CHILDREN'S TRUST REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 28, 2026, at 4:00 PM

CTAC, 4010 NW 25th Place, Gainesville, FL 32606

Call to Order - Chair Chance called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm

Roll Call
Board Members Present: Mary Chance (Board Chair), Ken Cornell (Vice Chair), Lee Pinkoson (Treasurer), Tina Certain, Bob Page, Dr. Lisa Tate, Melissa Walker
Board Members Attending Virtually (Not Voting): Dr. Nancy Hardt, Dr. Kamela Patton

Agenda Review, Revision, and Approval

Member Pinkoson moved for the approval of the agenda and consent agenda with clarification on the emergent needs amount granted. Member Certain seconded the motion which passed unanimously. During discussion, it was clarified that Emergent Needs funds were approved in the amount of $16,500.00.

Consent Agenda

1. Board Attendance YTD
2. Emergent Needs

General Public Comments

Chair's Report

Chair Chance updated the Board on the Executive Director evaluation process and thanked everyone for participating as well as staff members who filled out survey. The committee met to review the results and receive input from Human Resources.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Marsha Kiner invited the Board to participate in the University of Florida Homecoming Parade on Friday, October 9th. ED Kiner also shared a congratulatory message that was mailed from Representative Kat Cammack.

Old Business

3. Alachua County Reads Initiative September Project Update

Mia Jones, CTAC Early Childhood Coordinator, introduced Dr. Heidi Keegan and Dr. Theresa Beachy from Alachua County Reads, who provided an update and overview of recent activities and accomplishments. The collaborative adopted a four-pillar strategy focusing on Readiness, K-3 Core Instructional Support, Intervention/Remediation, and Coordination + Community Awareness. ACR is partnering with the

University of Florida Literacy Institute (UFLI) and Alachua County Public Schools to provide professional development to ACPS elementary school teachers, with a focus on kindergarten through second grade teachers in four School Improvement (SI) schools, serving 600 K-2 students. ACR has also recently purchased Project Read, a program that takes student assessment data and provides intervention groups and lessons for students. All ACPS elementary schools will receive the licenses with a required implementation plan and fidelity forthcoming. ACR has recently hired a Literacy Specialist to provide support to the after-school programs participating in the Literacy Catalyst program. A virtual resource hub is available on www.AlachuaCountyReads.org. The first community advisory council meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 30th via Zoom.

Dr. Patton thanked UFLI for what they are doing for the four SI schools. The schools are very excited about this new tool. Member Cornell asked the Superintendent when it will become a weekly requirement that every K-2nd grade teacher input student assessment data into Project Read. Dr. Patton responded that everyone understands it is not optional. Dr. Keegan informed the Board that the Project Read license is good for one full school year, after which time ACR hopes the school district will pick up the cost. Dr. Patton affirmed that ACPS will purchase the licenses next year.

4. Nonprofit Lifecycle Pilot Program Update

CTAC Chief Operating Officer Kristy Goldwire reported five after-school providers have participated in the pilot program as part of the Trust's capacity building programming and completed several key components of the project. The participants recently shared challenges and opportunities they have experienced in the process. All funded programs are to participate in this initiative in the next fiscal year as part of the strategic plan. A proposed reporting schedule will be provided at the October Board Meeting.

Presentations

5. Youth Mental Health Programs

CTAC Research, Planning, and Evaluation Coordinator, Bonnie Wagner, presented an overview of the CTAC-funded youth mental health programming provided by Child Advocacy Center (CAC), Pace Center for Girls, and UF Health Shands. CTAC has funded youth mental health programs since its inception. Through August 2026, 592 youths have been served by the three programs this fiscal year and 4,762 individual therapy sessions completed. All providers are on track to meet or exceed their target goals for children served, service provision, and family engagement.

Members Certain and Page asked about program performance outcomes, to which Wagner shared that the Board receives a final report after the programming year ends and all data is submitted. Dr. Hardt expressed her interest in the data and was informed that all providers are either mastering or advancing in their Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) scorecards. She further commented that mental health care for children could go under health or safety goals and wondered what would happen to the 1500 therapy sessions if the Trust does not exist anymore? How is CTAC going to take care of the mental health needs of children?

