CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL

MINUTES

April 16, 20260., 2026

In attendance at the meeting were Melisa Jahner - Chair, Frank DeCarlo, William Wallace, Pat McCoy, Dylan Tedders, Alex Tijerina and Toni Wiersma- Executive Director

Absent: Debbie Gillis, Jessica Lea, Michael Hazellief, and Bob McPartlan

Audience: Giselle Chavez, Ruben Guerrero, David Hall, Leah Suarez, Cristian Suarez, Jamie DeRita, Lizbeth Soriano, Damans Olivera, Jasmine Mora, David Cardenas, Diane Johnson, Lori Williams, Jamari Corde, Mandy Phillips, Samantha McKee, Derrick DeRita, Chaka Smith, Delvin Louis, Monica Koger, and Kristy Crawford.

Meeting called to order 5:45 pm

1) Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

d) Melisa Jahner led the Pledge of Allegiance and Frank DeCarlo gave the Invocation.

2) Additions/Deletions- Approval of Agenda

a) There were no deletions of additions. Pat McCoy made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Dylan Tedders seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor.

3) Approval of Minutes: March 12, 2026

a) Alex Tijerina made a motion to approve the minutes. Frank DeCarlo seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor.

5) Approval of Financial Statements:

a) Financial Statement – October 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026

i) Mrs. Wiersma presented the financial statement:

(1) INCOME

- Total Income - $1,327,174.97

(2) GROSS PROFIT - $1,327,174.97

(3) EXPENSES

- Administration - $70,535.61
- Program Services – Agencies – RFP - $202,933.00
- Community Scholarships - $0.00
- Summer Projects - $22,450.00
- Special Projects - $214,276.32
- **TOTAL EXPENSES - $510194.93**

(4) NET INCOME - $816,980.04

(5) CURRENT ASSETS

- SouthState Checking - $288,149.05
- CD 6398–$522,595.41
- CD 4852 – $454,808.51
- Money Market – $784,243.43
- **Total Bank Accounts - $2,049,796.40**

(6) FIXED ASSETS

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

(7) TOTAL ASSETS - $2,050,137.57

(8) LIABILITIES

- Total Current Liabilities - -6505.27
- Total Equity - $2,056,642.84

(9) TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY - $2,050,137.57

ii) Toni Wiersma presented the Profit-Loss for the Fiscal Year October 1, 2025 – March 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. It was noted that the allocated budget for Special Projects only had a balance of $96,464.74.

iii) Pat McCoy made a motion to accept the financial reports. Dylan Tedders seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor.

6) Review the list of agencies that need to submit mid-year report.

Toni Wiersma shared the list of agencies that she was awaiting the mid-year report. We are waiting on Children's Home Society, Economic Opportunities, Hibiscus Children's Center, Lake O' Elite Athletics, Martha's House, and Healthy Start.

7) Special Project Request

a) **Florida All-Stars Sports Association - $17,280.00**

Derrick Derita and Jamie Derita appeared before the Board to request $17,280.00 for a traveling basketball team. Derrick currently operates a travel team in Pt. St. Lucie. The team has done exceptionally well, and he would like to bring a team to Okeechobee. Both he and his wife graduated from Okeechobee High School. The travel team that was operated by Jovanny Torres was no longer functioning. Derrick wanted to again serve the boys here in Okeechobee. Pat McCoy made a motion to fund the Okeechobee Florida All-Sports team $10,000. Frank DeCarlo seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor.

d) **Chobee Community United – Back to School Extravaganza - $10,250.00**

Devin Louis appeared before the Board to request funding for their back-to-school extravaganza in July. The event last year was a huge success. They plan to have the same events such as the Sheriff participating, fire trucks, bounce houses, backpack giveaways and food. The agency needs to provide background checks. The request was tabled until the next meeting, May 14, 2026, in order for the agency to provide the background checks. Toni Wiersma gave Devin the information to get the background checks.

d) **Chobee Elite Volleyball – National AAU Tournament - $10,475.00**

Monica Koger appeared before the Board to request funding for the National AAU volleyball tournament. At this tournament there are many college coaches. She will be taking four teams to the tournament over the month of June. The Board sponsored the event last year. Monica will turn in the background checks. Pat McCoy made a motion to fund the teams $10,000.00. Dylan Tedders seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor.

d) **Pregnancy Center of Okeechobee - $25,000.00**
Samantha McKee appeared before the Board to request $25,000.00 to support the parenting curriculum and staff for the Pregnancy Center. Abigail Torres is the parenting coordinator. She is able to work with mothers and fathers to ensure that they have everything necessary to have essential things and instructions to raise their family. The center provides videos that allow the parents to receive instruction on many different parenting topics. Frank DeCarlo is on the Board at the Pregnancy Center and would abstain from voting. We did not have a quorum, so the request was tabled until the May 14th meeting.

