

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF PALM BEACH COUNTY
March 25, 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
Kathleen Kroll
Debra Robinson, M.D.
Jose Luis Rodriguez
Tom Weber

Present (by phone):

Vincent Goodman

Excused: Elissa Cramer; Donald Fennoy II, Ed.D.; Maria Sachs

1. Call to Order

Chair Bean called the meeting to order at 5:18 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 - Led by Chair Bean
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Presentations – N/A

2. Minutes

- A. February 18, 2021 Council Meeting

A motion by Robinson/Weber to approve the Minutes of the February 18, 2021 Council Meeting as presented was approved by unanimous vote.

3. Public Comment – Agenda Items

- A. In person
- B. Phone

No public comments in person or by telephone.

4. Council Committees:

- **Finance Committee**
 - **The Finance Committee met today and presents the following items for approval:**
 - Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2020

- Minutes from February 18, 2021 Finance Committee Meeting
- Financial Statements for the period ending February 28, 2021

A motion by Goodman/Weber to approve the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2020, the Minutes from February 18, 2021 Finance Committee Meeting and the Financial Statements for the period ending February 28, 2021 as presented was approved by unanimous vote.

- **The Finance Committee also reviewed the following items, for which no action is needed:**
 - Monthly Investment Report ending February 28, 2021
 - Budget and 5-year Forecast – fiscal year 2021-2022 through fiscal year 2025-2026

- **Human Resources Committee**

The Human Resources Committee did not meet today, however, Vince Goodman, who was formerly on the Human Resources Committee, has expressed an interest in re-joining the committee.

A motion by Rodriguez/Robinson to approve Vince Goodman's membership at the Human Resources Committee was approved by unanimous vote.

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

A motion by Goodman/Robinson to approve the consent agenda as presented was approved by unanimous vote.

A. Program

1. Resolution 21-004 Authorizing Repurposing of Under Expenditures

Recommendation: I recommend the Council approve Resolution #21-004 authorizing the repurposing of under expenditures: (1) in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 for Great Ideas Initiatives; (2) in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 for summer camp scholarships and (3) authorize the CEO to enter into any necessary contract amendments with Friends of Community Services, Inc. for summer camp scholarships.

B. Business

1. Warrants List

6. Non Consent Agenda

A. Program - N/A

B. Business

C. Proclamations

The proclamation was read aloud by the CEO.

1. Proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention

Dr. Robinson pointed out a racial equity issue in that the proclamation specifically addresses opioids. The opioid epidemic is an overall White problem. This proclamation does not show why we have a disproportionality with Black children being identified as verified abuse. She requested that somehow we look into and try to understand the root causes of identification. Are we looking automatically at Black children as is the case with teachers and law enforcement? If this is the case, there may be White children that are being abused and neglected and are not being identified and are still in harm. Are we over identifying and ignoring because of our biases. By this time next year, when this proclamation comes again, she hopes that we have more information so that we can pull partners together to address the issues that lead to child abuse.

Judge Kroll sought clarification in terms of the 4 percent addressed in the resolution. Is this percentage related to just opioids only or does this include other? Marsha Guthrie confirmed that the 4 percent is related to opiates only. Judge Kroll stated that there is a separate group that is analyzing data about children of color in the dependency system. The Court also has consultants from the state and they are looking at analyzing the whole picture, including the family and other factors.

CEO, Lisa Williams stated that the consultant's name is Corey Best from the Casey Family Program. He has done work with Broward County and they have seen significant changes in their child welfare system in terms of equity. We have enlisted his services for Palm Beach County and we will be looking at data that we can bring to the Council possibly in a Workshop specifically on child welfare next year.

The workgroup is not yet looking a real cases, but Judge Kroll anticipates that they will do so.

Marsha Guthrie stated that we can work with the Department of Children and Families to update the numbers in terms of the type of substance abuse for the proclamation.

Jose Luis Rodriguez suggested an amendment that would address the issue discussed.

Lisa stated that next month we will bring additional information to next month's meeting related to what is being looked at in the separate workgroup that was mentioned before.

Dr. Robinson noted her ongoing concern about bias and root causes relating to abuse and neglect reporting.

Judge Kroll mentioned that there is valuable data presented by Quantum Foundation, including a one-pager with information on equity issues around health care and schooling specific to Palm Beach County. Lisa Williams-Taylor stated that it is part of Quantum's strategic plan and we can certainly share this with the Council.

A resolution by Goodman/Kroll to approve the Proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention with the amendments agreed upon was approved by unanimous vote.

D. For Informational Purposes Only – N/A

7. Walk-In Items – N/A

8. Chief Executive Officer's Report

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

Debra Gotlib, General Counsel, highlighted bills included in the Legislative Update.

There was a discussion about a bill that provides attorneys for children in the dependency system, how this will impact the current Guardian Ad Litem program, as well as the CSC funded Legal Aid Program that provides attorneys for children in dependency. Judge Kroll stated that she spoke in support of the bill before a legislative committee.

Additional items not included in the Legislative Update:

- We need to move the Council Workshop and meeting now set for June 24th. It was proposed to move this meeting to July 8th and Council members present all stated their availability. Elsa will check availability with the other members and will get back to all to confirm.

9. Legal Reports – N/A

10. Public Comment – Non Agenda Items

- A. In person
- B. Phone

No public comments in person or telephone.

11. Council Comments

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 pm.