

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF MARTIN COUNTY

Annual Meeting  
Monday, January 25, 2010, 10:00 a.m.

## MINUTES

After taking roll and having a quorum, Tony George, 2009 Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Council Members present: Rob Ranieri (Chair) Nancy Kline  
John M. Lass (Vice-Chair) Lorie Shekailo  
Elmira Gainey Doug Smith  
Anthony George, Jr. Judith Weber

Council Member Absent: Vern Melvin and Hon. Gary L. Sweet

Public present: Ed Daccarett, Resident  
David Olio, SOHL  
Joseph M. Ascrizzi, Resident  
David Cardno, Father & Child Resource Center  
Antoine Pechaceck, Father & Child Resource Center  
Roy Stevens, Father & Child Resource Center  
Jacki Jackson, Executive Director, Early Learning Coalition  
Maria Kulp, Planned Parenthood  
Kathy Derringer, Helping People Succeed  
Joe Gilio, Resident  
Elliot Paul, Father & Child Resource Center  
Dick Kelly, Resident  
Cliff Churchill Jr. Suncoast Mental Health  
Jeff Ralicki, Tykes & Teens

Staff present: David Heaton (Executive Director), Elizabeth Barbella (Director of Policy and Operations), Scott Berry (Manager of Research and Evaluation), Pamela Chamberlain (Contract Specialist), Rebecca Galante (Executive Assistant), Genevieve Guido (Director of Finance and Human Resources), Laura Haase (Contract Specialist), Frances Kaleta (Administrative Assistant I), Stephanie Macera (Executive Assistant), Ellen Pethic (Manager of Finance), and Tyson Waters (Legal Counsel)

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

**A motion was made by Judith Weber and seconded by Nancy Kline to adopt the Agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously (6-0 vote).**

**A motion was made by John M. Lass and seconded by Judith Weber to approve the minutes of November 23, 2009, as presented. The motion passed unanimously (6-0 vote).**

Elmira Gainey joined the meeting at 10:07 a.m.

**Council Recognition and New Council Member Introduction:**

David Heaton recognized Maura Barry-Sorenson for serving almost a year on the Council as the elected School Board Representative, and he introduced and welcomed Lorie Shekailo as Ms. Barry-Sorenson's replacement.

**Council Organization:**

- A. Tony George opened the floor for nominations for the election of officers. **A motion was made by Judith Weber and seconded by Nancy Kline to nominate Rob Ranieri as Chair. The motion passed unanimously (7-0 vote).**

Mr. George turned the nomination for Vice-Chair over to Rob Ranieri, as the new Chair. **A motion was made by Elmira Gainey and seconded by Nancy Kline to nominate John M. Lass as Vice-Chair. The motion passed unanimously (7-0 vote).**

- B. Review of the CSCMC By-Laws was presented by David Heaton who recommended that Quality Assurance Committee take time to review them in detail with Attorney Tyson Waters. John M. Lass recommended that staff should ask all of our funded Providers to certify that their By-Laws have been reviewed and are current to ensure compliance. Elizabeth Barbella said that this could be added to the mid-year program monitoring with a timeframe given. Nancy Kline wants it added to the application process as part of a checklist for staff to monitor.
- C. Annual Conflict of Interest Forms are required from all Council Members. Please return them to Rebecca Galante for record purposes.

**Public Comments:**

The following individuals (in alphabetical order) made public comment: Joseph Ascrizzi, Ed Daccarett, Joe Gilio, and David Olio.

Doug Smith joined the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

**Old Business:**

- A. The Building Committee Report was given by David Heaton who informed Council that the Lucido firm is working to obtain the building permit with the City of Stuart. Attorney Tyson Waters reviewed his recommendation that Executive Director be given Council authority regarding building documents. **A motion was made by Doug Smith and seconded by Elmira Gainey to authorize Executive Director, David Heaton, to execute approval documents and authorizations on behalf of the Council during the construction process of the CSCMC office building and in the Executive Director's absence to designate the Chair this authority. The motion passed unanimously (8-0 vote).**

**New Business:**

- A. The Early Learning Coalition of Indian River, Martin and Okeechobee Counties (ELCIRMO) contract amendment to Measurable Objectives was reviewed by Elizabeth Barbella. **A motion was made by Nancy Kline and seconded by Doug Smith to approve staff's recommendation of the Early Learning Coalition of Indian River, Martin and Okeechobee Counties (ELCIRMO) contract amendment to Measurable Objectives to read:**
- **For children 0 to 3, for the Cognitive, Fine Motor, Gross Motor, Language, Self-Help, and Social/Emotional domains, 80% of children enrolled will be within developmental range by post assessment.**
  - **For children 3 to 5, for the Cognitive, Fine Motor, Gross Motor, Language, Personal/Social, Pre-Writing, and Self-Help domains, 90% of children enrolled will be within developmental range by post assessment.**
- The motion passed unanimously (8-0 vote).**
- B. The Father & Child Resource Center provider presentation was given by Program Director David Cardno to express the value of the father's role and the importance of their involvement in a child's life to enjoy healthy growth and development, regardless of family circumstances. Staff Members Antoine Pechaceck, Roy Stevens, and Elliot Paul were also in attendance to answer Council questions. Children with absent fathers are twice as likely to be involved in crime, 77% more at risk of physical abuse, 5 times more likely to live in poverty, twice as likely to use alcohol/drugs, and more likely to become pregnant as teenagers (thereby continuing the cycle of fatherless children). David Cardno said their future milestone would be toward teen prevention and minority father involvement. **No motion required.**
- C. The Employee Health Insurance Proposal was presented by Genevieve Guido. **A motion was made by John M. Lass and seconded by Nancy Kline to approve Blue Cross Blue Shield Employee Health Insurance Plan #5462, as recommended by staff and effective on March 1, 2010. The motion passed unanimously (8-0 vote).**

- D. The CSCMC Public Comment review was given by David Heaton, as staff gathered information from other Children's Services Councils. Although staff is not recommending a change to the current public comment policy, it is advised to improve our public comment form and format to request additional information as to what the public comment would be about and if it would address an agenda item. Council held a detailed discussion regarding this topic. Rob Ranieri had requested that this subject be addressed for clarification of any inaccurate facts that were given by speakers. **A motion was made by Elmira Gainey and seconded by Doug Smith to keep CSCMC's current public comment procedures as to timeframe, which allows for three minutes by each individual public speaker and a maximum of one hour for all public comment with additional limits at the Chair's discretion, but to improve the speaker request form to include public comment subject matter, content, agenda item (if applicable) to be brought back for Council approval. The motion passed unanimously (8-0 vote).**

Council had a detailed discussion on determining the importance of staff correcting incorrect public comments made, people having the right to their own opinions whether right or wrong, and staff's monitoring results of programs being the guide for Council.

#### **Staff Reports:**

- A. The Executive Director/Staff Report was given by David Heaton, where the report format was revised to give Council more detail on program site monitorings and a legislative policy packet. Elizabeth Barbella discussed the Domino and Negrón Bills. Council had a detailed discussion on why no one was contacted before Senator Negrón introduced this bill and their disappointment and the necessity of this bill when many of the other CSCs already have building their own buildings to save tax dollars to pass on to children's programs. Rob Ranieri recommended that everyone individually contact Senator Negrón and others with concerns about this legislation, as a showing of public support.

**A motion was made by John Lass and seconded by Lorie Shekailo to invite Senator Negrón to a CSCMC special meeting for clarification on his radio interview and to learn more about this Bill. The motion passed unanimously (8-0 vote).**

**A motion was made by Elmira Gainey and seconded by Tony George to have Doug Smith join staff to attend the meeting with Senator Joe Negrón. The motion passed unanimously (8-0 vote).**

- B. The Financial Reports were presented by Genevieve Guido. No Council comments were made on the Financial Reports provided.

- C. 2008-09 Providers' Performance Reports, outlining the attainment of CSCMC-funded program contract outcomes, were reviewed by Scott Berry. Although a performance target rate has not been set for the amount of penetration wanted for the 0-17 age population in the community, CSCMC's penetration is better than other larger counties, like Hillsborough, Pinellas and Palm Beach. However, the number of children being touched has declined due to budget cuts to fund fewer children's programs in 2008-09. David Heaton reported that two funded programs will go through corrective action plans for falling short of expected objectives: Easter Seals - Early Steps and PACE Center for Girls. More programs are reaching their performance targets because Council has hired two Contract Specialists to help agencies work on issues and solve performance outcomes before problems occur. Council was requested to ask staff for any clarification needed.
- D. CSCMC Provider Survey Results were given by Scott Berry, where 23 agencies and 41 programs received a list of 20 survey questions. In his last year's performance evaluation, David Heaton was asked to conduct a survey of the funded providers of their general perception of the CSCMC processes and our staff. David thanked Scott for being instrumental in developing this process in terms of the survey instrument and the mechanism for collecting this data. Overall, providers are satisfied with CSCMC processes and staff; this survey also allows CSCMC staff to review any areas of dissatisfaction and make corrections as necessary. Elizabeth Barbella reported that the survey results would be shared with the funded agencies at the upcoming CSCMC Provider Orientation.

**For Your Information:**

No Council comments were made on information provided.

**Council Member Comments:**

Lorie Shekailo stated that she was pleased to be serving with CSCMC and was looking forward to a very productive year.

Rob Ranieri thanked Tony George for his leadership, patience, and dedication over the last year to give the new Council Members the history of CSCMC, which was most appreciated.

David Heaton called attention to Eve Samples' 11/22/2009 article on prenatal care that is improving in Martin County to correct a former public speaker's comment.

As no further discussion existed, the meeting was adjourned by Rob Ranieri (Chair) at 12:05 p.m.