CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL

MINUTES

July 10, 2025

In attendance for the meeting were Melisa Jahner – Chair, Frank DeCarlo, Dylan Tedders, Debbie Gillis, Michael Hazellief, Bill Wallace and Toni Wiersma- Executive Director

Absent: Pat McCoy and Jessica Lea

Audience: Cindy Kemp, Caryn Toole, Leah Suarez, Michal Kent, Melanie Rathburn, Heath Lawrence, Jessie Ferrell, Cristian Suarez, Dayanara Jimenez, Lizbeth Soriano, Jessica Mosely, Gerardo Saucedo, Mary O'Neal, Maria Oliverez, Amanda Riedel, Veronica Gilcrest, Brayan Marquez, Vanessa Villapando

2) Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

i. Melisa Jahner led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the Invocation.

3) Additions/Deletions- Approval of Agenda

(1) Move item 9 to item 7
(2) 7a – OCRA requesting to reallocate funds from Special Project
(3) 7b – Forward Bound Youth Services – Destination for Greatness Camp – reallocation of summer camp funds.

a) Bob McPartlan made a motion to accept the agenda with the additions. Dylan Tedders seconded the motion. Michael Hazellief was absent from the vote. The motion carried; all were in favor.

4) Approval of Minutes: June 19, 2025

a) Bob McPartlan made a motion to approve the minutes. Dylan Tedders seconded the motion. Michael Hazellief was absent from the vote. The motion carried; all were in favor.

5) Approval of Financial Statements:

a) Financial Statement– October 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

i) Mrs. Wiersma presented the financial statement:

(1) INCOME
- Total Income - $1,348,847.04

(2) GROSS PROFIT - $1,348,847.04

(3) EXPENSES
- Administration - $76,920.08
- Program Services – Agencies – RFP - $399,053.78
- Community Scholarships - $68,500.00
- Summer Projects - $188,526.15
- Special Projects - $336,648.13
- **TOTAL EXPENSES - $1,069,648.14**

(4) NET INCOME - $279,338.90

(5) CURRENT ASSETS
- SouthState Checking - $850,223.67
- CD –$948,394.46
- **Total Bank Accounts - $1,798,853.32**

(6) FIXED ASSETS

- Equipment - $1926.00
- Accumulated depreciation - $(1,690.81)
- TOTAL FIXED ASSETS - $235.19

(7) TOTAL ASSETS - $1,798,853.32

(8) LIABILITIES

- Total Current Liabilities -
- Total Equity - $1,798,853.32

(9) TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY - $1,798,853.32

ii) Toni Wiersma also presented the Profit-Loss for the Fiscal Year October 2024 – June 2025. Toni Wiersma advised the Board that the money allocated to Special Projects was $434,654.95 leaving a balance of $ 15, 345.05. The anticipated outstanding obligations are $595,562.33 for the remainder of the fiscal year.

iii) Michael Hazellief made a motion to accept the financial reports. Frank DeCarlo seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor.

6) Special Project Requests

a) **FCA – Feeding football players before games - $675.00**

i) Heath Lawrence appeared before the Board to request funds to feed the JV and Varsity football teams a meal before the game in August and September. FCA had the same project last year and was very successful. Michael Hazellief made a motion to grant FCA $675.00 to cover the months of August and September. Frank DeCarlo seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor.

7) Request to Address the Board regarding RFP 2025-2026 – Our Village

i) Michal Kent addressed the Board stating that the program at Our Village was changing lives. Leah Suarez helped to change her life and to please fund the program. She stated that without the program, many lives in Okeechobee would be affected.

ii) Gianna Dames addressed the Board stating that she had moved here in 2023 and did community service at Our Village. This had a good impact on her life and helped to lead her in the right direction. She now has earned her CNA license.

iii) Melanie Rathburn addressed the Board stating that she was the therapist at Central Elementary School. She began in January. She is the lead peer support teacher. Her approach with her students is to build a relationship with them. She sees some of them both at school and at Our Village. She meets children where they are to be able to help them. She is trained in traumatic informed care. She meets the children where they are. She values the work of peer support at Our Village.

iv) Jessica Mosely addressed the Board stating that she wrote the grant and it is very difficult to fit their program at Our Village in our box. They are a round peg trying to fit into a square hole. Everything at Our Village is interconnected. They must turn in reports to SBBEN. She came to Our Village and was broken and began working at Our Village. She is now achieving her master's degree. The program is very valuable to the community.

v) Leah Suarez addressed the Board stating that the people that had spoken told the value of the program and story better than she could state the story. For this presentation she has tried to quarter off the services at Our Village, but they are all intermingled because it is system work. What she is asking for with this request of $99,000.00 is to fund a peer support person full-time at

