

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL

## MINUTES

February 12, 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: Leah Suarez, Marcel Richardson, Manuel Sanchez, Jasmine Mora, Damams Olivera, Amanda Julian, Mallorie Thomas, Katie Veloz, Angela Boney, Delvin Louis, Corleigh Stephen, Brandy Stephan, Reese Stokes, Leslie Stokes and Joe Snowberger

### 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 added item 6a – Rodeo Club of Okeechobee presentation
- a) Bill Wallace made a motion to accept the agenda with the addition of 6a. Frank DeCarlo seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor.

### 4) Approval of Minutes: January 16, 2026

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

### 5) Approval of Financial Statements:

- a) Financial Statement – October 1, 2025 – January 31, 2026

- i) Mrs. Wiersma presented the financial statement:

#### (1) INCOME

- Total Income - \$1,261,981.91

#### (2) GROSS PROFIT - \$1,261,981.91

#### (3) EXPENSES

- Administration - \$53043.46
- Program Services – Agencies – RFP - \$106,603.97
- Community Scholarships - \$0.00
- Summer Projects - \$0.00
- Special Projects - \$114,626.15
- **TOTAL EXPENSES - \$274,273.58**

#### (4) NET INCOME - \$987,708.33

#### (5) CURRENT ASSETS

- SouthState Checking - \$468,253.34
- CD 6398–\$519,416.87
- CD 4852 – 452,144.26

- Money Market – 780,710.22
- **Total Bank Accounts - \$2,220,524.69**

**(6) FIXED ASSETS**

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

**(7) TOTAL ASSETS - \$2,220,865.86**

**(8) LIABILITIES**

- Total Current Liabilities - -6505.27
- Total Equity - \$2,227,371.13

**(9) TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY - \$2,220,865.86**

- ii) Toni Wiersma presented the Profit-Loss for the Fiscal Year October 1, 2025 – January 31,2026. 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. Jessica Lea seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor.

**6) Presentation by Leah Suarez – Our Village**

Leah Suarez appeared before the board to inform the Board of all the programs that are at Our Village. One of the emphases at Our Village is Collective Collaboration. This is a gap filler for the community. The idea is that it can be a wrap around service and partner with many organizations. Our Village has had a great impact in the community over the last ten years. Where a need is perceived in the community, Our Village tries to find a program that will help with the need. The motto is “A hand up, not a handout”. Leah thanked the Board for their support.

**6a. Presentation by the Okeechobee Rodeo Team**

Angela Boney and members of the Rodeo Team appeared before the Board to discuss their accomplishments so far this year and to thank the Board for their support. The team has completed several fund-raising projects and also community service activities. Four of the team have received full ride scholarships for rodeoing. The students are Dalia Espinoza, JW Burkett, Reese Stokes, and Leo Boney. Bill Wallace, the monitor for the program, complimented the team on their accomplishments so far this year. He appreciated them listening to suggestions and acting upon those suggestions.

**7) Review and approval of Special Project guidelines**

The proposed guidelines that were discussed at the workshop were reviewed and there was an amendment to the guidelines. A statement referring to Florida Statue 90.601 regarding felony charges. The Board will require background checks on all people that will be dealing with students. It will be required that the organization requesting funds sign an affidavit stating that background checks have been performed and if a felony appears in the background check, that information must be presented to the Board. Michael Hazellief made a motion to approve the guidelines as amended. Bob McPartlan seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor.

Michael Hazellief made a motion that the guidelines take effect immediately. Jessica Lea seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor.

## 8) Special Project Request

### a) **Our Village – Grad Party - \$10,000.00**

Leah Suarez appeared before the Board to request funding for the annual Grad Party for graduating seniors. The event will be held on May 22, 2026, at the Okeechobee High School football field. Alex Tijerina made a motion to grant \$10,000.00 to Our Village as the sponsor for the Grad Party. Bob McPartlan seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor.

### b) **Our Village – Back to School Expo - \$10,000.00**

Leah Suarez appeared before the Board to request funding for the Back to School Expo to be held on August 1<sup>st</sup>. The expo is an annual event and provides education and school supplies for the families and children of Okeechobee County. Before families are able to enter the area with school supplies, they must have a passport signed by all of the vendors. Michael Hazellief made a motion to grant Our Village for the Back to School Expo \$10,000.00. Alex Tijerina seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor.

### c) **Powerhouse 863 – Volleyball - \$18,000.00**

Katie Veloz appeared before the Board to request funding for the Powerhouse 863 volleyball team. They would like to award five \$2,550.00 scholarships totaling \$12,750.00 and the remainder of the request would be for tournament fees. These scholarships would be only for Okeechobee County residents. Alex Tijerina made a motion to grant \$10,200.00 to cover four scholarships. The motion died for lack of a second. Michael Hazellief made a motion to grant \$10,000 to the Powerhouse 863 volleyball team. Jessica Lea seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor.

### d) **OYFL – Spring Break Camp - \$9,625.00**

Chaka Smith appeared before the Board to request funding for a spring break camp. The idea of the camp was to explore areas around Okeechobee. The camp would also provide a safe place for the students during Spring Break. The camp will be held at the Bethel Baptist church. Michael Hazellief made a motion to grant \$7,637.50 to OYFL for the camp. Frank DeCarlo seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor.

### e) **Chobee Bulls - \$21,000.00**

Marcel Richardson appeared before the Board to request funding for the Chobee Bulls football team. The teams have already begun to practice. There was much discussion regarding past practices of the team and the expectations of the new leadership team. Discussion was also held regarding conduct on and off the field as well as grades of the athletes. The fee that is charged is \$125.00 per player. Bob McPartlan made a motion to fund the Chobee Bulls for \$10,000.00. There will be a distribution of  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the approved amount and the remainder when receipts are presented. Frank DeCarlo seconded the motion.

The motion carried – Five were in favor; three opposed and Bill Wallace abstained.

## 9) Summer Camp Discussion

A discussion was held regarding procedures for granting summer camps. Bob McPartlan requested that when summer camps were presented to the Board that we have total cost of the program reflected in the documents. Toni Wiersma presented the proposed application. The application will be released next week, and all applications are due on March 6<sup>th</sup>. The committee will meet on March 10<sup>th</sup> to determine the amount each organization will receive. After much discussion, the consensus was that the committee determine the amount to fund each request.

Jessica Lea will serve on the Summer Program committee. The decision of the committee will be presented to the Board at the March meeting for approval.

**10) RFP Applications and Grants**

Toni Wiersma presented a copy of the revised RFP and the application. Debbie Gillis will serve on the RFP committee. March 12, 2026, all agencies will be required to attend a workshop before grant applications will be released. The deadline for the grants will be April 23, 2026, and the committee will meet on May 28, 2026.

**11) Public Comment**

There were no comments

**12) Open Discussion**

Children's Home Society grand opening of the Treasure Coast Advocacy Center will be held on Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. Toni Wiersma plans on attending.

**Next Meeting Date: March 12, 2026**

**Debbie Gillis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm. Dylan Tedders seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion carried.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Toni Wiersma**

**Toni Wiersma, Executive Director**