

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR MANATEE ROOM
1112 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida
September 16, 2026**

Present were:

Xtavia Bailey, Chairperson
Jannon Pierce, Vice-Chairperson
Hon. Scott Brownell
Kristin Gallagher
Carolann Garafola
Michelle Laughrey
Cassandra Mitchell
Connie Shingledecker
Debbie Tapp
Rita Smith

Absent was:

Christopher Collins
Heather Felton
Snehal Parikh

One seat is vacant.

Also present were:

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

 Chairperson Bailey called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairperson Bailey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA/SIGN-IN SHEET

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3. **ROLL CALL**

 A quorum was declared.

4. **MINUTES**

 A motion was made by Member Shingledecker, seconded by Member Garafola, and carried 10-0, with Members Collins, Felton, and Parikh absent, to approve the minutes of August 19, 2026.

5. **ALICE**

 Douglas Griensenauer, United Way, utilized a slide presentation to review Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE), federal poverty line, purpose, ALICE and
CS MB FY25-26/72

poverty households, workforce, survival budget, 2026 takeaways, rural communities and the panhandle areas, ALICE rates, families with children, households by age, race, and ethnicity, give where it fills real gaps, volunteer time and skills, connect people to resources, support living-wage and family-friendly workplaces, advocate for systems that reduce the cost of living, and lead with dignity, not judgement, and shared stories of families utilizing the program.

 Discussion ensued regarding potential solutions, Suncoast Prosper program, CareerSource Suncoast apprenticeship opportunities, last-dollar funding, program statistics, childcare resources, states that have successfully utilized this program, feedback on the numbers presented, standards used during the application review process, available incentives and resources, Turning Points program, eligibility requirements for County resources, and concerns regarding unlicensed daycare providers.

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6. **FY27 NON-PROFIT AGREEMENT RECOMMENDATION UPDATES**

 Discussion ensued regarding the importance and process of the workload completed by this Board, the application review process, a future work session with the Commissioners, attendance at regular Commission meetings, the need for a thorough explanation regarding programs that were not funded for the fiscal year (FY), the application review timeline for Board members, communication between programs and members of the Board, other advisory boards utilizing the Children's Services Advisory Board (CSAB) structure, Commissioner briefings and votes regarding funding for all programs, and CSAB reserves.

 Melissa Bomar, Children's Services Section Manager, reviewed the funded programs, three additional programs were approved for funding, bringing the total amount approved by the Board of County Commissioners to \$21,766,464, and the final budget Board meeting is scheduled for September 24, 2026.

7. **NEWLY APPOINTED/RE-APPOINTED CSAB MEMBERS**

 Ms. Bomar noted that all membership terms begin October 1, 2026. A new Physician and Child Advocate were appointed, along with the reappointment of three Child Advocates and one representative from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

8. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Chairperson Bailey opened the floor for nominations

Nominations – Chairperson

 Member Pierce by Member Garafola

A motion was made by Member Garafola, seconded by Member Shingledecker, and carried 10-0, to close nominations. Member Pierce was appointed Chairman by unanimous vote.

Nominations – Vice-Chairperson

 Member Smith by Member Garafola

A motion was made by Member Garafola, seconded by Member Shingledecker, and carried 10-0 to close nominations. Member Smith was appointed as Vice-Chairperson by unanimous vote.

9. **STAFF UPDATES**

 Brenda Marquez Facio, Senior Human Services Analyst, had no updates.

 Lize Francis, Human Services Analyst, had no updates.

 Johanna Beville, Program Analyst, conducted a counseling standard review of All Star Children's Foundation's, Mental Health Counseling Program, with no concerns identified. She noted the binders were organized in accordance with the standards and served as a strong example for new programs.

 Melissa Bomar, Children's Services Section Manager, reported preparations are underway to finalize FY 2026/2027 contract negotiations, the Board retreat, and the annual report. She also reported that a compliance review was completed for Kids Personal Safety, with no concerns identified.

10. **COMMISSIONER UPDATES**

There were no Commissioner comments or updates.

11. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

 Drena Green, Just for Girls, thanked the Board for their continued investment and discussed the program's plan moving forward.

 Debra McNeal, Avenue941, thanked the Board for all their efforts toward the programs.

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

 Ms. Bomar provided the independent study completed by Member Felton regarding the potential impacts of Amendment 3, on the School District of Manatee County (SDMC) and its partnering programs. She also reminded Members of the upcoming Annual Retreat and the scheduled discussion topics.

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12. **NEXT MEETING**

 The next meeting (Annual Retreat) will take place October 2, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., at the Lakewood Ranch Library, 16410 Rangeland Parkway, Lakewood Ranch.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chairperson Bailey adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

Minutes Approved: October 21, 2026