Osceola Middle School and one person that will float between the other schools. She referred to the decrease in discipline referrals at Yearling Middle School where 30 students were served.

vi) Caryn Toole, member of the RFP committee, addressed the Board stating that after reading the grant application there were many questions and the committee was very confused, even after interviewing Leah and giving her a second chance to rewrite the grant. Many hours were spent deliberating over this grant application. She has been a member of the RFP committee and for the last three years has had the same exact questions. She stated that CSC funds programs, not agencies. She stated that there is no doubt that Our Village does good work, but the committee must decide on what is written in the application. She questioned whether there was a finance committee and what the oversight of the directors of the organization was.

vii) Vanessa Villapando addressed the Board and stated that she was on the Board. She stated that Our Village is very much needed in the community.

viii) Dylan Tedders, CSC Board member, stated that Leah knew what she needed to do and that she could figure out how to fit her program into our application. He also stated that the organization needs to mature.

ix) Bill Wallace, a CSC Board member, stated that we know the good of the organization and from a judicial perspective, the services that are offered are needed.

x) The board requested that Leah provide copies of 990's and audits. Frank DeCarlo made a motion saying that we fund the RFP for $45,650.00 for the 25-26 fiscal year. Michael Hazellief seconded the motion. There were five votes in favor of the motion with Debbie Gillis voting no. The motion passed.

xi) Dylan Tedders stated that if the committee next year recommended no funding that there would not be this debated.

b) **OCRA request to reallocate fund from Special Project**

i) Cindy Kemp appeared before the Board to request that a portion of the $44,600.00 that was allocated to host the State Tournament be reallocated to provide funds for three teams that won the State Tournament, to be able to attend the World Series Tournaments. Receipts were turned in for $22,300.00 for hosting the State Tournament, leaving $22,300.00 that could be used to send the three teams to the World Series. The money will be split equally between the three teams. Dylan Tedders made a motion to reallocate the funds for travel to the World Series. Bill Wallace seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor. Frank DeCarlo was absent from the vote.

c) **Destination for Greatness Summer Camp reallocate funds for a Back to School Project**

i) Kissy Boswell submitted a written request to reallocate the funds given for a summer camp to a back-to-school event. She did not have a summer camp, and she was given $4,000.00 as a startup for the summer camp. She has not turned in any receipts for the $4,000.00. After much discussion, Bill Wallace made a motion to allow her to use the $4,000 that she previously received for summer camp to be used for the Back-to-School event. Dylan Tedders seconded the motion. The vote was 5-1 with Michael Hazellief voting no. The motion passed. Frank DeCarlo was absent from the vote.

8) Setting Millage Rate and Tentative Budget for 25-26.

a) The Board presented three possible millage rates for the 25-26 fiscal year. The three presented were to have a millage rate of .3000, .2900, and .2800. Michael made a motion that the millage rate be set at

.3000, the same as it has been for the last several years. Dylan Tedders seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor. Frank DeCarlo was absent from the vote.

b) The board accepted the tentative budget for the millage rate of .3000. Bill Wallace made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Bob McPartlan seconded the motion. The vote was 5-1 with Michael Hazellief voting no. The motion passed. Frank DeCarlo was absent from the vote.

9) Setting meeting dates for 1st Public Hearing and Final Hearing Dates

a) Toni Wiersma explained the procedure that must be followed to set these dates. The dates must be scheduled around the School Board dates and the Board of County Commission dates. Also, the date that our local newspaper is printed on also has to be taken into consideration. The two possible dates were 1st hearing to be September 4th with the Final hearing on September 15th. The other possibility was September 18th for the 1st public hearing and September 29th for the Final hearing. The Board decided on September 4th and September 15th if the three members that were absent could meet on those dates. Toni Wiersma will check with the other members.

10) Public Comments

a) Caryn Toole addressed the Board and thanked them for the opportunity to serve on the RFP committee. She stated that Toni Wiersma was doing a professional job and was trying to move the organization to the next level.

11) Open Discussion:

a) There will not be a meeting in August.
b) Follow and like our Facebook page
c) CD maturing at South State Bank on July 12th. South State Bank will renew the certificate at 4.0%. This is .5% higher than their normal rate for a 5-month CD. Michael Hazellief made a motion to renew the certificate at South State Bank for the 5-month rate. Dylan Tedders seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Melisa Jahner abstaining. Frank DeCarlo was absent from the vote.

12) Next Meeting Date: September 4, 2025

Dylan Tedders made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm. Bill Wallace seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Wiersma
Toni Wiersma, Executive Director