

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL

## MINUTES

January 15, 2026

In attendance at the meeting were Melisa Jahner - Chair, Debbie Gillis, Michael Hazellief, Jessica Lea, Frank DeCarlo, Dylan Tedders, Bob McPartlan, William Wallace, Alex Tijerina and Toni Wiersma- Executive Director

Absent: Pat McCoy

Audience: Melinda Wherrell and Mandi Vuleta

### 1) Meeting called to order 5:30 pm

### 2) Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

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

### 3) Additions/Deletions- Approval of Agenda

- i) Toni Wiersma deleted item 7a – Special Project – Okeechobee Bulls
- a) Frank DeCarlo made a motion to accept the agenda with the deletion of Item 7a. Bob McPartlan seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor.

### 4) Approval of Minutes: December 11, 2025

- a) Frank DeCarlo made a motion to approve the minutes. Michael Hazellief seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor.

### 5) Approval of Financial Statements:

- a) Financial Statement – October 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025

- i) Mrs. Wiersma presented the financial statement:

#### (1) INCOME

- Total Income - \$1,203,372.85

#### (2) GROSS PROFIT - \$1,203,372.85

#### (3) EXPENSES

- Administration - \$36,896.53
- Program Services – Agencies – RFP - \$61,373.16
- Community Scholarships - \$0.00
- Summer Projects - \$0.00
- Special Projects - \$107,524.23
- **TOTAL EXPENSES - \$119,402.09**

#### (4) NET INCOME - \$205,793.92

#### (5) CURRENT ASSETS

- SouthState Checking - \$982,626.60
- CD 6398–\$517,754.66
- CD 4852 – 450,613.41
- Money Market – 279,400.062
- **Total Bank Accounts - \$2,230,395.29**

**(6) FIXED ASSETS**

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

**(7) TOTAL ASSETS - \$2,230,736.46**

**(8) LIABILITIES**

- Total Current Liabilities - -6505.27
- Total Equity - \$2,237,241.73

**(9) TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY - \$2,230,736.46**

- ii) Toni Wiersma presented the Profit-Loss for the Fiscal Year October 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025. She also shared the Budget vs. Actual expenses for 25-26. Toni Wiersma added to the Budget vs. Actual the actual amount allocated in each of the funded areas.
- iii) Michael Hazellief made a motion to accept the financial reports. Dylan Tedders seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor.

**6) Election of Officers for 2026**

- a) The meeting was turned over to Toni Wiersma for election of Chairperson. Melisa Jahner was nominated as Chairperson. Melisa Jahner accepted the nomination. Dylan Tedders made a motion to accept Melisa Jahner as Chairperson for 2026. Frank DeCarlo seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor.
- b) The meeting was turned back over to the chair for nominations for Vice-Chair. Pat McCoy was nominated as Vice-Chair. Dylan Tedders made a motion to accept Pat McCoy as Vice-Chair. Bill Wallace seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor.
- c) A nomination was made for Dylan Tedders to serve as Secretary/Treasurer. Dylan Tedders accepted the nomination. Frank DeCarlo made a motion to accept Dylan Tedders as Secretary/Treasurer. Michael Hazellief seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor.

**7) Special Project Request**

- a) **Prosper Noggin - \$19,100.00**
  - i) Melinda Wherrell appeared before the Board to request funding for four special projects.
    - (1) Garden STEAM Project - \$3,800. The idea is for students to help design, plant and maintain a small "Food Forest". The idea is to plant food and then share with the community.
    - (2) Inclusive Sports and Red-Carpet Outreach (Tennis for Fun and Night to Shine – 1,225.00. This project is designed to help Special Education students. Prosper Noggin students will meet weekly with Special Olympic students and play tennis with them. The Red-Carpet outreach is designed to reach out and give Special Needs students a special night out.
    - (3) Brain-Body Connection Workshops and Training - \$3,325.00. This program will offer a workshop focused on retained reflexes and simple movement-based support for children who struggle with motor coordination, self-regulation, or daily functioning tasks. This will be open to the public.
    - (4) Tutoring, Workshop and Tuition Scholarships - \$10,750.00. This project will provide need-based tutoring and tuition scholarships for approximately 20-25 students who cannot afford academic support or who do not qualify for state scholarship programs.

- ii) Dylan Tedders made a motion to fund the projects for \$19,100.00. Michael Hazellief seconded the motion. The motion carried. Alex Tijerina abstained from the vote.

## **8) Scholarship Requirements**

- i) The Scholarship form has been sent to Melanie Talbert, scholarship coordinator at Okeechobee High School. The requirements for our scholarships include:
  - (1) OHS Student
  - (2) GPA  $\geq$  3.0
  - (3) ACT/SAT/CPT scores required
  - (4) Financial Need
  - (5) Community Service Requirement
  - (6) One page essay – “How you anticipate your working with children will change the lives of children”.
- ii) Alex Tijerina agreed to serve on the Scholarship Committee
- iii) Jessica Lea agreed to serve on the Summer Program Committee
- iv) Debbie Gillis agreed to serve on the RFP committee

## **9) Scheduling Workshop**

- i) The decision was made to have our workshop on January 22, 2026, at 5:30 pm in the Okeechobee County School Board offices, room 302.

## **10) Public Comment**

- i) There were no comments

## **11) Open Discussion**

- i) Tykes and Teens gala on February 20, 2026, in Stuart, Florida
- ii) Bill Wallace discussed that the Rodeo team was requesting that he and Toni Wiersma would come to their Board meeting to discuss funding. The Board recommended that the members come to the regular board meeting of the Children’s Services Council.

## **Next Meeting Date: February 12, 2026**

**Debbie Gillis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 pm. Dylan Tedders seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion carried.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Toni Wiersma**

**Toni Wiersma, Executive Director**