

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF PALM BEACH COUNTY
March 28, 2019, 4:30 p.m.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chair Weber called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

Present:

Thomas Bean

Vince Goodman

Tom Lynch

James Martz

Dennis Miles

Debra Robinson, M.D.

Jose Luis Rodriguez

Thomas P. Weber

Excused: Donald E. Fennoy II, Ed.D.; Melissa McKinlay

A. Invocation – led by Vince Goodman

B. Pledge of Allegiance – led by Chair Weber

C. Presentations

1. Presentation of EveryParent – John Bartosek, Chief Communications Officer; Christine Potter, Director of Communications; Shana Cooper, Public Information Officer; Michael Roedel, Digital Communications Administrator.

Q: Do you have information on the level of education of the parents that are using the App?

A: Unfortunately, we don't have that information available today, but we will look and see if we have that information and will get back to the Council.

Q: Can we have experts, such as Community Voice, share the message?

A: We did a video series with Community Voice called Ask a Dad and it is on our YouTube channel and will be on EveryParent. We are working to address our communities at different levels.

Q: Can we have an area for "things to do" in the App?

A: "Things to do" is one of the areas that we want to explore more and we are working on having these "pop-ups" to EveryParent registered users. We heard from our survey that parents want to know what to do with their children during weekends.

Q: Can we have audio books?

A: We are looking into it.

Q: Were you surprised on the order of the "search" that came up?

A: We were not too surprised in terms of the ages. A lot of these topics were pushed out through social media. This was the result of efforts already established. We tried to focus on things that we are expecting parents to be interested in particularly right now.

2. Presentation of Strong Minds Network – Tanya Palmer, Chief Program Officer;
Jennifer Coleman, System Performance Lead.

Q: Do technical assistants need to have a degree?

A: Yes, they do. They have to have a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education and some of them have a teaching license.

Q: Who provides the service?

A: We fund them but the School District provides the service for the centers in the School District sites and the Early Learning Coalition provides technical assistance for the family child care homes.

Q: Are they hired by the School District?

A: They are employed by the School District and we have a contract with the School District.

Q: Can you give me more details on HB1091 and the accountability part?

A: HB1091 is about improving quality. Accountability is about the program assessment so that everybody that has a school readiness contract this year received a school readiness assessment. The assessment was the CLASS assessment that we use in Strong Minds. Based on those scores, and the state has not finalized these, those sites are going to receive a rate. There is also a minimum score that the state is setting in order to get the school readiness contract.

Q: Has there been any correlation that you have seen between the score in the GOLD assessment, the VPK assessment and school readiness?

A: We would like to share this information at the evaluation presentation that we will have during next month's Council meeting. We will have our external evaluator here and we will have a lot of GOLD and school readiness data to share. The VPK data is a little more difficult because we don't have that assessment at the state level. We have been having conversations with the Early Learning Coalition to have a data sharing agreement with the State.

2. Minutes

A. February 28, 2019 Council Meeting

A motion by Goodman/Bean to approve the Minutes of the February 28, 2019 Council meeting as presented was approved by unanimous vote.

3. Public Comment – Agenda Items – N/A

4. Council Committees:

- Finance Committee

The Finance Committee met earlier and recommends approval of the following:

- They reviewed the audit. The auditors presented the report with an unmodified opinion.
- The minutes from the February 28, 2019 meeting.
- Reviewed the financials from February, 2019.

A motion by Goodman/Bean to approve the audit report, the minutes and the financials as presented was approved by unanimous vote.

- Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee met earlier and recommends approval of the following:

- Minutes from February 28, 2019 Personnel Committee Meeting
- Pilot Internship Program, starting in May of 2020
- Performance Management recommendation to increase the pool of dollars for merit increase in the salary budget from 3% to 4%
- Annual performance evaluation process for the CEO, recommendation to have the Council review the evaluation in January and bring recommendation to the Council for approval the following month.

A motion by Goodman/Robinson to approve the items discussed at the Personnel Committee as presented was approved by unanimous vote.

Q: Regarding the Internship Program, can we consider changing it to a minimum GPA of 3.2 preferred?

A: The recommendation was to eliminate the GPA as a requirement.

5. Consent Agenda

1. Additions, Deletions, Substitutions – N/A
2. Items to be Pulled for Discussion – Agenda item 5A(1) (Reference #2), agenda item 5B(2) (Reference #5), and agenda item 5B(3) (Reference #6) were pulled for discussion purposes.
3. Adoption of the Consent Agenda and Walk-in Warrants List

A motion by Bean/Goodman to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of Agenda items 5B(2) (Reference #5), and approve the Walk-in Warrants list was approved by unanimous vote.

A. Program – N/A

1. Great Ideas Initiative Grassroots Student-Led Grant Making – For informational purposes.

The CEO briefly summarized the elements of the Student-Led Grant Making process.

B. Business

1. Warrants List – Approved by Consent
2. Resolution #19-003 Authorizing Renewal of an Interlocal Agreement for CSC to be under the Jurisdiction of the Office of Inspector General

Q: Is our fee based on a contract set or is it based on the number of contracts we have?

