

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL

MINUTES

September 17, 2026

In attendance at the meeting were Melisa Jahner - Chair, Pat McCoy, Bob McPartland, Debbie Gillis, Dylan Tedders, Michael Hazellief, William Wallace, Jessica Lea, Frank DeCarlo and Toni Wiersma- Executive Director

Absent: Alex Tijerina

Audience: Nicole King

Meeting called to order 5:30 pm

1) Welcome

Melisa Jahner welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2) Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

a) Melisa Jahner led the Pledge of Allegiance and Michael Hazellief led the Invocation.

3) Additions/Deletions- Approval of Agenda

- 1) A change to item 3b, the request is for \$14,320.02 Frank DeCarlo made a motion to approve the agenda as modified. Pat McCoy seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor.

4) Final Public Hearing on Proposed Budget and Millage Rate – Opened at 5:32 pm

- 1) Proposed Millage Rate - .3000. 6.84% change of Rollback rate
 - i) Toni Wiersma explained that our millage rate of .3000 has remained consistent over the past several years. Melisa Jahner asked input from the Board. There were no comments. She asked for comments from the public, there were none. Melisa Jahner read Resolution 27-01- Resolution Adopting Millage Rate into the record. Dylan Tedders made a motion for the millage rate to be .3000. Bob McPartlan seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor.
- 2) Proposed Budget 26-27
 - i) Toni Wiersma presented the following budget:

Projected Tax Roll	\$	5,348,370,152
95% Collections	\$	5,080,952,000

ESTIMATED REVENUE

BUDGET

Proposed Millage Rate	\$0.3000	\$	1,524,285
Interest Income		\$	34,000
Fund Balances/Reserves/Net Assets		\$	6,715

TOTAL SOURCES		\$	1,565,000
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EXPENDITURES

Advertising	\$	1,000
Agency Allocations	\$	750,000
Audit/Accounting	\$	20,000
Community Scholarships	\$	70,000
Contract Services	\$	36,000
Other Projects/Expenses	\$	20,000
Property Appraiser	\$	38,000
Special Projects	\$	300,000
Summer Projects	\$	300,000
Tax Collector	\$	30,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$	1,565,000

TOTAL APPROPRIATED EXPENDITURES

TRANSFERS, RESERVES, & BALANCES **\$ 1,565,000**

- i) Melisa Jahner asked input from the Board. There were no comments. She asked for comments from the public, there were none. Toni Wiersma noted that this was a 7.5 decrease from the previous year. Michael Hazellief noted that this was a balanced budget. All excess funds from previous years had been expended and this budget was based on total projected income. Melisa Jahner read Resolution 27-2 into the record. Pat McCoy made a motion to accept the proposed budget. Jessica Lea seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor.

The Final Public Hearing of the Children's Services Council of Okeechobee adjourned at 5:40

RESOLUTION 27-01

RESOLUTION ADOPTING MILLAGE RATE

A RESOLUTION OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE FINAL LEVYING OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF OCTOBER 1, 2026.

WHEREAS, the Children's Services Council of Okeechobee County, Okeechobee, Florida on September 17, 2026, adopted Fiscal Year Millage Rates following a public hearing as required by Florida Statutes 200.065.

WHEREAS, the Children's Services Council of Okeechobee County, Okeechobee, Florida held a public hearing as required by Florida Statutes 200.065; and

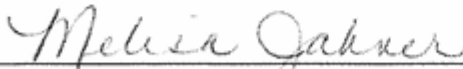
WHEREAS the gross taxable value for operating purposes not exempt from taxation within Okeechobee County has been certified by the County Property Appraiser to the Children's Services Council of Okeechobee County as \$5,348,370,152.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Children's Services Council of Okeechobee County, Okeechobee, Florida that:

1. The FY 2026-2027 operating millage rate is .3000 mills, which is greater than the rolled-back rate of 0.2808 by 6.84%.
2. The voted debt service millage is 0.
3. This resolution will take effect immediately upon its adoption.

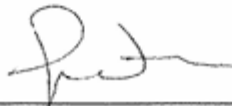
DULY ADOPTED at a public hearing this 17th Day of September 2026.

Time adopted 5:36 PM



Children's Services Council of Okeechobee County
Melisa Jahner, Chairman

ATTEST:



Dylan Tedders, Secretary

RESOLUTION 27-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027. PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF OCTOBER 1, 2026.

WHEREAS, the Children's Services Council of Okeechobee County, Okeechobee, Florida, on September 17, 2026, held a public hearing as required by Florida Statutes 200.065; and

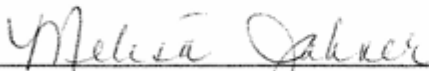
WHEREAS, the Children's Services Council of Okeechobee County, Okeechobee, Florida, set forth the appropriations and revenue estimate for the Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 in the amount of \$1,565,000.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Children's Services Council of Okeechobee County, Okeechobee, Florida, that:

1. The Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Final Budget is adopted.
2. This resolution will take effect immediately upon its adoption.

