

Children's Services Council Minutes

June 27, 2023

Members Present- Ken Kenworthy, Judge Bill Wallace, Bob Mc Partlan, Heather Hancock, Wendy Coker, Melisa Jahner

Excused- Pat McCoy, Frank DeCarlo

Staff: Cathleen Blair, Cheryl Sutton

Guests: Leah Suarez, Chaka Smith, Joy Prescott, Morgan Hancock, Laci Prescott, Barbara Hegarty and Cassidy Medellin

Meeting was called to order at 5:08 p.m. By Ken Kenworthy. He asked Cathleen Blair if any additions or deletions to the agenda; there were none.

Cathleen Blair asked the two scholarship winners, Morgan and Laci to come up and introduce themselves to the Council members and tell them how they will be using the scholarship funds.

Ken Kenworthy asked the Council for approval of the minutes from the April 13th meeting. Cathleen Blair made one correction to Okeechobee County Fair. Bob Mc Partlan made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction, Melisa Jahner, seconded, all approved.

Cathleen Blair had the Council members, review the Financial Statement for April. Melisa Jahner made a motion to approve as presented, Bob McPartlan, seconded, all approved. They then reviewed the May Financial statements, Melisa Jahner made the motion to approve as presented, Wendy Coker, seconded, all approved.

Cathleen Blair reviewed the Audit for the year 2022 recently completed by Wicks, Brown and Williams. She referred to page 28. A management letter will need to be written after the Auditor General reviews the Audit as it details there was the same error three years in a row. When writing the checks, the Bookkeeper, takes the check from the right agency, however, the wrong category. Ken Kenworthy suggested a sub-committee review all the checks, monthly, to determine if the checks were in the right category. Bill Wallace suggested that the Council approach Wicks, Brown and Williams to review the checks monthly. Ken Kenworthy said the Council would ask the auditor, as we don't want the problem to continue. Melisa Jahner made the motion to approve the audit, Bob McPartlan Seconded, all approved.

Cathleen Blair shared the sub-committee's recommendations for the RFP's for 2024. The agencies requested \$642,966.84. The sub-committee approved \$493, 480.00. Bill Wallace abstained from voting for Martha's House and New Horizons; Ken Kenworthy abstained from approving Tykes and Teens and Okeechobee Educational Foundation. Bob McPartlan made a motion to approve the Sub-committee's recommendation, Wendy Coker, seconded, all approved with the abstaining recommendations.

Okeechobee Rodeo Youth with Barb Hegerty gave each member a picture of all the rodeo team in a beautiful frame. Two teens thanked the Council for helping them with registration fees and travel fees. Barbara Hegarty asked if she could use the remaining funds to help the students get to National Rodeos throughout the United States. Melisa Jahner made the motion to approve her request, Wendy Coker Seconded, all approved.

Chaka Smith requested the Council award him the entire amount he requested for the summer program. He only received approximately half of what he asked for. Ken Kenworthy asked Cathleen Blair, why the summer sub-committee only recommended half. Cathleen Blair reminded the Council that Chaka Smith had not received funds for the last two years as he had had problems in the past in getting paperwork and audits completed on time; however, the sub-committee felt it was time to give Chaka Smith a second chance, but not give him the full amount. Melisa Jahner made a motion to deny the full amount and continue with the amount that was approved previously, Bob McPartlan seconded, all approved with Wendy Coker abstaining.

The Chobee Elite Volleyball ask for a Special Project in the amount of \$15,000.00. Melisa Jahner made a motion to approve \$15,000.00, Wendy Coker seconded, all approved.

The request from Chobee Volleyball Academy was tabled until the next meeting. We are requesting the leader attend to explain the confusion regarding the members on the two teams. Bill Wallace made the motion and Wendy Coker, seconded, all approved.

Our Village requested a Special Project in the amount of \$5,000.00 for back to school supplies. Melisa Jahner made the motion to give them \$10,000.00 due to the great need in our community, Bill Wallace seconded, all approved.

Our Village presented the request for Restorative Practice Training for the amount of \$27,500.00. Bill Wallace made the motion to approve \$27,500.00. Wendy Coker, seconded, all approved.

211 requested \$2,000.00 for a Special Project for 2023-24. Melisa Jahner made a motion to approve, Bob McPartlan, seconded, all approved.

Guardians for the New Future asked for \$500.00 to be a Sponsor for their Summit in September. Bob Mc Partlan made motion to approve, Melisa Jahner seconded, all approved.

Cathleen Blair said we needed a new monitor for GFNF as she is on their Board. Bob McPartlan said he would take it over.

Chaka Smith questioned the Council on the amount you need for a full audit, he will get a copy of the By-Laws that will explain the audit requests.

Next meeting will be July 13th in Room 101 in the School Board Building at 5:00 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:45 p.m.