A: Fees are no longer based on contracts. We switched the contract with the Inspector General three years ago. At that point, both CSC and the Inspector General concluded that the audit function was no longer needed as they had completed 6-7 audits and they didn't have any other places to audit here at the CSC, so we decided to cut the cost for that item. We agreed on a flat fee arrangement for three years. This would be a renewal for the next 3 years at the same flat fee.

Q: Do we come under the Ethics Commission as being appointed like any elected officials?

A: The Ethics Commission is voluntary. At the time we were looking at the Commission they had just started. Tom Sheehan attended a couple of their meetings. They were doing 15-20 opinions per meeting and 10% or so were changed from what their staff was recommending.

Q: Do you think the cost is worth it?

A: It is. We are not aware of an alternative that would give us the same credibility of somebody independent of the CSC watching over us.

Q: Did they calculate how much they provided last year? How did they come up with this number?

A: That number was originally agreed on when we changed the contract and dropped the audit fee. They cut 1/3 of the cost at that moment.

Q: Can we negotiate this cost?

A: Maybe. It will be difficult to calculate their cost in terms of the services they provide. Tom Sheehan, General Counsel, stated that the cost is not unreasonable for the services that we receive.

Q: Is there an audit plan or an Inspector General plan as to what they are going to audit each year to justify that cost?

A: We did have that when they were doing audits. We no longer audit through them.

Q: Are they coming here if they have a specific complaint that they need to investigate or if we ask them for help to review something?

A: Yes. They do come in for our RFPs and do investigations.

Q: If next year they do less work, can we assume that we have the authority to renegotiate the price?

A: We technically don't have the ability to renegotiate directly. We have indirect means with our ability to terminate the contract. Also termination is at either party's discretion with 90 days notice.

It was stated that we do approximately 10 Requests for Proposals per year. The Office of the Inspector General comes to all of the meetings related to these. In terms of the number of investigations, we don't have control over these. We have had extensive investigations in the past with our providers.

Q: Right now we are subject to the FL Ethics Commission. Are we also subject to review by the Palm Beach County Ethics Commission or if a complaint came there they would forward it to the State Ethics?

A: We are not under the Palm Beach County Ethics Commission. They don't have jurisdiction over us, only the State. We do not know what the County Ethics Commission would do with a complaint against CSC.

It was generally decided that the General Counsel will go back and re-negotiate costs with the Office of the Inspector General and will bring back to the Council next month, addressing the concern that CSC is not subsidizing other, non-CSC, OIG activities.

A motion by Rodriguez/Lynch to renegotiate the Interlocal Agreement with the Office of the Inspector General and bring back to the Council next month was approved by unanimous vote.

3. Proclamation Declaring April 2019 as Child Abuse Prevention Month

The Proclamation recognizing April 2019 as Child Abuse Prevention Month was read.

A motion by Bean/Rodriguez to approve this Proclamation to raise awareness and recognize April 2019 as Child Abuse Prevention Month was approved by unanimous vote.

6. **Non Consent Agenda**

A. Business – N/A

B. For Informational Purposes Only – N/A

7. **Walk-In Items** – N/A

8. **Chief Executive Officer's Report**

- Request from a Council member for information regarding our work related to maternal substance use/neonatal substance exposure and trauma-informed care training
- Follow-up from Council meeting regarding dental services for women and families is expected to be ready for the April Council meeting.
- Great Ideas Initiative highlight – Suits for Seniors. A video clip was shared.
- Communications Update
 - i. Swim Lesson vouchers – now will be open for 2 year olds. Belle Glades resident will be able to bypass the application process and go directly to Pioneer Park Pool in Belle Glade to register.
 - ii. 4th Annual Safe Kids Day on April 13 at the Palm Beach Outlets
 - iii. Books for children in Juvenile Justice System
 - iv. New posters Targeting Premature Births located in the Council room and are being distributed within our providers
 - v. RFP for CSCPBC.org website will be released
 - vi. RFP for digital media placement was recently completed

vii. List of events that we have sponsored in the community was provided, including Healthy, Safe and Strong funds recipients.

- Reminders:
 - i. Groundwater Analysis on April 4
 - ii. Birth to 22 Business Event on April 12
- Birth to 22 is now part of the GARE National Network. It is the first alliance that is now part of the Government Alliance for Racial Equity.
- Ron Bazil was acknowledged for being one of six national judges working with the Inspector General and CSC received an honorable mention from the Association of Local Government Auditors for participation in the 2018-19 Awards Competition.
- Judge Martz was just nominated for the Men with Caring Hearts award.

Q: While discussing the swim vouchers at the Riviera Beach Collaborative, there was a sense of understanding that these vouchers would be good to remove the fear of the water, but not enough to teach kids to swim. Is there a way that we confirm if this is true?

A: We will follow-up with Jon Burstein.

9. Legal Reports – None.

10. Public Comment – Non-Agenda Items – N/A

11. Council Comments – N/A

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:02 pm.



Vincent Goodman, Secretary



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