



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

MINUTES

February 20, 2019

Voting Members Present: Aisha Alayande, Shirley Johnson, April Rolle, Bobbie Smith-Powell, Marisa Stam, Nick Vosburg, Carly Wohl

Other Members and Guests Present: Luzed Cruz, Leah Sauls- BOCC, Gladys Vazquez, Lt. Greg Pearlman, Gail Escobar, Comm. Elwell, Carissa Marine, Terri Saunders, Michelle Ramirez, Kathie Southern, Karen Boglarsky, Tina Harmon, LaTasha Cohen

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Aisha Alayande at 7:40 am.

Agenda Item 1: Welcome/Introductions

Aisha Alayande welcomed everyone and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Self-introductions were given by those present.

Agenda Item 2: Approval of Meeting Minutes

Carly Wohl made a motion and Marisa Stam seconded the motion to approve the retreat minutes of January 11, 2019 and agenda planning minutes of February 13, 2019. Upon roll call, all members voted aye. The motion carried.

Agenda Item 3: Board of County Commission Update

Commissioner Elwell stated that the budget process has begun. Leah Sauls, Community Program Director announced that Saturday, February 23, 2019 a household hazardous waste collection is scheduled, and the Healthy Families program is in the middle of re-accreditation.

Agenda Item 4: CSC Committee Updates

Community Needs and Data – Aisha Alayande, committee leader

Aisha has collected all updated information for the Report Card. Due to technical issues, she was not able to have that information at today's meeting, but will forward it to Luzed Cruz.

Partner Program Review and Support – April Rolle, committee leader

Survey for updating Aunt Bertha website was distributed to all members of the Council. Committee is trying to update agencies already participating and add those partner agencies that have not participated to date.

New Initiatives and Service Gaps – Carly Wohl, committee leader

Committee has worked to create a process in which the Council will be able to evaluate a request for service support that is presented to them. This will include being able to identify and evaluate the gaps in services, the request being reviewed by the other Council committees, and determining a funding source if needed. The draft of this framework is ready to be presented to this sub-committee at its next scheduled meeting.

Luzed Cruz, Council Executive Director, facilitated the sub-committee assignments for 2019.

Agenda Item 5: Goals & Initiatives – Trauma Informed Community

There was discussion as to what it means to become a trauma informed community and the process involved. The following topics were discussed as elements of a trauma informed community.

- **Miss Kendra's List** – a child safety “bill of rights” that is at the core of the ALIVE (Animating Learning by Integrating and Validating Experience) learning model. ALIVE takes a preventive approach in identifying and reducing stress in students. The ALIVE curriculum requires a school to meet training requirements provided by the Foundation for the Arts and Trauma, Inc. in order use the program. There are three levels of involvement with different costs associated with those levels. Foundation for the Arts and Trauma is currently developing an option for individual classrooms with that cost to yet be determined. The ALIVE school model is highlighted in *Resilience*.
- **Resilience Screenings** – movie has been shown at many places in the community including community events, School Board student services department, and with the Kindergarten Learning Center staff. It may be best to take the movie to folks instead of inviting them to come. Other suggested places for screenings are childcare providers/preschools; the faith community organizations; the Sheriff's Office COPS ADAPT units, and agency contacts for AuntBertha. May need to identify a “next step” for the organizations that view the movie, and provide information to facilitate local engagement or to those who may respond to their own ACES. Kathie Southern stated that the COPS ADAPT is now participating with the CAPP Task Force which is seeking partners in the zip codes with high child maltreatment rates, and trying to determine what services the folks in those areas want in their communities.
- www.Peace4Tarpon.org – trauma informed community program established in Tarpon Springs, FL. The public libraries play a big part in providing information to their community.

Terri Saunders, Heartland for Children CEO, provided several resources for information gathering such as www.ACESconnection.com and www.floridatrauma.org to provide ideas for starting this process and on which components to focus. The Council would fill the role of a non-profit. Some aspects to initially consider before deciding the agency to reach out to

Crystal Lake Elementary is an example of the first community partnership school in Polk County. The community partnership concept is integrating the services of a lead not-for-profit organization (Heartland for Children), a university (Southeastern), the school system, and a health care provider on a school campus. The process began with a community assessment that surveyed (the students, parents, and the members of the community around the school).