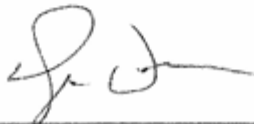
DULY ADOPTED, as a public hearing this 17 day of September 2025

Time adopted 5:39 PM.



Children's Services Council of Okeechobee County
Melisa Jahner, Chairman

ATTEST:



Dylan Tedders, Secretary

Regular Meeting of the Children's Services Council – September 3, 2026

1) Approval of Minutes: July 20, 2026

- a) Frank DeCarlo made a motion to approve the minutes. Pat McCoy seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor.

2) Final Approval of RFP's 2026-2027

Agency	Grant Title	Amount Requested 25-26	Funded 25-26	Amt. Requested	Amount Awarded
4-H	H2O Camp	\$ 31,600.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 39,000.00	\$39,000.00
4-H	Trek Through History	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$9,000.00
Big Brothers, Big Sisters	School-Based Mentoring	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Children's Home Society	Child Advocacy Center		\$ -	\$ 30,000.00	\$15,000.00
Children's Home Society	CINS/FINS	\$ 32,603.21	\$ 31,700.00	\$ 40,813.03	\$30,000.00
Ed Foundation	Future Ready Okeechobee	\$ 115,000.00	\$ 85,000.00	\$ 115,000.00	\$65,000.00
Ed Foundation	Start the Sprout		\$ -	\$ 69,000.00	\$69,000.00
Early Learning Coalition	Kick Start Literacy Grant		\$ -	\$ 11,185.00	11,000.00
Early Learning Coalition	Kindergarten Readiness	\$ 14,650.00	\$ 14,650.00	\$ 9,515.00	\$9,500.00
Economic Opportunities	Head Start	\$ 32,295.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$30,000.00
Elite Athletic Group SP	Cultural Awareness & Bullying		\$ 17,450.00	\$ 38,000.00	\$0.00
Florida Community Health	Pre-natal care SP		\$ 103,000.00	\$ 157,915.00	\$0.00
Healthy Start	Doula	\$ 27,000.00	\$ 27,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$35,000.00
Healthy Start	Transportation		\$ -	\$ 20,000.00	\$10,000.00
Helping People Succeed	Birth-5 System of Care	\$ 56,850.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 120,609.23	\$30,000.00
Helping People Succeed	Elevate Together		\$ -	\$ 26,462.50	\$20,000.00
Helping People Succeed	Healthy Families	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 47,590.40	\$47,500.00
Hibiscus Children's Center	Community Mental Health	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$30,000.00
IRSC	Expanding Horizons	\$ 22,126.00	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 21,939.00	\$22,000.00
Martha's House	Empowerment Prevention	\$ 73,840.00	\$ 73,000.00	\$ 73,840.00	\$60,000.00
New Horizons	Student Assistant Program	\$ 37,820.00	\$ 34,000.00	\$ 40,927.00	\$34,000.00
Our Village	Grief Support		\$ -	\$ 41,838.64	\$0.00
Our Village	Music and Movement SP		\$ 4,501.70	\$ 16,222.00	\$0.00
Our Village	Peer Support	\$ 209,131.36	\$ 45,650.00	\$ 68,178.00	\$45,000.00
Our Village	Restorative Practices		\$ -	\$ 26,621.20	\$0.00
Our Village	Rise Up Against Substance Abuse		\$ -	\$ 34,500.00	\$20,000.00
Our Village	Tutoring and Homework SP		\$ 10,000.00	\$ 29,846.00	\$10,000.00
Our Village	Uniquely Yours SP		\$ 34,615.78	\$ 20,339.00	\$0.00
OYLS	Livestock Show	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 24,000.00	\$24,000.00
Real Life Children's Ranch	House Parents	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$25,000.00
Tykes and Teens	School Based Counseling	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 80,000.00	\$55,000.00
					\$750,000.00
Total Requested				\$ 1,342,341.00	

3) Special Project Requests

a) Our Village – Teen Cert - \$5,975.00

- i) Leah Suarez was not able to attend the meeting. The meeting was tabled until October 8, 2026, meeting.

b) Our Village – Closet - \$14,320.02

- i) Leah Suarez was not able to attend the meeting. The meeting was tabled until October 8, 2026, meeting.

c) Okeechobee Children's Oral Health Access and Outreach project - \$15,000.00

- i) Nicole King, Executive Director of Little Lights Dentistry appeared before the Board to request funding for 30 additional kids to receive free dentistry service. Last year the office served 39 kids from Okeechobee. They are asking to expand to an additional 30 kids. The criterion for eligibility is that the child must be uninsured and at or below the 250% poverty level. The organization is partnering with Our Village and plans to have partnerships with Healthy Start and the Okeechobee Community Health Center. Pat McCoy made a motion to grant Little Lights Dentistry \$15,000.00. Bob McPartlan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

4) Public Discussion

There were no public comments

5) Open Discussion

- a) There wasn't any further discussion from the Board.

Next meeting date: Thursday, October 8, 2026, at 5:30 pm.

Pat McCoy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jessica Lea seconded the motion; the motion carried; all were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Wiersma

Toni Wiersma, Executive Director