

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF MARTIN COUNTY (CSCMC)

Regular Meeting/Budget Workshop  
Monday, June 27, 2011, 10:00 a.m.

## MINUTES

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

Council Members Present: Rob Ranieri (Chair) Anthony George, Jr.  
John M. Lass (Vice-Chair) Nancy Kline  
Judith Weber (Treasurer) Vern Melvin

Council Members Absent: Hon. Sherwood Bauer, Jr., Michael Busha, Elmira Gainey, and  
Doug Smith

Public Present: Jeff Ralicki, Executive Director, Tykes & Teens  
Jacki Jackson, Executive Director, Early Learning Coalition (ELCIRMO)  
Scott Berry, Executive Director, Martin County Healthy Start Coalition  
Suzy Hutchinson, Executive Director, Helping People Succeed  
Kathy Derringer, Helping People Succeed  
Carolyn Moses, Helping People Succeed  
Steve Hooks, President, Hooks Construction

Staff Present: David Heaton (Executive Director), Elizabeth Barbella (Director of Policy  
and Operations), 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), and Stephanie Macera (Executive Assistant)

Invocation was given by John M. Lass, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**A motion was made by Nancy Kline and seconded by Vern Melvin to adopt the agenda, as presented. The motion passed unanimously (6-0 vote).**

**A motion was made by Judith Weber and seconded by Nancy Kline to approve the minutes of May 23, 2011, as presented. The motion passed unanimously (6-0 vote).**

### Public Comments:

No public comments were made.

**Old Business:**

- A. The Building Committee Report was presented by David Heaton who discussed the costs of LEED Certification for a green building. Two options include LEED Certification at approximately \$17,000.00 or Florida Green Building Coalition at approximately \$9,000.00, but no annual fees are charged after initial certification. Steve Hooks, President of Hooks Construction, told Council that the LEED Certification costs of \$17,000.00 are not new costs and have already been budgeted for the new building as a sustainable building. Regardless if certification is obtained, all construction elements would still reflect a green building with use of energy efficient and recycled materials. Mr. Hooks has observed a movement in the construction industry, changing to sustainable building construction without the expense of green-building certification. Mr. Hooks informed Council of the following sustainable building concepts: construction debris being recycled, fly ash in the concrete, all paint with low VOC, all cabinetry made with non-formaldehyde glue, flooring and carpeting made of recycled materials, AC system with state-of-the-art design with individual controls, concrete paving and grass over-parking versus black asphalt that generates more heat, along with bicycle racks, showers, and designated hybrid car parking added to encourage the green concept. Council discussed that green certification would not result in any insurance or tax savings.

Council requested a list on the value for LEED Certification to quantify a decision to spend \$17,000.00 and that Niki Norton-Gozdz of Crossroads Architecture be contacted, since she served on the building contractor interview board and is very knowledgeable in LEED. David Heaton stated that staff's recommendation is not to seek LEED Certification and save the \$17,000.00 certification fee. Council vote will be delayed until July when more information has been gathered.

Steve Hooks also updated Council on the building progress: doorframes delivered, decking the roof, drying in the roof systems, and lime rock base delivered for the parking lot. Hooks Construction hopes to have CSCMC in the building by the end of the year, if not sooner.

- B. The Communications Committee Report was given by Elizabeth Barbella who informed Council that staff is working on several different articles to be published by the newspaper, as the goal was to publish two articles per month. We also hope that the newsletter will be launched in August. The Speakers Bureau is averaging a couple of presentations a month to get the word out in the community about Children's Services Council, and we have been receiving invitations to come to speak to various groups. Most of communications time has been spent getting the production of the first CSCMC videos completed. Filming has been taking place by local Photographer Tom Winters, which will include three and five minute videos. We hope to launch these videos simultaneously with public relations plans around the dedication of the new building and to use the videos as a community educational tool through our Providers, Speakers Bureau, etc. The Communications Committee has standing meetings scheduled for the first Thursday of every month at 10:00 a.m.

**New Business:**

- A. The Whole Child Connection's Program Reserve Request to conduct a Whole Child Community Assessment was reviewed by Elizabeth Barbella. The Whole Child Connection was born out of the research project conducted at CSCMC that was called the Whole Child Project, which was a data collection and analysis project that allowed us to examine the system and needs in the community with several funders' participation. Since it is time to engage in this exercise again, The Whole Child Connection has put together an assessment proposal. To date the following funders are committed to contributions between \$5,000-\$10,000: Allegany Franciscan Ministries, Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties, and United Way of Martin County.

**A motion was made by Judith Weber and seconded by Tony George to approve The Whole Child Connection's request in the amount of \$10,000.00 to be allocated from CSCMC Program Reserve Funds to be used in concert with other local funders' grants to resource the Whole Child Assessment Project that would examine the environmental, social, mental, economic, physical, educational, and spiritual needs of children in Martin County. The motion passed unanimously (6-0 vote).**

- B. The Martin County Healthy Start Coalition's Father & Child Resource Center's Program Reserve Request was presented by Elizabeth Barbella. Council had a discussion on Father and Child Resource Center (FCRC) not receiving funding, due to their program focus and method of service delivery. CSCMC staff met with MCHSC staff and supports the FCRC's effort to preserve fatherhood services in Martin County. FCRC has reengineered portions of their original programming, and the modified program is focused on achieving clearly defined outcomes. The proposed program is designed to build community agencies' internal capacity and help them incorporate "father friendly" approaches into their service provision. Scott Berry, Executive Director of Martin County Healthy Start Coalition, informed Council that this amount is less than 10% of what CSCMC originally funded with United Way of Martin County doubling its award and Allegany Franciscan Ministries' contribution. Elizabeth informed Council that next year, our portion of funding for Father and Child Resource Center would move from Program Reserve to a fiscal year (October 1 to September 30) partnership contract, unless Council opens up the application cycle.

**A motion was made by Nancy Kline and seconded by Judith Weber to approve the Martin County Healthy Start Coalition's request for \$10,000.00 for the Father and Child Resource Center Program to provide matching funding to preserve training and educational activities that promote fatherhood to be allocated from CSCMC Program Reserve. (5) Council Members voting in favor of the motion included Rob Ranieri, Judith Weber, Tony George, Vern Melvin, and Nancy Kline; (1) Council Member opposed to the motion was John M. Lass. The motion passed with a 5 to 1 vote.**

- C. HPS, Helping People Succeed's Program Reserve Request for the Healthy Families Martin Program was given by Elizabeth Barbella. As a result of state's allocation for 2011, the Healthy Families Martin Program is still struggling to offset the budget reduction sustained in 2010 with its major funding cuts. HPS has aggressively pursued alternate funding options but to date has been unsuccessful in securing the funding necessary to support the program's current level of service delivery in 2011-12. CSCMC has allocated \$146,421.00 to HPS for the Healthy Families Martin Program for the funding year beginning July 1, 2011. HPS is currently requesting an additional allocation in the amount of \$13,000 to support a percentage of the total cost of a Family Support Worker. Elimination of this position will result in an additional 25 families going without the child abuse prevention services provided by Healthy Families Martin.

**A motion was made by Nancy Kline and seconded by Vern Melvin to approve HPS, Helping People Succeed's request for additional funding in 2011-12 for the Healthy Families Martin Program in the amount of \$13,000.00 to be allocated from CSCMC Program Reserve to support a percentage of the total cost of a Family Support Worker that will result in an additional 25 families being provided with the child abuse prevention services. The motion passed unanimously (6-0 vote).**

- D. The annual management performance appraisal form for Executive Director David Heaton should be completed by all Council Members. The forms need to be returned by Monday, July 11, 2011, in order to comply with the Performance Review Committee's (PRC) final report being published at the August Council meeting. The 2011 Performance Review Committee consists of Rob Ranieri, John M. Lass, Judith Weber, Nancy Kline, and Vern Melvin.

#### **Staff Reports:**

- A. The Executive Director/Staff Report was presented by David Heaton.

Elizabeth Barbella spoke of Florida grossly lagging behind many other states when it comes to prioritizing and taking care of children, and she reviewed the highlights of the 2011 Legislative Session. Florida is one of few states that does not have a booster car seat law. The S.P.L.A.S.H. Program vouchers are out in the community (40 redeemed so far), and the American Red Cross is getting the pools ready for the swim program; CSCMC funds will be available until September 30, 2011. The Big Heart Brigade is working hard to raise matching funds for the swim program. Council will have to dialogue about their long-term commitment to this partnership program during budget discussions.

- B. The Financial Reports were given by Genevieve Guido who reported that, through May 31, almost 98% of the tax revenue had been collected, which is better than last year. No Council Comments were made.

**For Your Information:**

Council reviewed and discussed the information provided.

**Council Member Comments:**

Tony George found it interesting to observe how other countries visibility show their dedication to children, how they value their children, and prioritize their children at a higher level than we do, while he was on vacation in Italy with his family.

Nancy Kline stated that, while the School District is doing their planning at the education level, they observed that they had a great year this year and plan to next year. The whole model of how public education is delivered will change drastically with virtual schools taking place in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade; social and emotional development will change with age-appropriate peers; and more charter schools and charter school applications will be seen, as a result of new legislation. As an educator, first and foremost, Nancy stated that the real focus is on childhood, and there is no way to catch up if you're not paying and providing for early intermitting services and early intervention programs, so it is important for our legislators to remember this.

Vern Melvin announced that, as DCF Administrator, his territories have expanded from Circuit 19 (St. Lucie, Okeechobee, Martin, and Indian River Counties) to also include Circuit 18 (Brevard and Seminole Counties).

As no further discussion existed, the regular meeting was adjourned by Rob Ranieri (Chair) at 10:50 a.m. and the 2011-12 Budget Workshop was opened.

\* \* \* \* \*

**CSCMC 2011-12 Budget Workshop**

David Heaton reported that before we receive our certified value, we must submit a preliminary budget that is based on an estimated value to Martin County by July 1, 2011, as required by state statute; therefore, it is somewhat subject to change. David reminded Council that we have an opportunity to amend the budget decision made today, as the budget will again be on the July Agenda before the two Public Hearings to be held in September.

Genevieve Guido provided an outline of the preliminary budget proposal with an increased millage of .3693 from the current rate of .3523, which is an increase of 4.8% and was reviewed by the CSCMC Budget Committee on June 6. This preliminary budget consists of: merit pool of \$15,545 for staff to be awarded based on results of performance evaluations, Program Services that accounts for 89% of expenses. General Government at 9.2%, Collection Fees at 1.5%, and Assigned Reserves at .30%. As practiced by the other CSCs, salaries, benefits, and employment taxes of direct program staff have been allocated to Program Services, which slightly reduces General Government to 9.2%. Although the millage is increased, the overall budget expenditures have been decreased by 3.5% from the current budget.

David Heaton reported that, because the Median Home Value has dropped, taxpayers would pay less in their property taxes to fund CSCMC. The cost of this plan to the homeowner with an estimated median home value of \$172,930 and a \$50,000 Homestead Exemption would be \$45.40. Whereas, the prior year's cost was estimated at \$52.85 when the same home's Median Home Value was at \$200,000.

Concerning General Government's Operating Expenses Contingency, the \$303,826 consists of everything listed on the General Government Proposed Budget 2011-12 (goldenrod-paper handout), such as rent, professional services, auditing, office supplies, etc. This amount also includes the new breakout of Media & Communications Expenses of \$40,100 for a total of \$343,926.

Regarding the Boys and Girls Club's High Yield Program's dropping from \$489,182 to \$289,182, they will be funded through the Early Learning Coalition CCEP to take advantage of a partnership match opportunity to draw down state funding, which allows us to serve more Martin County children.

Rob Ranieri reminded Council that this is only a preliminary budget, where the millage could be dropped if the values improve. Once the millage is published to the taxpayers, it cannot be increased.

**A motion was made by Vern Melvin and seconded by John M. Lass to adopt the preliminary 2011-12 CSCMC Budget of \$9,771,557 (3.5% decrease in operating expenditures from the current budget) with a millage rate of .3693, as recommended by staff.** Tony George announced that under the law Council could not vote in a workshop environment. David Heaton stated that Council would have to adjourn to a meeting then and reconvene since a quorum is in place, as the preliminary budget is due to the county by July 1, 2011.

**Public Comments on Budget Workshop:**

No public comments were made.

The budget workshop was adjourned and the regular meeting was reconvened at 11:05 a.m.

**A motion was made by John M. Lass and seconded by Vern Melvin to adopt the preliminary 2011-12 CSCMC Budget of \$9,771,557 (3.5% decrease in operating expenditures from the current budget) with a millage rate of .3693, as recommended by staff. (5) Council Members voting in favor of the motion included Rob Ranieri, John M. Lass, Judith Weber, Vern Melvin, and Nancy Kline; (1) Council Member opposed to the motion was Tony George. The motion passed with a 5 to 1 vote.**

Council had a discussion that CSCMC Legal Counsel be consulted on this issue.

As no further discussion existed, the regular meeting was adjourned by Rob Ranieri (Chair) at 11:10 a.m.