

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR MANATEE ROOM
1112 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida
August 19, 2026**

Present were:

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

One seat is vacant.

Also present were:

Tracie Adams, Deputy Director, Community and Veteran's Services
Melissa Bomar, Children's Services Section Manager
Brenda Marquez Facio, Senior Human Services Analyst
Lize Francis, Health Services Analyst
Hannah Bishop, Deputy Clerk, Clerk of the Circuit Court

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Bailey called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairperson Bailey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA/SIGN-IN SHEET

CS20260819DOC001

3. **ROLL CALL**

A quorum was declared.

4. **MINUTES**

A motion was made by Member Felton, second by Member Garafola, and carried 9-0, to approve the minutes of June 17, 2026.

A motion was made by Member Shingledecker, second by Member Felton, and carried 9-0, to approve the minutes of July 13, 2026.

5. **NAMI, PARENTS 4 PARENTS**

(Enter Member Pierce via Zoom)



Sonya Johnson, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Parents 4 Parents, utilized a slide presentation to review evaluation overview, methodology, sampling and data collection, quantitative data measurements, key findings, program and course feedback, 2025 dependency 101 pre versus post program, program feedback, outcome analyses,

levels of engagement, Sarasota reunification outcomes and time to permanency, Manatee reunification outcomes and time to permanency, recidivism rates, and recommendations.



Discussion ensued regarding the Teen Court program, understanding the program evaluation and process, parent partnership, and grateful to staff for all their efforts.

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6. **RETREAT INFORMATION**



Melissa Bomar, Children's Services Section Manager, provided information regarding the Children's Services Advisory Board (CSAB) retreat, which will be held on October 2, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Lakewood Ranch Library. She also reviewed topics for discussion and the meeting schedule.



Discussion ensued regarding the Manatee County School District, language barriers for students, migrant children, the percentage of students participating in afterschool programs, reading-level skills, the partnership with Bradenton Kiwanis, school incentive programs, restrictions on sharing student information, successful and unsuccessful programs implemented through the School District, data showing student improvement, application process, supplemental documentation, program averages broken down by priority, and funding allocated to each program.

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(Enter Member Smith via Zoom)

7. **STAFF UPDATES**



Brenda Marquez Facio, Human Services Analyst, conducted observation visits for Jewish Family and Children Services both programs, Adolescent Diversion and Assistance and Community Youth Response Service, Manatee County Government, Summer Blast Camp, and Step Up Suncoast, Head Start/Early Head Start and Healthy Families, with no concerns identified.



Melissa Bomar, Children's Services Section Manager, conducted a compliance visit with Dream Oaks, no concerns were identified, and a technical visit with AMIkids, due to changes in the organization's executive leadership, and met with the new leadership team to obtain the required documentation. She welcomed Lize Francis, Human Services Analyst, , and reported the Children's Services Investment recommendation is scheduled to be presented to the Board on August 25, 2026, three Membership reappointments and two new appointments are scheduled for the September 1, 2026, Board of County Commissioner's meeting. She reminded members about the upcoming retreat and noted that she is currently working on the Annual Plan.



Lize Francis, Health Services Analyst, introduced herself.



Johanna Beville, Program Analyst, conducted a compliance visit with Practical and Cultural Education (PACE) center for Girls in June for the Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Program, and no findings of concern were identified during the visit or through the review of randomly selected client files. She conducted a review of the counseling standards for the Jewish Family and Children's Service of the Suncoast Community Youth Response Service (CYRS) and Adolescent Diversion and Assistance Program (ADAP), with no concerns identified in the standards binders, and noted the binders were well organized and required no redirection for either program, which is a significant accomplishment for programs that began receiving investments during the current Fiscal Year (FY).

8. **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/UPDATES**

There were no Commissioner comments or updates.

9. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

 Nathan Scott, Florida Department of Health, addressed funding, case manager workloads, and data and metrics for the Parents 4 Parents program.

 Candace Copeland, Drena Green, Susan Mosley, and Patricia Petruff, Just for Girls, addressed the program's finances, Board concerns, organizational and leadership changes, updated mission, vision, and purpose, program impacts, commitment, upcoming changes, and corrective actions.

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

 Discussion ensued regarding the proposed Tax Referendum and potential impact, funding for nonprofits, a spreadsheet showing funding percentages for School District and nonprofit programs, Tax Referendum impact on the School District, 55 percent of the County's population is homesteaded, The Taxation and Budget Reform Commission (TBRC) reviewing the budget and taxes next year, fiscal responsibility, no potential impact FY2027, the impact of school resource officers, and the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) report for the County.

10. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place September 16, 2026, at 3:00 p.m., at 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 4:06 p.m.

Minutes Approved: September 16, 2026