April Rolle made a motion and Shirley Johnson seconded the motion to identify the three action steps and assign them to the corresponding sub-committees.

- New Initiatives & Service Gaps - propose a campaign for promoting a trauma informed community
- Partner Program Review & Support – recommend language for a MOU
- Community Needs & Data - review survey used at Crystal River Elementary to determine if our current compiled data is sufficient

Upon roll call, all members voted aye. The motion carried.

Agenda Item 6: Scheduling Strategy

a. Agenda planning meeting schedule

Carly Wohl made a motion and April Rolle seconded the motion to set the agenda planning committee meetings for the second Wednesday of each month at 8:30am. Location will be determined. Upon roll call, all members voted aye. The motion carried.

b. Sub-committee meeting schedule

Nicholas Vosburg made a motion and Carly Wohl seconded the motion to set the monthly Council meetings from 7:30 – 8:30am with sub-committees meeting immediately following. Upon roll call, all members voted aye. The motion carried.

Sub-committees will have their first meeting before the next Council meeting and then will follow this approved meeting plan. Luzed Cruz will public notice these meetings as needed. Dates for the sub-committee meetings are

- Partner Program Review & Support – 2/27/19 at 8:30am
- Community Needs & Data – 3/4/19 at 1pm at the Champion for Children Found.
- New Initiatives @ Service Gaps – notice not needed

Agenda Item 7: Mental Health Community Partners

LaTasha Cohen, Central Florida Behavioral Health Network (CFBHN), updated the Council on current community based mental health services in Highlands County.

Peace River Center was awarded additional funds to create a mobile response team in Highlands County which is in operation.

Regional Council of Circuit 10 is a meeting of community stakeholders from (Heartland for Children, throughout the circuit where discussions take place as to what is going on with different providers, but there is no representation from Highlands County. These meetings are held the first Friday of each month and are currently held in Lakeland at Tri-County offices. It is possible to attend by conference call. This is an opportunity to provide feedback to the providers as to the services available, brainstorm ideas, and to seek additional dollars to increase services where there are gaps in Highlands County. LaTasha stated that this group wants to have Highlands County represented and can also change meeting locations to assist in accommodating participants. Topics for discussion can be placed on the agenda by contacting LaTasha.

There was discussion as to the accountability of these publicly funded mental health providers to CFBHN. There is accountability, but there is a discrepancy in the services that are being provided and the needs being met at a satisfactory level.

TeleHealth was discussed as to the future of this service model, the availability, accessibility, and effectiveness. CFBHN held a telehealth summit in January with discussions on who has what, what is working, what is not working, how to address needs where internet connectivity is a barrier, etc. Currently conducting a survey that will assess what is available and what is working. While most providers do have some form of telehealth, it is necessary to determine if needs are being met. There is a need to educate those on the front end of direct service so there is acceptance and understanding by the recipients. Telehealth is readily becoming a part of the main stream service model in the medical community and the mental health component is following that trend.

The Behavioral Health Leadership meets monthly. Kathie Southern, attends on behalf of Heartland for Children, and has communicated to them the concerns of the Children's Services Council (CSC) as related to the status of mental health services in Highlands County. Many of the members expressed great interest in attending a CSC meeting. She expressed the possibility of sending an invitation from the CSC to attend a meeting with specific time set aside for discussion.

Agenda Item 8: Child Abuse Prevention Month – April 2019

- a. CAPP update – Kathie Southern stated that April 2, 2019 is the date for the Highlands County kick-off event on the Courthouse lawn with a proclamation to be presented at the County Commissioner's meeting. A survey will be circulated by email for agencies to sign up to receive pinwheel gardens or for the indoor display and have them delivered. Prevention resources are also available on www.preventchildabusefl.org. The messaging is the same over all three counties. Next CAPP meeting will be held at the Lake Placid on March 14, 2019. Will plan to hold a meeting there again since the March date is during spring break week.
- b. CAC/CSC Activities - Luzed Cruz encouraged all members to attend the event on April 2. Also, volunteers are needed for children's activities being planned for the three library locations in April, and Luzed, along with other CAPP team and Council members would be available to speak at to a group/organization this month. A calendar will be created for all April activities and will be distributed to everyone.

Next CSC general meeting March 20, 2019 – 7:30 AM - Highlands County Health Department-Sebring

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

Respectfully submitted: Gail Escobar