e) **Our Village – Hurricane Expo - $5700.00**
Cristian Suarez appeared before the Board to request 5,700.00 for the Hurricane Expo. There will be many vendors at the event. Sutton Milk is hosting the event and will waive the fee for kids attending. The money requested will be used to give ice cream and shirts to the first 250 kids that attend the event. Pat McCoy made the motion to fund $5700.00 for the Hurricane Expo. Dylan Tedders seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor.

g) **Our Village – Broadway Performance - $4501.70**
Leah Suarez and David Hall appeared before the Board to request $4501.70 to send the summer camp participants to see a Broadway musical in Orlando. Leah suggested that maybe we could include this in her summer camp programs and take the money from the summer program budgets. Alex Tijerina made a motion that this request of $4501.70 should be added to the summer camp awarded amount and funded out of the summer projects budget. Pat McCoy seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor. The motion carried; all were in favor.

g) **Rotary Club of Okeechobee for the NHS Backpack program - $12,000.00**
Kristy Crawford appeared before the Board on behalf of the Rotary Foundation of Okeechobee. Andee Garcia, sponsor of the NHS backpack program, had contacted the Rotary Club to help them have funds to finish the year feeding 250 kids in the program. Meals are delivered to students every weekend to provide food over the weekend. Last year the Rotary Club requested $18,000.00 to finish the year. Pat McCoy made the motion to fund the Rotary Foundation of Okeechobee $12,000.00 which will be used to fund the NHS backpack program. Frank DeCarlo seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor.

8) Summer Camp Additional Request

a) **Chobee Dirtbags – Baseball/Softball camp – 15,250.00**
Ruben Guerrero appeared before the Board to request funding for his summer baseball/softball camp. He had missed the deadline to apply for a summer program. He has held this camp for several years. Ruben will have to provide proof of insurance and background affidavits before funding. Pat McCoy made a motion to fund the camp for $13,000.00. Frank DeCarlo seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor.

b) **Boxfit – Elementary Soccer Camp**
Manuel Sanchez requested that the Chess Camp that was previously approved as a summer camp be switched to an elementary soccer camp. There weren't any applicants for the chess camp, but many requests for an elementary soccer camp. The cost would be the same. Bill Wallace made a motion to allocate the previous funds to an elementary soccer camp. Frank DeCarlo seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor.

9) Approval of Scholarships

a) Toni Wiersma presented the decision of the scholarship committee. She thanked Alex Tijerina and Heather Siler-Dobbs for serving on the committee. Scholarship recipients are: Jarin Mumu - $4000.00; Katherine Arruebo - $4,000.00; AJ Davis - $4000.00; Angel Jaimes - $4,000.00; Oseana Huldobro - $4,000.00; Steffany Rosales - $4,000.00; Lisette Ruiz-Garcia - $4,000.00; Adleigh Schwier - $4,000.00; Jarely Aguillon-Ramirez - $3500.00; Haylee Pendry - $3500.00; Leeanna Sniff - $3500.00; Kiersten Payne - $3500.00; Taylor Rathburn - $3500.00; Brylee Raulerson - $3500.00; Veronica Garacia - $3,000.00; Brady Williamson - $3,000.00; Adriana Fonseca - $3,000.00; Skylar Grimsley - $3,000.00; Danielle Landaverde - $3,000.00 and Rachel Thompson - $3,000.00. The total amount of the scholarships was $71,000.00. Pat McCoy made a motion to accept the committee's recommendation on the awarding of the scholarships. Frank DeCarlo seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor.

b) Frank DeCarlo made a motion to move $1,000.00 from the summer project budget to the scholarship budget to cover the difference in amount budgeted. Bill Wallace seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor.

10) Public Comments

Chaka Smith appeared before the Board to discuss the change of policies for Special Projects. He questioned the requirement for background checks. He discussed all of the programs that he had started and help fund, such as: Men of Distinction, Chaka All Stars, Elite Volleyball, OYFL and several other camps. The Board thanked him for coming to the Board and discussing his concerns.

11) Open Discussion

a) Insurance policy approval

Toni Wiersma presented the final cost of the insurance policy which was $1601.35. This is a liablity policy that not only covers the Children's Services Council, but also each individual Board member. Pat McCoy made a motion to accept the insurance policy for $1601.35. Frank DeCarlo seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor.

Next Meeting Date: May 14, 2026

Pat McCoy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm. Frank DeCarlo seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Wiersma
Toni Wiersma, Executive Director