



Children's Services Advisory Board

April 14, 2021

A meeting of the Children's Services Advisory Board of Manatee County, Florida, was held at the Manatee County Administration Building, 1112 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, Florida, 5th Floor Manatee Room on Wednesday April 14, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: (In Person) Debbie Tapp, Xtavia Bailey, Amy Diss, Charlie Kennedy, Kimberly Kutch, Kelly Hunt, Rita Smith, George Van Buren; (Virtually) Connie Shingledecker, Jannon Pierce, and Gail Wynne; **Absent/Excused:** Hon. Scott Brownell; **Absent/Unexcused:** None.

Also Present: County Staff: Kristi Hagen, Lawanda Timmons, Chris Handy-Honeycutt, Johanna Beville; Members of the Public (In Person): Alexandra Green, Kelly Staswack, Stacey McKee, Laurel Lynch, and Char Young, (Virtually) Andi Watson, Becky Canesse, Beth Clark, Dawn Stanhope, Derrick Randall, Kristina Tincher, Michael Wood, Sean Staffieri.

Call to Order/Welcome

Debbie Tapp, Chair called the meeting to order at 3:09 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Minutes for April 7, 2021, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Xtavia Bailey, **Seconded by** Charlie Kennedy, **Vote:** Motion passed (**Summary:** Yes = 11, No = 0, Abstain = 0). (In Person) Debbie Tapp, Xtavia Bailey, Amy Diss, Charlie Kennedy, Kimberly Kutch, Kelly Hunt, Rita Smith, George Van Buren; (Virtually) Connie Shingledecker, Jannon Pierce, and Gail Wynne.

Discussion of Investment Applications

Kristi Hagen reviewed the contents of the packet that was provide to the CSAB Members. These packets included the following:

- Priority Selection Comparison to Results sheet looks at the priority they selected and the results they are tracking. With each batch members are to determine if the agency is missing the priority or not.
- For those agencies requesting an increase in investment, members will utilize the Decision-Making Guide to assist with determining if the agency meets the requirements put in place to be considered for an increase (yes/maybe/no).

George Van Buren entered @ 3:14 p.m.

Charlie Kennedy entered @ 3:16 p.m.

CSAB Members had an open discussion on the review process and scoring of seven (7) programs reviewed and listed below. Comments, concerns, or questions voiced are noted.

- Boys and Girls Clubs of Manatee County – Teen Program-The Club: Debbie spoke of the concern that the program is aiming to only measure 40 of the 200 regular attendees, or 40 a total of 500

served by the program overall. Debbie feels it is a negative to be measuring such low numbers of children compared to the greater number they regularly serve. Amy had a similar concern and would like evidence as use of behavior change rather than obtaining knowledge of skills. Xtavia pointed out the milestones tracked by subjective verification. Debbie feels a positive aspect of the application is the program will serve 500 children per year. Rita voiced concerns on how students are chosen and wonders if a larger number participate that could potentially be included in the program results. Dawn Stanhope, agency representative, provided a verbal report on the number of teens who attend, how staff identify clients who would benefit from additional mentoring, and how the program measures its clients and their identified individual goals. The focus of the program is to strengthen social skills. Answering a question from Xtavia, Dawn stated the 40 teens are primarily in the 14 – 17-year-old range (with a few 13-year-olds) and they are from the Desoto and Palmetto Club locations.

