

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF PALM BEACH COUNTY
May 23, 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
Vincent Goodman
Melissa McKinlay
Jose Luis Rodriguez
Thomas P. Weber

Excused: Donald E. Fennoy II, Ed.D.; James Martz; Dennis Miles; Debra Robinson, M.D.

- A. Invocation – led by Chair Weber
- B. Pledge of Allegiance – led by Chair Weber
- C. Presentations

Chair Weber offered a farewell for Thomas E. Lynch.

- 1. Presentation of Dashboard/Disaggregated Data – Amy Lora, Evaluation Lead; Michelle Gross, Director of System Performance.

Q: Have we determined the percentage of child abuse and neglect by race? What is the highest percentage? What are we doing to correct these?

A: We know that white children experience the best outcomes. We have been doing this analysis for three years at a system level. In terms of program level, that is where the strategy comes into play. We are trying to understand the “why” and what we can do about it.

Q: Once we gather this information and you find that certain areas fall short in providing the needs of the community. How do we justify what we are doing to enhance each of these programs?

A: There are different strategies that we have. One of them is by offering individual programs specifically related to child abuse and neglect. We have home visiting programs, such as Healthy Families. We also have our counseling services, like Child First for families that are experiencing trauma to help families work with the stress that they are experiencing to prevent child abuse and neglect. We know that we need to work a little bit differently. Some families are experiencing stress because of an environment, looking at issues such as racism and some of the stressors that communities experience. We are looking at data and understanding what community supports we can offer.

Q: What part does drugs and alcohol plays in the community when you do research?

A: That is one of the top reasons associated with abuse and neglect in families. We look at the root causes for abuse and neglect and a lot of times it is alcoholism and families who are experiencing stress. That is why we need to work together on the health and well-being of the community.

That is one of the reasons why we brought Child First to our community. Some of the providers that are doing our home visiting programs are saying that they were seeing an influx of families with domestic violence and substance abuse and they weren't equipped to deal with the intensity of those issues. Child First has been working here for three years. It is also something that we work with the court system so when families have a choice they have an opportunity to go to Child First for therapy that works with the family and children to ensure that they have a safety net and can build capacity to repair trauma so that it doesn't continue generation after generation.

Q: Do we have a large homeless population in Palm Beach County? What are we doing for those kids that are trapped in this situation?

A: Our Board made a policy decision to focus our funding on prevention and early intervention, so we don't offer housing services. We do work with pregnant homeless moms and families that are experiencing homelessness to provide services to them.

Commissioner McKinlay shared that when the one cent sales tax was approved in 2016 in Palm Beach County, they assigned \$25.5 million dollars to homeless services. The County is also looking at approving the second homeless resource center on June 18th. We currently have beds dedicated to families experiencing homelessness. The County also took over one of the family shelters that was closing and is running it. They are also revamping our workforce housing, which is the next step up from low income housing (it is homelessness, low income and workforce). The County is trying to work with our development community to provide more workforce housing and prevent us from sliding into the need for affordable or homeless shelter services. We are trying to redo a lot of our land development codes to allow for some creative housing, she calls them "tiny homes" and are also referred to as "cottage homes". The County will be releasing an RFP for a builder to do a tiny home community. They are working on having the county let go of some of its land in the Glades so that they can do the same there for a dollar or 99 cents a year to lease. We've had more than 600 affordable housing units come out of the ground just in the Glades alone. In addition to that, the County is running the Lewis Center, and she encouraged the audience to reach out to their Mayors and City Council Members to help the county fund this because right now 100% of the funding comes from the county and they need help from municipalities. We are doing a lot, and we recognize that there is such a huge need and no matter how much we put into it, we can't completely eliminate the problem. We are also very dependent on state and federal resources and the legislature swept about \$125 million dollars and funded other corporate programs instead of affordable housing. Most of that money has been allocated. At least 50% to the Panhandle for Hurricane Michael relief, another \$8 million dollars went to a single project in Duval County. The remainder of that will be spread out among the rest of the state. We are seeing our federal resources getting smaller and smaller.

Q: How does this compare with unemployment? What are we doing at the County level to provide opportunities for people to earn a living?

A: Commissioner McKinlay stated that it is not her job to talk about this. It is the job of the private industry to create jobs and her job to provide an environment that is welcoming for businesses to come into our community and to make sure that those businesses provide salaries that are adequate enough to be able to support the housing

for their employees. In the past few years we have had a favorable tax environment here in our County. We do have rising housing costs that is market driven.

