CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL

MINUTES

May 14, 2026

In attendance at the meeting were Melisa Jahner - Chair, Frank DeCarlo, William Wallace, Pat McCoy, Jessica Lea, Bob McPartland and Toni Wiersma- Executive Director

Absent: Debbie Gillis, Michael Hazellief, Dylan Tedders, and Alex Tijerina

Audience: Larry Davis, Jenny Hickox, Baniera Pineda-Garcia, Kayla Mohney, Dian Coxen, Hollie Adams, Skylar Grimsley, McKaylin Hatfield, Alaina Barron, Delvin Louis, Samantha McKee, Shermon Gordon, and Marvin Plummer

Meeting called to order 5:31 pm

1) Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

a) Melisa Jahner led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Invocation.

2) Additions/Deletions- Approval of Agenda

a) Toni Wiersma asked the Board to accept a late application from the Education Foundation for the Debate team to go to Nationals. The Board agreed. Toni Wiersma added item 7h – Okeechobee Education Foundation for the Debate team - $2200.00. Pat McCoy made the motion to adopt the agenda with the addition of item 7h. Bill Wallace seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor.

3) Approval of Minutes: April 16, 2026

a) Pat McCoy 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 – April 30, 2026

i) Mrs. Wiersma presented the financial statement:

(1) INCOME

- Total Income - $1,385,600.71

(2) GROSS PROFIT - $1,385,600.71

(3) EXPENSES

- Administration - $75,266.74
- Program Services – Agencies – RFP - $273,419.39
- Community Scholarships - $71,000.00
- Summer Projects - $75,311.80
- Special Projects - $235,288.52
- **TOTAL EXPENSES - $730,286.45**

(4) NET INCOME - $655,314.26

(5) CURRENT ASSETS

- SouthState Checking - $121,626.87

- CD 6398–$524,273.16
- CD 4852 – $456,214.55
- Money Market – $786,016.04
- **Total Bank Accounts - $1,888,130.62**

(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 - $1,894,977.06

(9) TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY - $1,888,471.79

b) Toni Wiersma presented the Profit-Loss for the Fiscal Year October 1, 2025 – April 30, 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 $68,761.72.

c) Pat McCoy made a motion to accept the financial reports. Jessica Lea seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor.

6) Wicks, Brown and Williams Audit Report

a) Toni Wiersma presented the audit report prepared by Wicks, Brown and Williams. Each member received the complete audit report. Toni Wiersma was pleased to announce that there were no findings in the audit.

7) Special Project Request

a) **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. They provided background checks. Pat McCoy made a motion to fund the Back-to-School Extravaganza for $10,000.00. Frank DeCarlo seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor.

b) **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. Pat McCoy made a motion to grant the Pregnancy Center $25,000.00. Bob McPartlan seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor.

c) **Our Village – Restorative Justice - $8,000.00**

c) No one was present from Our Village, so the request was tabled until the next meeting.

e) **Elite Athletic Group – Summer baseball - $6,919.27**
Shermon Gordon appeared before the Board to request funding for the summer baseball tournaments. The Elite Athletic Group had previously been funded this year for $10,000.00. According to the new policy, sport teams can only be funded a maximum of $10,000.00 per year. Pat McCoy made a motion that following our policy, we could not fund the summer baseball tournaments. Bob McPartlan seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor.

e) **Okeechobee Brahman Athletics – BASS Club nationals - $5500.70**
Kayla Mohney appeared before the Board to request funding to send two students that had qualified for the National Tournament to the national fishing tournament. This is a three-day tournament where the students compete. They will be participating with eleven other teams. This is a great opportunity to earn scholarships for the students. Bill Wallace made a motion to fund the BASS team $5500.00. Frank DeCarlo seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor.

f) **Okeechobee Education Foundation - $12,000.00 – Leading the Way Forward grant**
Alaina Barron appeared before the Board to request partial funding for a three-year program for Middle Schools. Both schools are struggling with a large number of threat assessments to self and others. This program will help students learn how to navigate life, build healthy relationships, believe in themselves, and feel like they belong at school. This program is based on Franklin's Covey's 7 habits of Highly Effective People. Bob McPartlan made a motion that we fund the Education Foundation $12,000.00 for this program. Jessica Lea seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor.

g) **Department of Justice – Backpack program - $2,600.00**
Jenny Hickox and Baniera Pineda-Garcia appeared before the Board to request funding for back-to-school supplies for their clients. The total cost to fulfill school supplies requests from each grade level for next year would be $2600.00. Also, at their event they will provide food and also supplies for siblings. Pat McCoy made a motion to fund $2,600.00 for the backpack program. Jessica Lea seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor.

h) **Okeechobee Education Foundation – Debate Team nationals - $2,200.**
Alaina Barron, along with sponsor Hollie Adams and students Skylar Grimsley and McKaylin Hatfield appeared before the Board to request funding for the students to attend the National Debate finals. This is the first time that a team from OHS has had the honor of attending the finals. The debate team is working hard to foster debate in the middle schools. The team has been doing a lot of fundraising. Pat McCoy made a motion to fund the Debate Team through the Education Foundation $2,200.00 for the trip to Nationals. Bob McPartlan seconded the motion. The motion carried; all were in favor.

8) Guidance for RFP committee – Proposed Request

Toni Wiersma presented the RFP requests to the Board. She asked for guidance as any priorities that the Board might have for funding. The total requested amount for RFP's is $1 342,341.00. The budgeted amount is $750,000.00. After discussion the Board advised keeping the allocated amount at $750.00.00. The Board also advised that programs should be funded based on our priorities.

9) Public Comments

There were no public comments.

10) Open Discussion

a) Special Project funding

A discussion was held that we would probably need to transfer money from our summer project funds to our special project funds. At this point we did not have a quorum, so this will be discussed at our next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 11th, but there were many conflicts with the date. The date that most people could attend would be June 4th. It was decided to move the meeting to June 4th.

Next Meeting Date: June 4, 2026

Pat McCoy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 pm. Bob McPartlan seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion carried. Frank DeCarlo left the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Wiersma
Toni Wiersma, Executive Director