- Program claimed priority: At-risk youth demonstrate age-appropriate social and behavioral skills and result. CSAB Members held a vote, it was determined the CSAB Members will **not** consider as a priority by member consensus (Summary: Yes = 3, No = 8, Abstain = 0).
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Manatee County – Great Futures Start Here: Program did not utilize all of the program funding for FY19/20 due to inability to provide all units of service due to COVID pandemic. Debbie feels it is a great program that serves a lot of children yet is concerned the results measure a small number of children compared to the total served. Kim stated the document uploaded as a commitment letter is instead a letter of support. There was a shared concern that the results reflect a small sample of the children served by the program. Dawn Stanhope, agency representative, explained the program focuses their reading result at the school-based clubs and the behavioral results at the DeSoto and Palmetto clubs, the program takes a segment of the group of children to track milestones/verifications, these are the ones who demonstrate a lack in these areas. Debbie voiced concern that clients are not necessarily on grade level by the end of the program. Contract manager confirmed the current year's results are the same as the proposal.
 - Program claimed priority: At-risk youth demonstrate age-appropriate social and behavioral skills and result. CSAB Members will consider as a priority by member consensus. Due to the 2nd Result statement focusing on reading improvement, the CSAB Members determined that priority: Children (K-3rd Grade) with below grade level reading skills will be on track to attain grade level reading by the end of 3rd grade as appropriate for program. CSAB Members will consider as a priority by member consensus.
 - Program requested an increase in investment and reasoning for request. CSAB Members utilized Decision Making Guide-Request for Increased Investment. CSAB Members determined ~~that~~ they will not consider for increase.
- The DL Randall Foundation – An Uprising in the Village (AUV): Debbie reflected; the program was recently put on a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) related to their reading program, results, milestones, and verifications. The current contract manager provided an update from his recent program observation, the Agency is actively engaging in reading assistance education and positive behavioral growth which match their results. Waiting list for this and prior year reviewed, and contract manager reviewed the program is restricted by the building occupancy restrictions. Derrick Randall, agency CEO, provided details on the capacity limits due to the Department of Children and Families licensure during the school year, and during the summer capacity limits increase to allow them to serve between 80-100 children. Xtavia feels the program's application was much improved this year, is excited for their progress, and encouraged the program to keep up the good work. Debbie feels the program serves a unique group and pointed out the program is 100% funded by the CSAB. Connie is concerned the program did not provide details of how the children are responding to the program. Gail pointed out this is not a new program and she believes that Derrick

is passionate about this program but should not be the only staff who knows about the results and milestones. Xtavia thinks contract managers did a good job of providing guidance to the agency as to what the CSAB Members and Manatee County are looking for concerning results and the milestones, she applauds what the program is doing in that neighborhood.

- *Program claimed priority: At-risk youth demonstrate age-appropriate social and behavioral skills and result. CSAB will consider as a priority by member consensus. The program's 2nd Result statement focuses on reading improvement. The CSAB recognized this priority also: Children (K-3rd Grade) with below grade level reading skills will be on track to attain grade level reading by the end of 3rd grade as appropriate for program.*

Jannon Pierce exited @ 4:00pm

- United Community Centers – Before and After School, Summer Enrichment Plus (BASE+): *Gail voiced concern that they are measuring a small subset as compared to the numbers they plan to serve. Debbie responded that regarding the priority they selected, they are measuring 300. Kelly shared a concern about the high number for the waiting lists and why. Derrick Randall, agency CEO, provided a response that there are capacity limits in place due to DCF licensure and that the agency implemented a restriction on numbers due to COVID to maintain safety.*
 - *Program claimed priority: At-risk youth demonstrate age-appropriate social and behavioral skills and result. CSAB will consider as a priority by member consensus. The program's 2nd Result statement focuses on reading improvement. The CSAB recognized this priority also: Children (K-3rd Grade) with below grade level reading skills will be on track to attain grade level reading by the end of 3rd grade as appropriate for program.*
- Myakka City Community Center – Before School, After School & Camp Myakka: *Debbie focused on a really good program result, for clients to be reading on grade level by end of school year. Debbie also shared this program serves a unique community, there are not a lot of options in their area, and they work closely with the school. Xtavia shared the agency's application submission history, they were initially turned down but continued to apply and eventually gained funding, the agency has continued to make notable improvements on their application, especially moving toward the results. Debbie also spoke of application precision related to the program regarding their daily schedule, stating it provides clarity in day-to-day operations. Kelly pointed out their resource leveraging is outstanding.*
 - *Program claimed priority: Children (K-3rd Grade) with below grade level reading skills will be on track to attain grade level reading by the end of 3rd grade. CSAB will consider as a priority by member consensus. The program's 2nd Result statement focuses on social and behavioral skills. The CSAB recognized this priority also: At-risk youth demonstrate age-appropriate social and behavioral skills and result.as appropriate for program.*
- Manatee County Girls, Inc. dba Just for Girls- Stepping Up to Success (SUS): *Debbie questioned the program budget, particularly Line G (Government Grants), there was a significant drop in funding. Becky Canesse, agency CEO, responded the decrease in their government grant funding (21st Century Community Learning Center Grant) is because it is funded based on enrollment and participation which was impacted by the COVID pandemic. CSAB members questioned the first milestones achievement average and voiced concern for it taking anywhere from 8-52 weeks to be achieved. Drena Green, agency representative, stated it is based on the enrollment of when the girls come in and that each client is assessed monthly. Kelly noted and questioned why there is no waiting list to which Drena replied it is more based on finance and leveraging funds through special events to add scholarships. Charlie noted that the initial scores from the CSAB for this program are*

