



CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL
Of Highlands County
Highlands County Health Department
7205 South George Blvd Sebring, FL 33875

MINUTES

September 19, 2018

Voting Members Present: Aisha Alayande; Melissa Blackman; Shirley Johnson; Mostyn Mullins; Anavatti Raghuvveera, MD; April Rolle; Marisa Stam; Jeff Taylor;

Other Members and Guests Present: Luzed Cruz, Comm. Don Elwell; Brenda Longshore; Chris Gunter; Gladys Vazquez, Greg Pearlman, Gail Escobar, Karen Boglarsky, Tina Harmon, Ivon Ruz; Nick Vosburg; Amanda Wilson

The meeting was called to order by Executive Director Luzed Cruz at 7:40 a.m.

Agenda Item 1: Welcome/Introductions

Luzed Cruz welcomed everyone with self-introductions given by all present.

Agenda Item 2: Approval of Meeting Minutes

Melissa Blackman made a motion and Shirley Johnson seconded the motion to approve the minutes of May 16, 2018 board meeting and July 11, 2018 New Initiatives and Service Gaps. Upon roll call, all members voted aye. The motion carried.

Agenda Item 3: Nominating Committee and Vacancy Positions

Chairman Carly Wohl had a conflict and could not attend today's meeting and vice chairman Marcia Davies had submitted her resignation before today's meeting. Voting member Aisha Alayande chaired the remainder of the meeting.

There are three voting positions that will need to be filled as of January 1, 2019. These vacancies have been advertised on the County website. The Nominating Committee will meet on October 4, 2018 at 8am to review the submitted applications in order to make recommendations to the Council at the November meeting. The Council will also be voting on the Chair and Vice-chair for 2019 at the November meeting.

April Rolle made a motion and Shirley Johnson seconded the motion to nominate Aisha Alayande as the vice-chairman for the remainder of 2018. Upon roll call, all members voted aye. The motion carried.

Agenda Item 4: Summer Reading Discussion / School Public Safety

- a. Aisha Alayande led a brief discussion of *The Deepest Well* by Nadine Burke Harris, M.D. that was the suggested summer reading for the Council.
- b. SB 7026 the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act

School Board – Melissa Blackman

Ms. Blackman explained the Act and how its requirements are being implemented in our local school system. The Act contains several components with the mental health component funneled through the DOE under the Office of Safe Schools as an appropriations allocation. Highlands County received \$372,719 with 90% to be spent on direct services to students. All curriculum and professional development materials must be researched and evidence based, and each school must have a threat assessment team which included the addition of 4 licensed mental health therapists who are responsible for screening , assessing, and referring students to the appropriate services. Students are connected to services through a referral from school personnel, other students, or by self referral. Mental Health Awareness Training and development is another mandated component for schools. Inhouse trainers will facilitate the training of all school personnel with the Youth Mental Health First Aid training program with the first phase of training expected to be completed by the first semester of this school year. School counselors, school based administrators, SROs, . Regularly scheduled trainings will continue until all personnel is covered including Human Resources, MIS, and Bus Drivers.

Safe School Deputy – Lt. Chris Gunter, HCSO

In the past, Resource Officers have been located at the middle and high schools, but this bill mandates coverage for all schools. Goal is to create a safe and positive atmosphere, being vigilant and visible, interacting with the students to facilitate a positive relationship and role model for them.

Sheriff's Office has created a partnership with Heartland Crime Stoppers to fulfill the requirement of a reporting mechanism. Crime Stoppers is currently present in the middle and high schools, so the service has been expanded to all schools with reporting to be made by students, school personnel, and law enforcement.

Agenda Item 5: Committee Reports

No report of Committees were given. There will be a breakout session for Committees at the October meeting.

Agenda Item 6: Christmas Party

Luzed Cruz will send out poll of member's thoughts on locations and dates.

Agenda Item 7: January 2019 Retreat

Planning committee will be meeting soon, so please notify Luzed Cruz if you are interested in being a part of this committee.

Members need to review the 2019 meeting dates that were emailed to the Council. Please advise of any major conflicting events.

Agenda Item 8: Announcements

- CAPP Meeting – Thursday, October 11, 2018 at 1pm
- CAPP Proclamation on Safe Sleep at BOCC Board Meeting on Tuesday, October 2, 2018
- Proclamation for “Let’s Talk” Month on Health Education at BOCC Board Meeting on Tuesday, October 2, 2018
- Red Ribbon Week October 23, 2018
- Champion for Children Awards Gala – Thursday, September 27, 2018

Next CSC general meeting October 17, 2018 – 7:30 AM - Highlands County Health Department-Sebring

Luzed Cruz, Executive Director
Children’s Services Council of Highlands County

Respectfully submitted: Gail Escobar