

Children's Services Council
January 14, 2021
Minutes

The Children's Services Council's meeting of January 14, 2021 was called to order at 5:05 p.m ,in the Freshman Campus Auditorium with the following members present: Ken Kenworthy, Melisa Jahner, Bryant Culpepper, Pat McCoy, via ZOOM; Bob Partlan, via ZOOM; Bill Wallace, via ZOOM; Heather Hancock, via ZOOM; and Cathleen Blair, Executive Director.

Ken Kenworthy asked if there were any corrections or additions to the Agenda. Cathleen Blair stated that the following needed to be added to the Agenda:

- 9a. Special Project – Okeechobee Educational Foundation \$3,000.00
Special Project – OCRA – Okeechobee Bulls \$15,000.00
- 9b. Wicks, Brown, Williams & Co. – Engagement Letter - \$9,645.99

Heather Hancock made a recommendation to approve the Agenda additions, Melisa Jahner seconded, all approved.

Ken Kenworthy introduced Bryant Culpepper as the new member of the Children's Services Council of Okeechobee representing the County Commissioners of Okeechobee. The Council members welcomed him to the Council and said they were looking forward to him being on the Council.

The Minutes of November 12, 2020 were presented for approval. Bob Partlan made a motion to approve the Minutes as presented, Melisa Jahner seconded, all approved.

Cathleen Blair presented the Financial Statement. She presented the following Financial Statements for approval:

- November, 2020 – Melisa Jahner made a motion to approve as presented, Bill Wallace seconded, all approved.
- December, 2020 – Melisa Jahner made a motion to approve as presented, Bill Wallace seconded, all approved. Cathleen Blair stated there is greater tax revenue due to the FPL court decision.

Leah Suarez of Our Village Okeechobee had requested to be on the Agenda, She is not in attendance. A discussion was held regarding her request for \$50,000 for land that will eventually be a Children's Museum. The Council indicated we need to discuss with Mrs. Suarez that CSC will assist once the museum is built but we do not buy land.

Cathleen Blair informed the Council that it is time to elect officers for 2021-2022 fiscal year. Bill Wallace made a motion to reelect Ken Kenworthy as Chairperson, Melisa Jahner seconded, all approved. Bill Wallace made a motion to reelect Melisa Jahner as Vice Chairperson, Heather Hancock seconded, all approved. Melisa Jahner made a motion to reelect Wendy Coker as Secretary/Treasurer, Bryant Culpepper seconded, all approved.

Ken Kenworthy approached the Council regarding the Time/Date/Place of the meetings for 2021-2022 year. Bryant Culpepper made a motion to continue having the meetings

the second Thursday of each month at 5:00 p.m., at 700 S.W. 2nd Avenue, Room 303, Okeechobee, Florida; Melisa Jahner seconded, all approved.

Cathleen Blair requested approval from the Council to make a budget amendment to the 2020-2021 Children's Services Council budget. A budget line was set up for Economical Needy Project in the amount \$150,000.00. These funds were setup for possible hot spots within the county for students during the pandemic for virtual school. At this time, the hot spots are not needed. Cathleen Blair would like to move the \$150,000.00 over to the Agency Allocations line. Cathleen Blair suggested that the Council would ask the agencies that have already received funding through the RFP grants for 2020-2021, write another goal and objective page to add funding to their already existing program. A discussion was held whether the funds should also be available to Special Projects but the Council was in agreement to offer only to agency allocations funding and maybe at a later time open the funds up to Special Projects. Melisa Jahner made a motion to approve the \$150,000.00 to agency allocations, Bryant Culpepper seconded, all approved. Cathleen Blair will send out letters to the agencies and forms to complete the request.

Cathleen Blair informed the Council that Okeechobee Educational Foundation requested \$3,000.00 to purchase materials, criminal background checks and supplies for the implementation of a new mentoring program titled Building Uniquely Diverse and Dynamic Youth (B.U.D.D.Y.). The Check and Connect Program will be used to help them assist students who need more individualized supports. Melisa Jahner made a motion to approve for \$3,000.00, Bill Wallace Seconded, all approved.

Cathleen Blair presented the Special Project request in the amount of \$15,000.00 from OCRA – Okeechobee Bulls Youth Athletic League. They are requesting funding for equipment such as helmets, shoulder pads, footballs, water kegs and bottles, uniforms, etc. Cathleen Blair reminded the Council that the Council funded them \$7,000.00 in the summer for equipment. Melisa Jahner suggested they attend our meeting in February to discuss the request and bring a budget. Cathleen Blair will call Terrance Pryor and invite him to the meeting.

Cathleen Blair presented the Wicks, Brown, and Williams Engagement letter for the year ending September 30, 2020 audit in the amount of \$9,645.00. Bill Wallace made a motion to approve, Melisa Jahner Seconded, all approved.

Bryant Culpepper questioned if the Children's Services Council could fund to have a pool in at Real Life Children's Ranch for the children. Cathleen Blair explained to him that the funds could not be used for pools.

Cathleen Blair presented the Children's Services Council By-Laws for updated signatures from the Council member. Heather Hancock made a motion to approve, Bryant Culpepper seconded, all approved.

As there was no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.