



MINUTES OF JANUARY 11, 2021

CHILDREN'S SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Children's Services Advisory Committee held in the Indian River County Administration Building B, Conference Room B1-501 Vero Beach, FL at
5:30 PM on Monday, January 11, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Bob Schlitt called the January 11, 2021 meeting of the Children's Services Advisory Committee to order at 5:30 PM.

ROLL CALL

Members Present

Bob Schlitt, Jr., Member at Large
Dr. David Moore, Superintendent, Indian River Schools
Michele Falls, District 4 Appointee
Eric Flowers, Sheriff - Law Enforcement Appointee
Kerry Bartlett, District 1 Appointee
Heather Barwick, District 3 Appointee
Hope Woodhouse, District 5 Appointee
Bob McPartlan, Department of Children and Families Appointee

Members Present by Zoom or Conference Call

Michael J. Linn, Circuit Judge, Ex-Officio

Members Absent

Miranda Hawker, Chair
Judy Jones, District 2 Appointee

Also Present

Leigh Ann Uribe, IRC Human Services Director
Susan Adams, County Commissioner Liaison
Cynthia Emerson, Director of Instructional Innovation, Indian River Schools

2. MEMBERSHIP

This item was heard after Item 6 on the agenda.

Leigh-Anne Uribe introduced the newly appointed members:

Sheriff Eric Flowers, Law Enforcement Appointee
Kerry Bartlett, District 1 Appointee
Heather Barwick, District 3 Appointee
Hope Woodhouse, District 5 Appointee

Caryn M. Toole's At-Large term on CSAC has expired; however, she will remain on the sub-committee. Commissioner Susan Adams advised the committee that the County Commissioners will be reviewing applications for the At-Large position at their meeting tomorrow. This At-Large position is for one-term of four years.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Approval of the CSAC Grant Review Subcommittee Minutes of June 08, 2020.

Hope Woodhouse made a motion, seconded by Michele Falls, to approve the Minutes of the June 08, 2020 Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL REPORT

- a. Approval of the FY-20 Annual Report

Hope Woodhouse made a motion, seconded by Eric Flowers, to approve the FY-20 Annual Report. The motion passed unanimously.

5. NEEDS ASSESSMENT SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE

Hope Woodhouse provided an update on the Needs Assessment Sub-Committee activities. The community needs assessment was completed in January, 2020 based upon 2018 data. Ms. Woodhouse explained that due to COVID-19, there are areas of the needs assessment that have changed. The needs assessment is used to set the priorities for the CSAC grant process. The priorities have to be ready by March 1, 2021.

Ms. Woodhouse has asked that two representatives from CSAC be present by Zoom for each of the upcoming Needs Assessment Sub-Committee meetings which will be held on February 08, 2021 at 5:00 PM and February 15, 2021 at 5:00 PM. It is important to hear the specific needs of the community, those areas of change that have occurred, and the impact on children. Those areas of need can be built into the Grant process which will help to eliminate the gaps in learning due to the pandemic. It is the intent to give the agencies' requesting funding specific areas of need based upon the priorities for academic, social, emotional, and mental health support.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

The committee discussed various items regarding the needs of children especially during the pandemic and ways of staying informed of current trends in the community that have a direct impact on children. It was noted that drug use is on the rise and that when the stimulus money is disbursed, there is an increase in calls for overdoses and complaints of drug use. Law enforcement faces challenges with children whose parents have substance abuse issues and also with the mid-teens who explore criminal mischief while not in school. The committee discussed the importance of after school programs which help to keep the kids off the streets and out of trouble. Dr. Moore discussed the impact of COVID-19 when children left school in March 2020, and that only approximately 62% returned to classrooms in person. Families were offered the choice of attending school in person or virtually based upon their comfort level; however, some families chose convenience instead. The Sheriff's Office has representation on the boards of several organizations that serve children which creates an umbrella of athletic association. This creates the opportunity for staff to work with the children and assist with keeping them out of the judicial system. Sheriff Flowers would like to further develop the youth services division that will work with the probation officers, community outreach programs, and explorers. Social media and its effects on the mental health of youth was also briefly discussed.

NEXT MEETING

March 08, 2021 – 5:30 PM - Room B1-501

6. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business or discussion, Mr. Bob Schlitt adjourned the meeting.