some of the highest scores he has seen from the group and feels this program is one where the taxpayer investment is well served.

- *Program claimed priority: At-risk youth demonstrate age-appropriate social and behavioral skills and result. CSAB will consider as a priority by member consensus. The program's 2nd Result statement focuses on reading improvement, the CSAB did not include this in their discussion.*

George Van Buren exited @ 4:27 p.m.

- Manatee County Girls, Inc. dba Just for Girls – GAPS - Girls Alternative Program for Success: *Debbie clarified this is an alternative school program. Connie states a positive for the program is they have a 40 of 40 result for their pregnancy prevention program. Debbie and Kim are concerned about the large increase and the small number of additional clients to be served (20) with the increase. Kelly questioned the status of current staff and how the funding will be used. Drena Green, program representative, reviewed the current staff in place and the struggle to keep up with the level of need from the clients who fall into the high number of barriers category. Debbie questioned if the program is not granted the full requested amount, at what point the dollar amount increase would make a difference in the service provided. Connie would like to know how many of the 20 additional clients would fall into the high-risk category. Becky Canese, agency CEO, reports the program has assessed the children served in the program and 100% are at risk or at extreme risk of being behind academically, therefore, all 20 children would be impacted if not funded in totality. Debbie asked how many K-5 children are served in the program, Drena responded 87. Debbie's follow up question, how are the 60 who are tracked for this program of 87 are chosen? Drena responded the 60 are followed and tracked due to referrals from teachers or the intervention specialist, some are identified by parents, others are discovered through observations of interactions with peers. Kelly questioned if the program had investigated the McKay Scholarship. Becky, agency CEO, reports the program does not qualify for McKay, it doesn't meet the criteria.*
 - *Program claimed priority: At-risk youth demonstrate age-appropriate social and behavioral skills and result. CSAB will consider as a priority by member consensus.*
 - *Program requested an increase in investment and reasoning for request. CSAB utilized Decision Making Guide-Request for Increased Investment. CSAB determined that this request is a maybe and up for additional discussion related to the request for increase. Just for Girls funding increase request will be discussed at the final decision meeting.*

Gail Wynne exited @ 4:50pm

If there are questions from the CSAB regarding programs, the CSAB members are to send them to Kristi Hagen well in advance of the buffer meeting and recommendation meetings to gather the additional information.

Staff Updates

Kristi Hagen provided the following updates:

- Batch scores are due the Friday after the Wednesday meeting in which they are discussed. Scores for Batch 3 are due on Friday, April 16.
- The next meeting on April 28 will be to discuss Batch 4.
- Staff will be attending one or more of the FFPSA Evidence Based Practice Models Training offered by Florida Coalition of Children. CSAB members who are interested and available to attend any of the sessions please let Kristi know.
 - Kim had discussed the need for a presentation to the CSAB by Florida Coalition of Children as it affects the foster care system and Manatee Children's Services group home.

Old/New Business

None

Public Comment

Agencies who verbally provided a public comment during the meeting were:

(In Person): None, (Virtually): Becky Canesse:

- Becky Canesse, CEO for Just for Girls, thanked the CSAB for all the work they do for the community's children.

Next Meeting

April 21, 2021 – 3:00 pm, Manatee County Administration Building, 1112 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, Florida, 5th Floor Manatee Room.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Approved

Debbie Tapp, Chairwoman

Date