

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF MARTIN COUNTY

Annual Meeting
Monday, January 28, 2008, 10:00 a.m.

MINUTES

After taking roll and having a quorum, Karen Ripper, outgoing Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Council Members present: Debbie Crowder (Chair) Hon. Steven J. Levin
Anthony George, Jr. (Vice-Chair) Vern Melvin
Marian Carpenter Karen Ripper
Samia Ferraro Dr. Sara Wilcox
Laurie Gaylord

Council Member absent: Michael DiTerlizzi

Public present: Hon. Gary L. Sweet, Incoming CSCMC Council Member
Laurel Hopper, Former CSCMC Council Member
William P. Bee, Jr., Big Brothers Big Sisters of Martin County
David Pittinos, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Martin County
Robert DeLancy, Building Bridges
Ollie C. Harvey, Building Bridges
Philip W. Harvey, East Stuart Main Street
Laura Haase, Martin County Parks and Recreation Department
Lorraine Brokaw, CASTLE
Albie Scoggins, City of Stuart
Maria Kulp, Planned Parenthood
Ed Daccarett
David Olio, SOUL
Isabel Wilson, SOUL
Stewart Wilson, SOUL
Steve Satkowski, GAL
Jill Taylor, The Palm Beach Post

Staff present: David Heaton (Executive Director), Scott Berry (Manager of Research and Evaluation), Rebecca Galante (Executive Assistant), Darla Graves (Contract Manager), Genevieve Guido (Director of Administrative Services), Frances Kaleta (Administrative Assistant I), Stephanie Macera (Administrative Assistant II), Elizabeth Whittles (Director of Program Development), and Johnathan Ferguson (Legal Counsel)

Invocation was given by Tony George, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A motion was made by Samia Ferraro and seconded by Tony George to adopt the Agenda, as presented by staff. The motion passed unanimously (9-0 vote).

A motion was made by Samia Ferraro and seconded by Tony George to approve the minutes of November 26, 2007, as presented by staff. The motion passed unanimously (9-0 vote).

Council Organization:

- A. Council Member recognition was given to both Laurel Hopper and Hon. Steven Levin for their years of dedicated services with CSCMC. Their respective replacements, Vern Melvin and Hon. Gary L. Sweet, were introduced.
- B. Election of Officers was held. **A motion was made by Samia Ferraro and seconded by Marian Carpenter to nominate Debbie Crowder as Chair and Tony George as Vice-Chair. The motion passed unanimously (9-0 vote).**

As the newly elected Chair, Debbie Crowder continued conducting the meeting.

Old Business:

- A. The YMCA's National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation update was presented by David Heaton and Darla Graves. **No motion was made, as staff's recommendation was to take no action because federal limitations on parental choice rendered the matter moot.**
- B. The Building Committee report was given by David Heaton. A counter offer from the seller for the purchase of the property on Central Parkway of \$650,000 was received.

Attorney Johnathan Ferguson reported that CSCMC is not allowed to go into a private executive session in order to conduct these negotiations, as no exception exists to the Sunshine Law to discuss negotiations for real estate contracts. Therefore, all decisions have to be made in public in a regular Council meeting setting.

Karen Ripper stated that the Building Committee Members' consensus was that commercial real estate prices are falling and should continue to decrease, and no rush exists since CSCMC signed a 5-year lease to rent the current building. Dr. Sara Wilcox and Laurie Gaylord would like staff to continue to look for availability of other properties for sale. Marian Carpenter wanted Council to seriously consider this property, as we have been looking for available properties from the time that CSCMC rented on Colorado Avenue. Council had a detailed discussion on this issue. Debbie Crowder wants the Building Committee to continue looking for available locations and bring the information back to Council at the next meeting, like the Heritage Center. **No motion for action made.**

- C. **A motion was made by Karen Ripper and seconded by Tony George to approve the 2008 CSCMC Meeting and Workshop Calendar as presented. The motion passed unanimously (9-0 vote).**

New Business:

- A. Martin County Parks and Recreation Department's waiver request was reported by Elizabeth Whittles. Staff will review whether to eliminate this policy entirely during the next RFP review. **A motion was made by Tony George and seconded by Dr. Sara Wilcox to approve staff's recommendation to grant a waiver to the stated CSCMC policy that limits funding of taxing authorities to two years to both the Martin County Parks and Recreation Department and City of Stuart Parks and Recreation Department (Agenda Item D.). The motion passed unanimously (9-0 vote).**
- B. The Building Bridges to Youth Program Reserve request was presented by Elizabeth Whittles. CSCMC Staff needs to perform a site visit for program monitoring and meet with their staff in more depth. Robert DeLancy (Program Director) and Ollie Harvey of Building Bridges addressed Council, answered questions, and provided a hand out. Council had a detailed discussion on this topic. **A motion was made by Tony George and seconded by Karen Ripper to deny emergency funding for Building Bridges to Youth and request their organization submit an application (due 02/01/2008) to be considered as part of the primary CSCMC funding cycle, as recommended by staff. The motion passed unanimously (9-0 vote).**
- C. The Big Brothers Big Sisters of Martin County request was given by Elizabeth Whittles. CSCMC funding priorities changed as a result of the Council-approved 2008-09 Request for Proposals (RFP) documents. Meetings were held between the four agencies not meeting these new priorities, including Big Brothers Big Sisters. Bill Bee, Chief Executive Officer of Big Brothers Big Sisters, addressed Council. Elizabeth reported that staff's recommendation was not at all based on their performance. Council held a detailed discussion regarding this request. **A motion was made by Dr. Sara Wilcox and seconded by Marian Carpenter to deny the request of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Martin County for CSCMC to reconsider and expand its new funding parameters in the after-school care priority area, as recommended by staff. The motion passed unanimously (9-0 vote).**
- D. **A motion was made and approved in Item A. above.**

- E. CSCMC Special Equipment award recommendations were given by Elizabeth Whittles that awarded all by 5¢ of the \$15,000 available to 9 out of 12 requests. **A motion was made by Dr. Sara Wilcox and seconded by Samia Ferraro to approve funding for (9) CSCMC-funded providers in the amount of \$14,999.95 for annual Special Equipment requests, as recommended by staff. The motion passed unanimously (9-0 vote).**
- F. The CSCMC employee health insurance proposal was reported by Genevieve Guido, as the increased premium notice was not received until January 11, 2008. The Quality Assurance Committee, which has replaced the Improvement Team at the November 26, 2007, Council meeting, will review this matter in more detail and bring a final recommendation to Council. **A motion was made by Marian Carpenter and seconded by Tony George to approve renewing the current Blue Cross/Blue Shield Plan #1664 for employee health insurance, until such time that the Quality Assurance Committee can review and present final options to Council for approval. The motion originally passed unanimously (9-0 vote). However, Laurie Gaylord later changed her vote to no during the Financial Reports because only Blue Cross/Blue Shield bids were presented. The motion carried with an 8-1 vote.**

In answer to Laurie Gaylord's concerns, Genevieve Guido reported that the current Plan #1664 could be canceled at a later date per our insurance agent. Because Genevieve did not receive the increase on the health insurance premium until January 11 and without the Quality Assurance Committee in place until the vote at this meeting, staff did not have any other option but to ask for Council approval to continue the current plan, or staff would be left without health insurance renewal. David Heaton also reported that only two other insurance companies write insurance in Martin County and both were more expensive than any other Blue Cross/Blue Shield plans, so those other two plans were not presented to Council.

- G. CSCMC Capital Budget request was presented by Genevieve Guido. CSCMC's auditor informed CSCMC that we should include the Capital Budget in the Operating Budget. Genevieve reported that this change would be reflected in the new CSCMC budget. **A motion was made by Samia Ferraro and seconded by Vern Melvin to approve Capital Expenditures for fiscal year 2008 in the amount of \$25,582.00 to be transferred from Fund Balance, as recommended by staff. The motion passed (8-0 vote; Marian Carpenter was absent from the room at time of vote).**
- H. CSCMC staff reorganization was given by David Heaton, due David's promotion to Executive Director and the vacancy created in his former position of Director of Planning. David thanked staff for stepping up to the task of taking on additional job responsibilities in this staff reorganization. **A motion was made by Samia Ferraro and seconded by Karen Ripper to approve the proposed CSCMC staff reorganization to be effective on February 1, 2008, as presented. The motion passed unanimously (9-0 vote).**

- I. Debbie Crowder reported that all Council Members need to complete the conflict of interest form, as required by the Florida Commission on Ethics, and the forms should be returned to Rebecca Galante for the public record filing. **No motion for action necessary.**
- J. A CSCMC Budget Planning Committee was assigned. **A motion was made by Karen Ripper and seconded by Marian Carpenter to assign Council Members Debbie Crowder, Michael DiTerlizzi, Samia Ferraro, and Sara Wilcox to the CSCMC Budget Planning Committee. The motion passed unanimously (9-0 vote).**
- K. The Quality Assurance Committee was assigned to meet at least quarterly to address CSCMC employee benefits, as well as other issues of mutual interest. **A motion was made by Dr. Sara Wilcox and seconded by Samia Ferraro to assign Council Members Debbie Crowder, Laurie Gaylord, Tony George, and Karen Ripper to the CSCMC Quality Assurance Committee. The motion passed unanimously (9-0 vote).**

Debbie Crowder asked that as many of these committee meetings as possible be scheduled later in the day to accommodate her schedule. Rebecca Galante will coordinate all committee meetings.

