

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR MANATEE ROOM
1112 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida
MAY 6, 2026**

Present were:

Xtavia Bailey, Chairperson
Jannon Pierce, Vice-Chairperson
Hon. Scott Brownell
Heather Felton
Kristin Gallagher (Entered during meeting)
Carolann Garafola
Michelle Laughrey
Cassandra Mitchell
Connie Shingledecker
Rita Smith (Entered during meeting)
Debbie Tapp

Two seats are vacant.

Also present were:

Tracie Adams, Deputy Director, Community and Veteran's Services
Melissa Bomar, Interim Children's Services Coordinator
Mark Dillon, Senior Human Services Analyst
Brenda Marquez Facio, Human Services Analyst
Johanna Beville, Program Analyst
Caitlin Dixon, Board Records Clerk, Clerk of the Circuit Court

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Bailey called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

AGENDA and SIGN-IN SHEET

CS20260506DOC001

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairperson Bailey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **ROLL CALL**

A quorum was declared.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Member Garafola, seconded by Member Pierce, and carried 9-0, with Member Smith and Member Gallagher absent, to approve the minutes of April 29, 2026.

(Enter Member Smith)

5. **OUTSTANDING PROGRAM CONCERNS AND PROGRAM UPDATES**

SALVATION ARMY

Melissa Bomar, Interim Children's Services Coordinator, provided an update and listed major concerns regarding the requested increase, which was tabled due to execution of contract, not being in compliance at the time.

Discussion ensued regarding turning location into a family shelter, Department of Children and Families (DCF) involvement, timelines, different types of shelters, need documentation, safety concerns, scores on commitment letters, emergency funding, unit of service, request based off of expansion, and go through recommendation process.

SMART

Ms. Bomar, informed the members that key leaders are no longer part of SMART, which was part of the application process.

Discussion ensued regarding concerns about budget increase, rebuilt, utilization of funding, success due to leadership changes, measurable progress, longevity of program, concept of program, financial stability, and opportunity for emergency funding.

(Enter Member Gallagher)

CENTERSTONE

Ms. Bomar, provided an update about Centerstone merging with Brightli and key major leadership turnover.

Discussion ensued regarding location of headquarters, merging changes revenue, funding conditions, focus program, different types of services provided, allocation of funds, change of revenue due to merge.

CS20260506DOC002

6. **DISCUSSION OF RECOMMENDATION PROCESS**

CS20260506DOC003

Melissa Bomar, Interim Children’s Services Program Coordinator, shared score ranges for investment applications for FY27 are as follows with one application not scored

- Highest 96.7
- Lowest 66.3
- Average 88.4

Ms. Bomar explained 72 programs are seeking funding for FY2027 and encouraged Children Services Advisory Board (CSAB) Members to utilize the recommendation snapshot/request information, increased considerations, recommendation history, and results and services. She also presented the recommendation motions template for level funding, increase in funding, not recommended for funding, failed funding motions, and final motion for adopting all funding recommendations.

Discussion ensued regarding available funds, priority and non-priority, ranked order, motion wording, motion template, bring notes, bringing back failed motions, advocate for programs, increase covers level funding, and motion with the increased amount.

7. **STAFF UPDATES**

Brenda Marquez Facio, Human Services Analyst, discussed the Drowning Prevention Initiative. As of May 1st, residents can pick up free water safety alarms at any library, as long as they meet the requirements. Flyers are posted in the Administrative Building.

Melissa Bomar, Interim Children’s Services Coordinator, observed Next Generation Academics Alternative Path to Success (APS) with no concerns.

Mark Dillon, Senior Human Services Analyst, completed compliance visits for Family Resources SafePlace2B and Florida Center Early Childhood Court where no concerns were identified.

Johanna Beville, Program Analyst, announced the ribbon cutting for Rubonia Boys and Girls Club is May 15th at 4:00 p.m.

8. **COMMISSIONER UPDATES**

There were no Commissioner comments or updates.

9. **NEW/OLD BUSINESS**

There was no new or old business.

10. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jeremy Watson, CEO of Centerstone, addressed concerns regarding leadership changes.

Pamela Burden, Salvation Army, commented on questions Members had.

Bill Nease, Rocket Phonics Foundation, raised concern regarding reading levels in Manatee County.

Maryanne Servian, CEO of Girl Scouts of Gulf Coast Florida, commented on application for the funding of the program.

Steven Guffalti, CEO Rocket Phonics Foundation, referred Rocket Phonics website if questions arise.

Trisha Kauffman, YMCA, followed up on questions from program review.

Dawn Stanhope, Boys and Girls Club, addressed the ribbon cutting in Rubonia.

Leslie Chislett, Rocket Phonics, shared their mission statement.

There being no further public comments, Chairperson Bailey closed public comments.

11. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will occur May 18, 2026, at 2:30 p.m., in the Manatee County Administrative Building, 1112 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, in the 5th Floor Manatee Room.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chairperson Bailey adjourned the meeting at 5:08 p.m.

Minutes Approved: May 18, 2026