

**Children's Services Council  
Minutes  
November 18, 2021**

The Children's Services Council's meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m. The following members were present: Ken Kenworthy, Amanda Riedel, Melisa Jahner, William Wallace and Cathleen Blair, Executive Director. Robert McPartlan and Heather Hancock were present via ZOOM.

Ken Kenworthy presented the Minutes of September 27, 2021 for approval. Melisa Jahner made a motion to approve, Amanda Riedel seconded, all approved.

Cathleen Blair presented the Financial Statement ending September 2021. Heather Hancock made a motion to approve as presented, Amanda Riedel seconded, all approved.

Cathleen Blair presented the Financial Statement ending October 2021. Heather Hancock made a motion to approve as presented, Amanda Riedel seconded, all approved.

Ken Kenworthy had Council members to review the monitors for agencies for 2021-2022. A discussion was had that each monitor would keep the agencies they monitored 2020-2021. Melisa Jahner made a motion to approve, Heather Hancock seconded, all approved,

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|------------------------------|-----------------|
| • Area Agency on Aging       | Ken Kenworthy   |
| • Big Brothers Big Sisters   | Melisa Jahner   |
| • Early Learning Coalition   | Cathleen Blair  |
| • Helping People Succeed     | William Wallace |
| • Hibiscus Children's Center | Ken Kenworthy   |
| • IRSC                       | Heather Hancock |
| • Martha's House             | Pat McCoy       |
| • My Aunt's House            | Ken Kenworthy   |

- New Horizons of the Treasure Coast Melisa Jahner
- Okeechobee Extension – Blast to the Past Heather Hancock
- Okeechobee Extension – Farm-to-Plate William Wallace
- Okeechobee Extension – H2O Cathleen Blair
- Okeechobee Extension – Horse Camp Amanda Riedel
- Okeechobee Youth Livestock Amanda Riedel
- Real Life Children’s Ranch Heather Hancock
- Tykes & Teens Pat McCoy

Ruben Guerrero from Okeechobee Dirt Bags presented his request of \$20,000.00 with the help of Melanie Flaherty to New York (Cooperstown). The total cost of the trip is estimated at \$36,598.00. Amanda Riedel asked if this was for a tournament and can anyone sign up. She also wanted to know if it is for just twelve year olds. Ruben responded that trip is planned for July 4- 10, 2022. Kids stay together with their coaches, the entry fee covers food, tickets to Hall of Fame, several games and food. Ken Kenworth let Ruben know we cannot pay for any parents’ lodging. Cathleen Blair asked if fundraisers were being held. Ken Kenworthy felt in the past we supported teams that had won the right to attend an out-of-state event. Ruben indicated this trip was not a required trip, he wanted kids to experience Cooperstown and reminded the Council that the twelve year had won the World Series. He needs funding March 1, 2022 and they would be playing a minimum of six games, max of nine games with teams from all over the U.S. Ken Kenworthy recommend below 50% of what they requested. Melisa Jahner suggested we wait and see how fundraisers go. Melanie Flaherty afraid if they don’t get funding they will not be able to attend. Amanda Riedel suggested we pay all players entry fee for twelve players for the total of \$15,600.00. She also suggested a CSC patch to put on the uniforms and Ruben Guerrero agreed. Amanda Riedel made a motion to approve the above amount, William Wallace seconded, all approved.

Cathleen Blair presented The Guardians for New Futures requested gift cards in the amount of \$2,500.00 for teens at Christmas. Amanda Riedel made a motion to approve the above amount, Melisa Jahner seconded, all approved.

April Butler, President of Ag Venture, discussed the two day Ag Venture Special Project Request. Approximately 500 children attend and learn how agriculture gives them the food they eat. The students learn something at each station and receive a backpack to put their information in. Melisa Jahner made a motion to approve \$4,500.00, William Wallace seconded, all approved.

Okeechobee Health and Safety Expo requested \$3,000.00. William Wallace called Donny Arnold to make sure our money was going to be used for door prizes. Melisa Jahner made a motion to approve the above amount, Amanda Riedel seconded, all approved.

Caroline Vinyard, GFNF, was at the meeting to discuss the need for our district to have one place with any agency that dealt with child abuse. The child would be taken care of at that one place, which would be known as Children's Advocacy Center. We also need a Victim Advocate for families in Okeechobee. Debbie Butler, President of GFNF, requested any information that would fit into our Special Project requests. Amanda Riedel requested that a local person be hired for Okeechobee. Ken Kenworthy asked Caroline to come back to the Council with a plan, indicating salaries, travel, and specifics of what that person would do. Caroline indicated the building would be completed by Feb 2022. Ken requested we table the request and bring a request to the next meeting.

Ken Kenworthy brought up that one of our council members questioned our procedures about voting for Special Project requests. William Wallace suggested talking to our auditor or Tom Conley. Heather Hancock suggested Cathleen Blair contact other Children's Services Council Councils of other counties how their council handles approving requests that is needed before a meeting. Amanda Riedel made a motion to table until January 13, 2022 meeting.

Cathleen Blair informed Ken Kenworthy that the Educational Foundation has no RFP for the PEP program. Ken stated he would contact Andrea; he is not sure if they want to ask for money this year.

As there was no more business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m. A meeting in December will not be held, with the next meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 13, 2022.