Thomas Bean stated that the Florida Chamber Foundation just concluded its Third Annual Prosperity and Economic Opportunity Summit at the Palm Beach County Convention Center. There is certainly a lot of discussion and focus with the alarming data facts that come from the fiscal cliffs. There is interest in addressing changes in policies around it. The following question kept coming up: Is it better to make \$50,000 a year or \$18,000 a year? The fact that that kind of discrepancy could even be up for question was alarming. Once you start hitting a certain income you don't qualify for certain assistance and that creates other financial issues for that person, which can also hold them back from advancing in their professional careers. We need to ask ourselves at a larger scale, how parents can be able to move off from assistance and continue to do better for themselves and their families. It is important to have persistence in the work that we do around this, since this issue will not be solved in one, two or five years, but we have to continue our work by helping address grade reading level and what are our incrementing goals to getting there.

Q: On the orange bar, who are we calling "others white CSC". Is that other children served by CSC Broward or is this other children in the county.

A: These are referred to other children in the county. We use "Propensity Score Matching", which is one of the most rigorous types of evaluation you can do to make sure you're comparing apples to apples and you can see if the impact that you are having is because of the programs you are funding or the system of care. We identify all those factors that make a difference in an outcome and then we match on all those factors.

Q: On birth weight, pre-term and child abuse, how would you say we are doing?

A: Going back to the numbers, when we do matching, it is a subset of everyone we serve and then it gets smaller and the numerators have a greater rate, so there is much more volatility in the numbers. What we can't see here is success stories. For example, there is a situation of a homeless family and the child had serious delays in language and was referred to one of our programs. Despite their homelessness situation and the factors of disadvantage, he was able to reach a point of having a vocabulary and feeling great confidence. If we move that child in the kindergarten readiness direction, that is a success, and we don't see that here. We don't see the movement in these charts even though it is still a success. There are a lot of successes that we can't see in charts.

We recognize that we have a lot of work to do. We continue to look at our outcomes and how we measure. This is our scripted way to look at what we are doing. If you are enrolled in any of our programs that have each of these directed outcomes, you are placed in that group as receiving services, so you may be enrolled and only attended one day and never came back and you are still counted as having received services. Many of our programs have different levels of intensity based on the program model, and they are all grouped together in this particular analysis. When we talk about looking at our healthy births, we also need to look at the health of the mom before she started receiving services.

Q: Is "at least one day" the right question?

A: Our system is set up from a research "intent to treat" perspective so when we come forward and talk about our individual programs, you will hear a lot of success stories. Looking at individual programs, our programs are doing wonderful work and when you roll it all up, since you are including all, even those that are receiving maybe only one phone call or one visit sometimes that can draw the number down. We are trying to figure out whether this is the best way to measure because we have noticed that sometimes this can cloud what we are seeing in the individual programs.

Numbers do matter, and we are trying to show that all this enterprise is worth the investment in the community. We need to push back and clarify what "at least one day" means.

Q: Is there a way to divide the data to show the children that have been in the program for over three months?

A: Yes.

Q: Do you geo code this data so that we can look on a map and see where these families come from and see if there is a trend?

A: We do have the capability to do geo coding and are currently working on that.

Q: Can we partner with the County IS Department and provide that overlay?

A: Yes, we will definitely look into it.

Q: Do you see a correlation between the children that are born low birthweight, pre-term and being verified? Do you have those numbers, including those that are checking all three boxes?

A: Yes, we will provide these numbers.

Q: In terms of ready for kindergarten, a couple of years ago we were 90% there and now we are down, are we really now at 50%?

A: The measures have been very different. The measure when we were so high was a teacher report of children functioning in many domains. This time it is only focused on early literacy with a little bit of math readiness.

There is a lot of conversation right now on school readiness rates, since they have come out lower. The new school requires children to use a mouse and some of the children have never even seen a computer mouse, as they usually swipe. How they are measuring is not anywhere near what experts in early childhood advise in terms of school readiness. We will provide a full presentation in the near future for the Council for you to all understand the full picture. This is all under House Bill 1091, including the changes that are being implemented to measure school readiness at the state level.

