 Financial Statements
- November 30, 2020 Financial Statements
- December 31, 2020 Financial Statements

The Finance Committee had a consensus to approve the October 22, 2020 and December 3, 2020 minutes, the September 30, 2020 Unaudited Financial Statements, October 31, 2020, November 30, 2020 and December 31, 2020 Financial Statements. Due to a lack of quorum, these items will come back to the Council meeting next month for approval.

- **The Finance Committee also reviewed the following items for which no action is needed:**

- Monthly Investment Report ending October 3, 2020
- Monthly Investment Report ending November 30, 2020
- Monthly Investment Report ending December 31, 2020

- **Human Resources Committee**

- **Items for Approval**

- Minutes from October 22, 2020 Human Resources Committee Meeting

Due to a lack of quorum, Minutes from the October 22, 2020 Human Resources Committee meeting will be presented for approval at our next Council meeting.

- **Items Discussed (no action required)**
 - Annual Performance Review of Chief Executive Officer

A recommendation for approval will be presented at the February Council Meeting.

5. Consent Agenda

1. Additions, Deletions, Substitutions – N/A
2. Items to be pulled from Consent Agenda – N/A
3. Adoption of Consent Agenda and walk-in Warrants List

Due to a lack of quorum, the CEO will be acting pursuant to her emergency authority to continue CSC operations. The CEO will make the necessary payments for the items on the warrants list and the walk-in warrants list. These items will be subject to ratification at our next Council meeting. Considering that the Mentoring Proclamation is for the month of January, we will pass on it this year.

A. Program – N/A

B. Business

1. Warrants List

C. Proclamations

1. Proclamation Declaring the Month of January 2021 as Mentoring Awareness Month

6. Non Consent Agenda

A. Program

1. Resolution #21-001 Authorizing Agreement with Nurse Family Partnership for Child First Model

Q: Elisa Cramer asked if Child First is one of the programs that is in the Federal Clearing House for Families First Prevention Services.

A: Lisa stated that last time we looked, it was not one of the programs, however, we will research and confirm.

B. Business

1. Resolution #21-0023 Authorizing Changes to the Council Bylaws
2. Addition of a Payback Provision to the Tuition Reimbursement Policy

C. Program – N/A

D. For Informational Purposes Only – N/A

Due to a lack of quorum, the non-consent agenda items, Resolution #21-001 Authorizing Agreement with Nurse Family Partnership for Child First Model, Resolution #21-002 Authorizing Changes to the Council Bylaws and a Payback Provision for Tuition Reimbursement Policy, will be brought back for Council consideration at our next meeting.

7. Walk-In Items – N/A

8. Chief Executive Officer's Report

Lisa Williams-Taylor, CEO, highlighted items in the CEO Report.

Additional items not included in the CEO Report include:

- A group of funders have continued to meet to discuss efforts on COVID-19 Relief and Assistance. An area of direct impact and need in our community is assistance in payment of utilities, rent and mortgage. There are federal funds coming to the county to address this but there are limited resources to help families navigate how to access these funds. Collaborative funding is on the way to hire an attorney through Legal Aid Society to provide assistance for these needs. CSC will be one of three funders that will support a position for one year.
- We are providing a copy of the Birth to 22 United for Brighter Future Data Report. For those that are joining virtually, please let us know and we will mail you a copy. It includes a wealth of information.
- We have begun meeting with legislators. Lisa joined the Legislative Delegation hearing a couple of weeks ago and presented on CSC and our work around child care. We are now meeting with legislators and have been providing a snapshot with data for their specific district.
- We also provided a copy of the new material on Birth to 22.

9. Legal Reports

A. Motion to Adopt 2021 Calendar of Council Meetings (in CEO Report)

Debra Gotlib, General Counsel, stated that CSC will move forward with the attached calendar as our final calendar, subject to formal approval at our next meeting.

10. Public Comment – Non Agenda Items

- A. In person
- B. Phone

No public comments in person or telephone.

11. Council Comments

No comments from Council members.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:42 pm.

Thomas Bean, Chair

Lisa Williams-Taylor, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer