

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF MARTIN COUNTY (CSCMC)

**Final Public Hearing/Regular Meeting
Monday, September 25, 2017 5:10 p.m.**

MINUTES

Having a quorum, William Tulko (Chair) called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. and took roll.

Council Members Present: William Tulko (Chair)
Laurel Hopper (Vice-Chair)
Christia Li Roberts (Treasurer)
Susan D. Burrows
Laurie Gaylord
Sarah Heard
Hon. Judge Michael J. McNicholas

Council Member Absent: Angela Hoffman

Public Present: Karlette Peck, Administrator, Florida Department of Health – Martin County
Kathy Derringer, Helping People Succeed
Samantha Suffich, Martin County Healthy Start Coalition
Aubrey Campbell, Martin County Healthy Start Coalition
Rob Ranieri, House of Hope
Madeleine Warner, CASTLE
Phyllis McKee, CASTLE
Kelley R. Haddox, CASTLE
Cheri Sheffer, Devereux Community Based Care
Suzy Hutcheson, Helping People Succeed
Sarah Torres, Boys & Girls Clubs of Martin County
Joanne Towner, Boys & Girls Clubs of Martin County
Mike Sancho, Boys & Girls Clubs of Martin County
Lynette Marraffa, CASTLE
Theresa Garbarino-May, CASTLE
Philip B. Pierce, CASTLE
Jordin Preston, Boys & Girls Clubs of Martin County
Sheila Carpenter, Boys & Girls Clubs of Martin County
Bridgette L. Delancy, Sickle Cell Foundation of Palm Beach & Martin County

Staff Present: David Heaton (Executive Director), Jennifer Ahern (Manager of Outreach and Communications), Jody Bailey (Accountant), Sarah Gosney (Director of Policy and Operations), Genevieve Guido (Director of Finance and Human Resources), Laura Haase (Manager of Program Services), Frances Kaleta (Administrative Assistant I), Stephanie Macera (Executive Assistant), Christine Georges (Executive Assistant) and Annette Sparling (Research Analyst)

William Tulko suspended the regular meeting and announced that the Council would conduct the final public hearing on the millage and budget for the Children's Services Council of Martin County for fiscal year 2017-18.

William Tulko announced that the rolled-back rate was .3433, but the proposed millage rate would remain at the current millage rate of .3618 for fiscal year 2017-18, which is an increase of 5.39% over the rolled back rate.

Attorney Noreen Dreyer read Resolution #17-003 (adoption of the final millage rate for fiscal year 2017-18).

William Tulko opened the floor for public comments regarding the millage rate. As no public comments were given, Mr. Tulko closed the public comment segment on the millage rate and then called for a motion to adopt the millage rate.

A motion was made by Sarah Heard and seconded by Laurel Hopper to adopt Resolution #17-003 for fiscal year 2017-18 with the final millage rate remaining at the current millage rate of .3618, which is an increase of 5.39% over the rolled back rate of .3433, as recommended by the CSCMC Finance Committee.

William Tulko opened the floor for Council discussion. Hearing none, Mr. Tulko called for the vote.

Council Members voted unanimously in favor of the above motion regarding the final millage rate. Hon. Judge Michael J. McNicholas abstained because he is not permitted to vote on the millage per Florida Statute. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

William Tulko stated that the second part of the final public hearing was to adopt the budget for fiscal year 2017-18.

Attorney Noreen Dreyer read Resolution #17-004 (adoption of the final budget for fiscal year 2017-18).

William Tulko opened the floor for public comments regarding the budget. Hearing none, Mr. Tulko closed the public comments' segment on the budget and then called for a motion to adopt the budget.

A motion was made by Christia Li Roberts and seconded by Laurel Hopper to adopt Resolution #17-004 with a final budget of \$11,645,412.00 for fiscal year 2017-18, as recommended by the CSCMC Finance Committee and staff.

William Tulko opened the floor for Council discussion. Hearing none, Mr. Tulko called for the vote.

The motion passed unanimously (7-0 vote).

William Tulko closed the final public hearing for fiscal year 2017-18.

William Tulko called the regular September Council meeting to order at 5:20 p.m.

A motion was made by Sarah Heard and seconded by Laurel Hopper to adopt the agenda, as presented. The motion passed unanimously (7-0 vote).

A motion was made by Sarah Heard and seconded by Susan D. Burrows to approve the minutes of both August 28, 2017, and September 18, 2017, as presented. The motion passed unanimously (7-0 vote).

Public Comments and Introduction of Council Meeting Attendees:

Public Comments were given by Joanne Towner, Chief Executive Officer of Boys & Girls Clubs of Martin County and Jordin Preston, 2017 Youth of the Year winner of Boys & Girls Clubs of Martin County recognition program.

Public Comments were given by Karlette Peck, Florida Department of Health of Martin County with regards to School Health Program, the Dental Sealant program, and the Lactation consultant.

Public Comments were given by Suzy Hutcheson, Helping People Succeed announcing the ribbon cutting ceremony for their new location.

Public Comments were given by Samantha Suffich, Executive Director of Martin County Healthy Start Coalition and Shamus Gordon of Father & Child Resource Center. She introduced the new Director, Shamus Gordon and that Healthy Start is piloting a new Doula program.

Public Comments were given by Lynette Marraffa Governing Board President for CASTLE, shares two (2) letters in direct regard to agenda item #6A.

Public Comments were given by Theresa Garbarino-May, Executive Director of CASTLE.

William Tulko then moved the meeting into New Business item #A.

