

**Children's Services Council**  
**February 11, 2021**  
**Minutes**

The Children's Services Council's meeting of February 11, 2021 was called to order at 5:05 p.m., with the following members present: Ken Kenworthy, Bryant Culpepper, Melisa Jahner, Pat McCoy, Heather Hancock via Zoom, Bill Wallace via Zoom, Bob Partlan via Zoom and Cathleen Blair, Executive Director

Ken Kenworthy asked if there were any corrections or additions to the Agenda. Cathleen Blair added Okeechobee Educational Foundation request. Heather Hancock made a motion to approve, Pat McCoy seconded, all approved.

Kimberly Wojcieszak, OYLS, addressed the Council regarding her RFP for 2019-2020. She realized the OYLS committee had not requested funding and she has recently taken back the program and is requesting the funds that were spent in 2019-2020, but was not reimbursed. Ken Kenworthy asked how the grant monies were used. Kimberly indicated that it was used for the show and due to COVID they had to do on-line sales. She presented the updated budget and agreement. Bryant Culpepper said they made a human error and has no problem for reimbursing funds they spent for 2019-2020. Melisa Jahner made a motion to approve, Bryant Culpepper seconded, all approved for the \$18,000.00.

The Minutes of January 14, 2021 were presented for approval. Bob McPartlan made a motion to approve the Minutes as presented, Pat McCoy seconded, all approved.

Cathleen Blair presented the Financial Statement end January 31, 2021. Cathleen Blair indicated that we are close to receiving what was projected in property taxes. Pat McCoy made a motion to approve as presented, Melisa Jahner seconded, all approved.

Cathleen Blair discussed the RFP revisions for this coming year- really only changed is the dates items are due and that seven copies are needed. Cathleen Blair discussed not having a mandatory meeting as in the past. To make sure the agencies are reading the grant they are required to complete a RFP Knowledge Test and get a score of 80% or better. If they do not receive 80% she will bring the agency in and review the RFP with them. We still need people to volunteer to set on the Sub-committee to read the applications with the same scoring form. Bryant Culpepper made a motion to approve the RFP with changes, Melisa Jahner seconded, all approved.

Cathleen Blair informed the Council members about summer programs for 2020-2021. The only change on the application is a comment about how the agency will deal with the COVID requirements. Summer grants are due Tuesday, March 2, 2021. Pat McCoy made a motion to approve the application as presented, Melisa Jahner, all approved.

Leah Suarez, Director of Our Village Okeechobee had made a special request for the Council to approve a Special Project in the amount of \$50,000.00 for assistance in purchasing land for the final outcome of building a children's museum. The Council denied the request in the January meeting, because we provide services to the children of Okeechobee and do not purchase land. Leah Suarez was present, along with Magi Cable to address the Council. Leah Suarez wanted it on record that she was not happy with the Council's decision to deny funding and wanted to know why she was funded. Ken Kenworthy discussed the issue of purchase of land and stated that the Council's goal was

to provide services to children and that the Council had discussed we would purchase supplies for programs once the museum was built.

Marcel Richardson and Tarrance Pryor presented to the Council regarding Chobee Bulls request for \$15,000. Tarrance stated that with previous funds equipment had been purchased; however, had been well used. They currently have children on hold to see if they are approved for the funds for equipment. Pat McCoy questioned about the equipment. Cathleen Blair stated that equipment cannot be purchased that is over \$750. Pat McCoy suggested a sponsorship for each child in the program that would help with purchasing of equipment. Melisa Jahner asked for a break-down of their needs. Tarrance gave a list, which included supplies and a foot-ball sleigh. Since the sleigh cost over \$5,000, CSC cannot approve that amount. Bryant Culpepper suggested contacting colleges to maybe donate old equipment, such as the sleigh. Pat McCoy made a motion to award Chobee Bulls \$23,000, Melisa Jahner seconded, all approved. Denise Whitehead of Okeechobee Educational Foundation and the Director of OCRA thanked the Council for funding the Bulls.

Denise Whitehead of Okeechobee Educational Foundation introduced Mary Hurley and Erin Moore. Erin addressed the Council and introduced the Strategic Plan for Okeechobee Educational Foundation. They are requesting \$50,000 for assistance in the salary for an Executive Director. Ken Kenworthy indicated that the Foundation have their own 501c3 and would be employed by the Okeechobee Educational Foundation. Pat McCoy made a motion to award \$50,000, Bryant Culpepper seconded, all approved.

Cathleen Blair presented a Special Request from the Guardian of the New Futures. Melisa Jahner made to a motion to sponsor the Guardians Open House in the amount of \$500, Bryant Culpepper seconded, all approved.

Cathleen Blair presented to the Council the following agencies that requested additional funding for 2020-2021:

4-H H20	\$3,500.00
4-H Blast to the Past	\$3,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters	\$900.00
Hibiscus Children's Center	\$10,000.00
IRSC	\$10,000.00
Martha's House	\$5,000.00
My Aunt's House	\$8,600.00
New Horizon's	\$5,184.00
Okeechobee Educational Foundation	\$15,000.00
Martial Arts	\$5,000.00
Tykes & Teens	\$10,000.00

Melisa Jahner made a motion to approve the above agencies for additional funding, Bryant Culpepper seconded, all approved, with Amanda Riedel, Heather Hancock, Pat McCoy and Ken Kenworthy abstaining.

As there was no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.