Staff Reports:

- A. The Executive Director/Staff Report was presented by David Heaton. In answer to Debbie Crowder's concern, Elizabeth Whittles reported that a replacement Whole Child staff member has been hired to assist African-American families in the Gertrude Walden Day Care Center. David discussed the State Board of Administration (SBA) - Local Government Investment Pool that was attached to the ED/Staff Report. Until the issue is resolved, CSCMC is not sending additional dollars to them and has opened local interest-bearing accounts with Seacoast National Bank and adjustments were made for the SWEEP account, staying within the parameters of Florida Statute on all of our investment practice.
- B. The financial reports were given by Genevieve Guido. No Council comments were made regarding the financial reports.
- C. Provider Performance Reports were reviewed by Scott Berry, which included one summary and (38) individual provider performance reports covering 2006-07. Scott reported that significant performance gains were made during this period of time than in past years with 2,000 more people being served in Martin County at a lower cost per person from \$444 to \$380 and at a higher standard of quality care (providers did not meet their performance standards from 27% to 18%). Providers were granted continuing contract status with CSCMC, which increased from 21% to 34%, and is based on achieving 5 criteria standards.

Laurie Gaylord was concerned that, out of the five highest costs programs, three programs fall short of their performance standards. Scott reported that those organizations were asked to supply an explanation, and they had to go through a corrective active process and develop a plan rectifying whatever was the root cause of their problem. Also, those funded programs not meeting performance standards forfeit their organization's ability to participate in CSCMC Continuing Contracts, which places their programs back in the competitive RFP process for future CSCMC funding that is reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The corrective action plan applies to any funded organization that fails to achieve their contracted performance objectives (criteria set at 75-85% performance levels). Providers are required to have end-of-year information available for review by the end of each July.

For Your Information:

Information was reviewed, as submitted by staff.

Council Member Comments:

Marian Carpenter thanked staff for their commitment in taking on new responsibilities regarding the CSCMC staff reorganization. Ms. Carpenter congratulated Dr. Sara Wilcox on her retirement announcement, as she has been an asset to our community and The Martin County School System.

Hon. Steven Levin thanked CSCMC for the appreciation plaque and being able to serve as a Council Member.

Hon. Gary Sweet announced that he is looking forward to serving on the Council.

Laurie Gaylord thanked David Heaton for the improved communications between the Council Members and staff. Ms. Gaylord pointed out to Council that the March meeting will be the day after Easter and the May meeting will be the day after Memorial Day.

Debbie Crowder thanked everyone for the honor of being elected as Chair and Karen Ripper's for serving as CSCMC Chair for the past two years.

Dr. Sara Wilcox also thanked Karen Ripper for her leadership as Chair and doing such an excellent job.

Public Comments:

Isabel Wilson of Jensen Beach, as a member of the SOLE program, requested a meeting with the entire Children's Services Council.

Stuart Wilson of Jensen Beach also wants a meeting CSCMC. David Heaton clarified that they are asking for a special meeting of the Council of which they are the only agenda subject.

Ed Daccarett of Palm City explained that their group is requesting a formal meeting because they are concerned with CSCMC funding Planned Parenthood's La Promesa Program. They feel that CSCMC has not investigated their concern and that Planned Parenthood does not deliver prenatal service, their sex education is too graphic, and they are too profitable. Mr. Daccarett felt that the Martin County Health Department in Indiantown and the Florida Community Health Center provides the same services as the La Promesa Program and have a bi-lingual staff. Karen Ripper stated that CSCMC has a difference of opinion than Mr. Daccarett's group of which may never be resolved. After continually hearing the group, Ms. Ripper said that CSCMC made its decision to fund Planned Parenthood by information provided that is valid to the community, and Ms. Ripper would not attend such a special meeting.

David Olio of Palm City felt that Carenet, Lifeline, Pregnancy Care Center, and Martin County Health Department are doing the exact same thing as the La Promesa Program, which is duplicity, and their group is against this. Their group wants to have a discussion for what purpose CSCMC gave Planned Parenthood money, as he feels that CSCMC's website is nothing but boilerplate and does not list what is being provided. Karen Ripper requested that staff provide information on the La Promesa Program's grant, as the services being provided are not being perceived as what was awarded on the CSCMC grant. Elizabeth Whittles stated that a misunderstanding of the use of the term prenatal care exists, as the La Promesa Program was designed to remove barriers to health care for underserved populations and primarily focusing on women's reproductive health issues. Mr. Daccarett felt that this meant abortion. Debbie Crowder would like staff to produce a document on what the differences are between the services offered. Ed Daccarett also wants a copy when available.

As no further discussion existed, the meeting was adjourned by Debbie Crowder (Chair) at 11:50 a.m.

Debbie Crowder, Chair

David L. Heaton, Executive Director