New Business:

- A. Contract Concerns – Exchange Club Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse of the Treasure Coast, Inc. (CASTLE) – Safe Families

CSCMC Executive Director, David Heaton stated the discussion about Safe Families began during CSCMC's Program Committee Meeting regarding our Partnership applications for CASTLE's Strengthening Families Program. The conversation then turned to the Exchange Club Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse of the Treasure Coast, Inc. (CASTLE). David Heaton shared that CASTLE was being investigated by the Florida Office of Inspector General (OIG) following a complaint that records had been falsified in Indian River County, generating caseloads and travel expenses that were fraudulent.

It was also learned that the Executive Director of CASTLE, Theresa Garbarino-May, had been put on administrative leave for the initial portion of that investigation, but has subsequently been reinstated. The concerns were that CSCMC was not notified that the Board gave Theresa Garbarino-May an administrative leave of absence in relation to this investigation. From Council Members standpoint, this is a breach of contract with CSCMC and cause for termination.

David Heaton spoke with a representative from OIG by phone, Andrew Gardener. He was still conducting the investigation and still had to question more people. He does not expect to submit a report in the near future and could not provide a specific timeframe during our conversation. He was taking a much more serious approach to this investigation than CASTLE had represented to CSCMC staff.

Staff is recommending that CSCMC conduct an in-depth chart review for Safe Families' interests immediately. Client charts will be reviewed in depth by CSCMC staff. Council will determine whether corrective action or termination of the current contract for breach of terms is appropriate. The contract may continue to allow the service provision in anticipation of the OIG's summary report.

Commissioner Sarah Heard asked several questions regarding the investigation. OIG was notified by a contract employee of CASTLE in December 2016 or early 2017, as stated by a representative of CASTLE. The Board of CASTLE conducted their own internal investigation by hiring outside counsel for review of policies and procedures, which was very specific to Indian River County.

Brent Pierce, Human Resources Director of CASTLE, stated that in December 2016, CASTLE self-reviewed their own staff and dismissed the staff that fraudulently submitted travel forms and reports. In February 2017 OIG warranted starting its own investigation.

Laurel Hopper asked CASTLE representatives regarding the missed opportunity to notify other funders and what if any action was being taken. The CASTLE representative stated that other agencies were notified, and somehow CSCMC was overlooked and not notified of this investigation.

Council had a detailed discussion on this issue and questions were answered.

A motion was made by Hon. Judge Michael J. McNicholas and seconded by Sarah Heard to suspend any action on this matter pending outcome of OIG investigation report, direct CSCMC staff to conduct audit to review compliance in regard to existing contract, and for CASTLE to deliver the final OIG report within 72 hours of receiving that report.

Discussion among Council was whether or not funding should still be available to CASTLE. This would directly affect 120 families and 360 children in Martin County. The contract in place prohibits CSCMC from suspending any payments to CASTLE unless Council chooses to terminate the contract. Once the OIG report is completed how would CSCMC be notified to receive this report? It was stated that the report is Public Record and can be requested through the Freedom of Information Act. Board Members state that all previous discussion was specific to Council's contract with CASTLE to provide Safe Families Program.

The motion passed unanimously (7-0 vote).

B. 2017-18 Partnership Funding Recommendations

1. HPS, Helping People Succeed, Inc./Early Language and Literacy Initiative - \$25,000

A motion was made by Laurel Hopper and seconded by Sarah Heard to approve staff's recommendation for 2017-18 Applications for Partnership Funding request for HPS, Helping People Succeed, Inc./Early Language and Literacy Initiative for \$25,000. Funding is contingent on the hiring of Literacy Coordinator. The motion passed unanimously (7-0 vote).

2. SafeSpace, Inc./SafeSpace Prevention Program - \$25,000

A motion was made by Laurel Hopper and seconded by Christia Li Roberts to approve staff's recommendation for 2017-18 Application for Partnership Funding request for SafeSpace, Inc./SafeSpace Prevention Program for \$25,000. The motion passed unanimously (7-0 vote).

3. Jesus House of Hope, Inc. dba House of Hope/Gardening to Grow Healthy Children - \$25,000

A motion was made by Sarah Heard and seconded by Laurel Hopper to approve staff's recommendation for 2017-18 Application for Partnership Funding request for Jesus House of Hope, Inc. dba House of Hope/Gardening to Grow Healthy Children for \$25,000. The motion passed unanimously (7-0 vote).

4. Martin County Healthy Start Coalition, Inc./Father & Child Resource Center - \$25,000

A motion was made by Laurel Hopper and seconded by Sarah Heard to approve staff's recommendation for 2017-18 Application for Partnership Funding request for Martin County Healthy Start Coalition, Inc./Father & Child Resource Center for \$25,000. The motion passed unanimously (7-0 vote).

5. Exchange Club Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse of the Treasure Coast, Inc. (CASTLE) / Strengthening Families - \$10,000

Council had a detailed discussion on this issue and questions were answered.

A motion was made by Christia Li Roberts and seconded by Sarah Heard to approve staff's recommendation to put any funding on hold for the 2017-18 Application for Partnership Funding request for Exchange Club Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse of the Treasure Coast, Inc. (CASTLE) / Strengthening Families, \$10,000, until the Summary Report from the Florida Office of the Inspector General and the Review from the Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County are received and reviewed, and the findings indicate that funding is appropriate. The motion passed unanimously (7-0 vote).

Staff Reports:

- A. The Executive Director/Staff Report was presented by David Heaton.
- B. The CSCMC Financial Reports were provided by Genevieve Guido.

For Your Information:

Council reviewed the information provided, including the completed CSCMC Annual Report.

Council Member Comments:

Council discussed the change of date for November's Council Meeting.

As no further discussion existed, the meeting was adjourned by William Tulko (Chair) at 7:00 p.m.

William Tulko, Chair

David L. Heaton, Executive Director