

## **CHILDREN'S SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Indian River County (IRC) Children's Services Advisory Committee (CSAC) met at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, January 13, 2020, in County Administration Building B 1800 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Vero Beach, Florida.

### **Members Present**

**Ms. Judy Jones**, District 2 Appointee  
**Ms. Molly Steinwald**, District 5 Appointee  
**Ms. Miranda Hawker**, IRC Health Department, Chairperson  
**Mr. Kip Jacoby**, Member-at-Large Appointee  
**Mr. Bob Schlitt Jr.**, Member-at-Large Appointee  
**Mr. Bob McPartlan**, Department of Children and Families (DCF) Appointee  
**Mr. Michael J. Linn**, Judge, Ex-Officio  
**Dr. David Moore**, Indian River County Schools Superintendent  
**Mr. Peter O'Bryan**, Non-Voting Commission Liaison

### **Members Absent**

**Ms. Caryn Toole**, Member at Large  
**Mr. Paul Reeves**, District 1 Appointee  
**Ms. Hope Woodhouse**, District 3 Appointee  
**Ms. Michele Falls**, District 4 Appointee  
**Mr. Deryl Loar**, Sheriff, Appointee

### **Others Present**

**Ms. Leigh Anne Uribe**, IRC Human Services Director

### **Not Present**

**Ms. Lisa Carlson**, Recording Secretary

### **Call to Order**

Chairperson Ms. Miranda Hawker called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., at which time it was determined that a quorum was present. She welcomed District 5 appointee Ms. Molly Steinwald and IRC Superintendent Dr. David Moore to the committee.

## **Approval of Minutes October 14, 2019**

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Bob Schlitt Jr., SECONDED BY Ms. Michaele Falls, the members voted unanimously (8-0) to approve the minutes of October 14, 2019 as presented.**

## **CSAC Annual Report Approval**

Chairperson Ms. Miranda Hawker referred to the previously distributed CSAC Annual Report, which is on file in the IRC Board of County Commission (BCC) Office.

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Bob McPartlan, SECONDED BY Mr. Bob Schlitt Jr., the members voted unanimously (8-0) to approve the report as written.**

## **Needs Assessment Sub-Committee Update**

Chairperson Ms. Miranda Hawker advised that the sub-committee reviewed and rejected the first draft of the assessment that was subcontracted to a company called Q & Q. A new partial draft has since been received with significant improvement and the full draft is expected by January 31, 2020. She proceeded to read an update from the sub-committee's chairperson, Ms. Hope Woodhouse, that indicated that a long working meeting is planned on February 20, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. which will enable the Grant Review sub-committee to approve the focus areas on March 2nd, the main CSAC committee to approve them on March 9th and the BCC to vote on them on April 7th.

## **Grant Review Sub-Committee Update**

Mr. Bob Schlitt Jr. reviewed the process for this subcommittee and reported that they were anxiously awaiting the Needs Assessment report. He went on to say that they had discussed possible changes to the Request for Proposal (RFP) with regards to more specific outcome data. They also set up a series of presentations in the coming months from organizations that they have concerns with that were funded last year.

IRC Schools Superintendent Dr. David More discussed the county's declining graduation rates as well as accountability and academic outcome procedures for the programs funded by CSAC. He asserted that his team will provide whatever data they could in order to evaluate the strategic points and the impact these initiatives are having.

He went on to say that every program he provides access to undergoes impact reviews that evaluate the growth of each child and programs are discontinued when sufficient impact is not proven. He added that the community deserves a conversation that is collaborative in nature and ensures that we are meeting the needs of all children, clearly defining how that is being accomplished and holding accountable those who want support.

### **Establishing Agency Funding Policy / Guidelines**

The committee discussed the possibility of instituting a rule about not awarding any organization more than a set percentage increase if they do not provide significant data and information. They considered adopting a guideline that the Grant Review subcommittee and this committee spend a bit more time on comparisons in increases at the time of funding. They also debated the possibility of setting aside a certain percentage of the total budget for pilot programs, highlighting this concept in the RFP and capping it at a set amount.

Commissioner Mr. Peter O'Bryan reviewed the county's existing children's services funding system that is under the umbrella of the BCC with funds being a line item in the general fund for up to one eighth of a million dollars. A group of community leaders calling themselves the Children's Trust committee have recently expressed a need for a higher level of funding with a children's district that has a dedicated funding source millage rate on the tax bill and provides for administrative funding with the Clerk of Court having audit responsibilities. There would still be an advisory committee appointed by the BCC that make funding recommendations before a final vote. The ordinance proposal begins in 2021-22-year with a one-third millage rate and by 2026-27 it would cap at a one-half millage rate which would be a significant increase in funds to approximately nine million dollars. He added that the committee did their due diligence and have met with all five commissioners, the county attorney and the county administrator. This ordinance will be voted on at the January 14, 2020 BCC meeting and if approved will proceed to a full public hearing ahead of the general election in November 2020. Members expressed concerns on the current evaluation process and the fact that the school district is also asking for a millage increase.

### **Next Meeting**

March 9, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.