Member Pinkoson moved to approve staff's recommendations to a) collaborate with funded mental health providers to convene a countywide discussion on youth mental health services; and b) include a mental health scope of work in the FY27-28 Youth Health RFP. Member Cornell seconded the motion.

During public comments on motion, Sherry Kitchens (President & CEO of Childhood Advocacy Center) commended the Trust for their commitment to children. Kitchens encouraged the Board to think of the services CTAC is funding as safety services, as they really are saving lives. Yanel Casnova (Licensed Mental Health Counselor and Program Manager - UF PALS) shared a letter from a child who participated in the program and stated having access to PALS changed their life for the better. Casanova also shared

statements from school counselors testifying that the strength of the program is that it is available at the school, thus removing financial, transportation, and scheduling barriers. At the close of public comment, **the motion passed unanimously.**

Member Cornell commented that Kitchens made a good point that mental health should be moved under Goal 3 - Safety.

Member Cornell moved to recess the regular meeting at 5:01 pm to hold the final TRIM hearing. Member Pinkoson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **Chair Chance called the meeting back to order at 5:10 pm.**

General Public Comments

Michelle Chitwood King (Resident) commented that she lives in a rural part of county and wonders why the other areas of the county like Waldo, Lacrosse, Newberry, and Archer are not served. ED Kiner responded that it is not for lack of trying, citing CTAC-funded camps in Alachua, Hawthorne, Waldo, and High Springs as well as Family Resource Centers coming to Newberry and Hawthorne this fall. COO Goldwire requested a follow-up meeting with Ms. King to discuss the concern further.

Emily McCauley (CTAC Community Engagement Coordinator) – advised there are many countywide programs such as NewboRN home visiting, TeensWork Alachua, Saving Smiles, and others. ED Kiner affirmed this is something that the Trust has been more intentional about including incentivizing providers to serve rural areas.

Board Member Comments

Chair Chance asked everyone to help spread the word about the upcoming special needs virtual focus group on October 7th. Registration is on the CTAC website and on social media. Additionally, nominations are open for the CTAC Community Champions Awards, closing on October 15th.

Next Meeting Dates

Special Meeting - Final TRIM Hearing - Monday, September 28, 2026 @ 5:01 pm

Regular Board Meeting - Monday, October 12, 2026 @ 4:00 pm

Adjournment
Chair Chance adjourned the meeting at 5:24 pm

CHILDREN'S TRUST
OF ALACHUA COUNTY

Children's Trust Board Meeting

Sign – In Sheet

09/28/2026 from 4pm-6pm

Name	Organization	Email
Dr. Heidi Keegan	Alachua County Reads	HKeegan@alachuacountyreads.org
Dr. Theresa Beardy	CNE	tbeardy@cnencf.org
Dr. Lisa Tate		LISAD.CRNA@gmail.com
Yanel Casanova	PALS	
MARLA Meredith	Goodwill	MMeredith@goodwillnorthfl.org
Lori Miller	Pace	lori.millerag@gmail.org
Bob Pose	Board	
Abigail Duffield	Amplified	abbyduffield@gmail.com
Nora Duffield	Amplified	noraduffield@gmail.com
Ava Jones	Amplified	ajjonesd@gm.shac.edu
Alison Frantz	CAO	—
Laurie Jennings	ACORN Clinic	lauriefaganjennings@gmail.com
Sherry Kitchens	CAC	sherry@cacgainesville
Madison James	Goodwill/Teenswork	mjames@goodwillnorthfl.org
Leah Galione	PEAK Literacy	leah@peakliteracy.org

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09/28/2026 from 4pm-6pm

Name	Organization	Email
V. Contesse	UFLI	contesse@ccc.ufl.edu
V. Miller	AIM	
Michelle & Ed King	concerned citizens	
Gail Childs	county citizen	gailschilds@gmail.com
Shandé Goodloe	Goodwill North FL	sgoodloe@goodwillnorthfl.org
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