2. Minutes

A. April 25, 2019 Council Meeting

A motion by Rodriguez/Bean to approve the Minutes of the April 25, 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, however, they did not have a quorum. They have a consensus on recommending the Council to approve:

- a. April 25, 2019 Minutes
- b. April 30, 2019 Financial Statements

They reviewed the Quarterly Investment Report for the quarter ending March 31, 2019 and the Monthly Investment Report for the month ended April 30, 2019.

They also reviewed the Investment Policy and this policy is in compliance with all requirements of the Florida statutes, no changes are being recommended.

The Finance Committee had discussion on the Interest Income Projection and the timing of our Annual Investment Performance Review and decided they will review Annual Investment Performance at the end of the fiscal year.

They also discussed the Healthy Start Redesign, which will likely impact our current fiscal year by approximately \$500,000 and the 2019-20 budget by approximately \$1.3 million dollars. The budget will be presented at the June Council meeting.

Fund Balance Policy alternatives were discussed and it was decided to defer a decision.

Q: How small would the mileage increase be?

A: We did not decide on a proposed mileage increase. We were looking at what we had in 2017-18.

Commissioner McKinlay expressed that she is worried about the fiscal constraints in the cities and the county.

Q: We already have the highest mileage increase of all CSCs.

A: In 2000 we went to the voters and received an approval for an additional half mill.

Q: Would this count towards the cities' 10 mil cap?

A: We have our own statute that does not affect any municipality.

Our current mileage is .6403. Last year was .6590. The year before was .6833.

Q: In 2021, we were going to propose 0.6473 or is that with the increase already?

A: The .6473 was what we were going to propose to account for the potential loss we may have in the Healthy Start contract. We were going to look at .6590 next month and see what additional programs we may want to support if we were able to increase mileage.

Q: Is the 0.6473 above what we thought last year we were going to ask for?

A: No.

Jose Luis Rodriguez suggested, for future discussion, that we look at the end of year fund balance.

A motion by Rodriguez/Goodman to approve the consensus of the Finance Committee as presented was approved by unanimous vote.

- Personnel Committee – N/A

5. Consent Agenda

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

A motion by Goodman/Bean to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of Agenda items 5A(2) (Reference #3) and 5B(1) (Reference #6) was approved by unanimous vote.

A. Program – N/A

2. Resolution #19-009 Authorizing Allocation Increase for CenteringPregnancy® Program

Q: Is this only concerning Spanish and Haitian speaking individuals in Lantana?

A: Yes

Q: Are blacks included there?

A: Yes, they are included under Haitian.

Q: Is that new, to include Blacks and Haitians under one?

A: They are both included as one race.

Q: What percentage of the individuals that we serve are Haitian, Hispanic and Blacks?

A: Of a total of 367 clients last year, 78 were black, 208 were white and others were 81. Under ethnicity, the same 367 clients, 270 were Hispanic and 97 were non-Hispanic and of that subset, African-American were 30 and Haitian were 41, 1 Caucasian and Unknown/Other 26.

Q: Does unknown include Indians?

A: It could. It is what people self-report.

Q: What is the additional \$20,000 for?

A: This is a program cost for expansion. It would be for staff that would be entering data, registrations and typical CenteringPregnancy® Program cost.

Q: Does the Council receive a report on outcomes of this program?

A: There was a Prematurity Summit report that was shared as part of the CEO Report, approximately two months ago, that highlighted the recent outcomes from this program.

B. Business

1. Warrants List

Thomas Bean abstained on two payments to Manatee Lagoon, which FPL owns.

A motion by Bean/Rodriguez to approve the Warrants List, noting that Thomas Bean abstained due to a conflict (see attached Form 8B), was approved by unanimous vote.

2. Proclamation Declaring

A motion by Goodman/Bean to approve this Proclamation to raise awareness and recognize May as Mental Health Awareness and Trauma-Informed Care 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**

- Follow-up from Council meeting: Audio Books
- Program Updates: Ready by 21 National Meeting, Great Ideas Initiative Success Story
- Communications Update: Videos on book distribution

9. **Legal Reports**

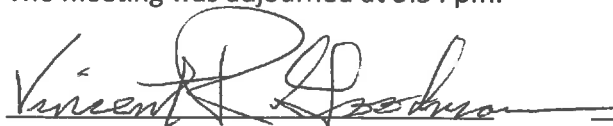
- Annual training on Sunshine Law was given.
- Annual training on Public Records Law was given.

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

11. **Council Comments** – N/A

12. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 pm.



Vincent Goodman, Secretary



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

