



CHILDREN'S TRUST
OF ALACHUA COUNTY

CHILDREN'S TRUST REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 13, 2026, at 4:00 PM

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

Chair Mary Chance called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Mary Chance (Chair), Tina Certain, Ken Cornell, Dr. Nancy Hardt, Dr. Maggie Labarta, Honorable Phillip A. Pena, Melissa Walker

Board Members Attending Virtually: Lee Pinkoson (Treasurer)

Member Cornell moved to allow Member Pinkoson to participate remotely due to extraordinary circumstances. The motion was seconded by Dr. Labarta and passed by unanimous vote.

Agenda Review, Revision, and Approval

Dr. Labarta moved for the approval of the agenda with Proposed Funding Opportunities being pulled from the consent agenda to be discussed after the Finance Committee report. Member Cornell seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.

Consent Agenda

1. Board Attendance YTD
2. 3.9.2026 Board Workshop Minutes
3. 3.9.2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
4. 3.9.2026 Board Meeting Evaluation - Survey Results
5. FY 2026 Budget Report (February)
6. FY 2026 Checks and Expenditures Report (February)
7. FY 2026 Programmatic Awards and Expenditures Report (February)
8. Sponsorship Requests
9. Proposed Funding Opportunities

General Public Comments - none

Chair's Report

Installation of New Board Member

The Honorable Phillip A. Pena, J.D., was installed to the CTAC Board to serve as the judicial representative. Chair Chance administered the CTAC oath of office.

Election - Vice Chair

Member Certain moved for Member Cornell to serve as Vice Chair of the Trust. Dr. Labarta seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Chair Chance administered the CTAC oath of office.

Executive Director's Report

April 2026 Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Marsha Kiner introduced Jenny Benson, CTAC's new Program Specialist. ED Kiner then provided an overview of the activities, trainings and events CTAC facilitated and supported throughout the month of March. Special highlights and kudos were given to staff and providers for an impactful summer camp convening and training.

Thanks to Chair Chance for arranging a literacy convening with Dr. Stacy Baier from the Helios Education Foundation. Follow-up meetings with community partners and collaborators are upcoming.

ED Kiner shared CTAC staff's newly adopted culture statement with the Board and publicly thanked staff for their work on the statement.

In observance of Child Abuse Prevention Month, ED Kiner read CTAC's Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation, which Chair Chance signed.

Committee Updates

Finance Committee Recommendation

ED Kiner provided an update of the recent Finance Committee meeting that took place on April 1st. After receiving an update on fund balance and in preparation for the 2027 budget, the committee recommends that CTAC move from having a two-month reserve contingency fund to a three-month reserve contingency fund to align with best practices and strengthen CTAC's financial stability. This will be brought forward to the May meeting as a policy amendment.

Proposed Funding Opportunities

Dr. Labarta requested more information about the innovative funding grants. She asked staff to include more information such as objectives, funding, deliverables, performance measures, etc. Chief Operating Officer Kristy Goldwire advised that information is available and can be provided going forward.

Dr. Labarta moved for approval of the proposed funding opportunities. Member Certain seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Presentations

12. Gun Violence Initiative Overview

Brittany Coleman (Gun Violence Intervention Program Manager - City of Gainesville) provided an update on CTAC-funded gun violence prevention initiatives in the city. Corey Collins (Facilitator – Youth Steering Committee GNV) shared an overview of recent activities and accomplishments of the Youth Steering Committee (YSC). Judge Pena asked Collins about the YSC recruitment process. Member Certain asked about participation in events and other efforts outside of city limits.

Coleman explained the initiative’s contracted performance measures developed in collaboration with the Trust. The initiative exceeded targets for field contacts and referrals, while technology hubs were just beginning to launch, with a 14% utilization rate reported. The presentation also included data on shots fired, showing a 46% reduction from the previous fiscal year. Judge Pena asked if the data distinguishes when youth are the perpetrators vs. when they are the victims. Coleman advised the DJJ data depicts offenses perpetuated by youth. The difference between youth offenses and shots fired was clarified. Coleman suggested information on youth offenses be parsed out for future reports. Dr. Labarta requested matching time periods be reported for easier measurement going forward.

Additional Impact GNV programming such as “STEM on the East Side”, where average attendance is 15-20 young people and parents at each session, and Technology Hubs aim to help reduce incidents in targeted neighborhoods.

Carl Smart (Executive Liaison, Public Safety and Community Relations – Alachua County) reported on the County’s gun violence prevention efforts and small grant awards funding to various organizations in the community. Eight organizations received funding in the amount of \$26,606 and one organization received \$10,000. Smart displayed the County’s performance measurement form that the grantees will use. Judge Pena applauded the work of the community care callouts. Dr. Hardt shared concerns that CTAC funding is being used as an end-around. Member Cornell stated that the County had 9 RFA’s and wanted to fund them all. Dr. Labarta commented that she is only concerned that the same children are not being served by the same funding. The Board members agreed they want to make sure the funds are expanding the providers’ reach and not just granting more funds. Smart will follow up with CTAC staff to specify how organizations can ensure there is no duplicate funding.

Community Foundation of North Central Florida - My Sidewalk Update

Lesley Banis (Vice President of Community Engagement – Community Foundation of North Central Florida) provided an update on the “My Community Indicators” platform, showcasing the site’s many features, including reporting tools, area heat maps, and philanthropy hub directory. Dr. Hardt asked about data updates in real time. Member Certain also asked about the intention of the data provided via subscription. Chair Chance expressed interest in socializing and democratizing this information. Member Cornell asked which AI tool My Sidewalk is using. He said that this tool, data-sharing and collaboration will help determine who receives funding in the future. Dr. Hardt expressed interest in viewing the reports users are pulling and how they

can be updated to include trend graphs over time to show impact. The Board recommended making “requested reports” public for others.

Old Business - none

New Business

14. Mid- Year Review Recommendations and Updates

Belita James (CTAC Director of Program Operations) outlined the Mid-Year Review process which includes programmatic and fiscal assessments, with Phase 1 already completed and Phase 2 focusing on budget reductions and strategic plan alignment for fiscal year 2027.

Member Cornell moved the Board approves the proposed actions and authorizes staff to proceed with programmatic and fiscal adjustments. The motion was seconded by Member Certain. During discussion of motion, Member Certain asked how TWA program can be grown. Pinkoson asked where the \$6,500 reduction from another contracted program will go. CTAC Chief Financial Officer Molly Greenwald explained it will go back to assigned funds. Member Cornell asked ED Kiner to let Goodwill know that BoCC has approved program funding in the amount of \$60,000. Dr. Labarta appreciated the update to the financial report indicating if programs are current and requested additional details in the notes going forward. CFO Greenwald confirmed that is the plan. At the end of discussion, the **motion passed unanimously.**

For Your Information

The following reports were provided for informational purposes:

15. Alachua County Reads Initiative Update
Chair Chance requested staff to send the Helios presentation to the entire Board. Member Cornell reminded the Board of the 3-year commitment they made 5 or 6 meetings ago. The BoCC is very committed, and they are still working on the City to get involved as well.
16. Early Learning Collaborative Update

General Public Comments

Pamela Hawkins (Grace to Overcome) introduced a new public health awareness initiative called Hardwired to Heal combating toxic stress in youth.

Board Member Comments

Member Cornell announced the passing of Latoya Gainey, long-time BoCC staff member. She will be missed.

Chair Chance applauded ED Kiner on the CTAC staff retreat. She also questioned if we are doing our part to share reports? Is there something we can do proactively to ensure the information is visible to the public.

Dr. Hardt commented that she would like Pam Worsham of the McKinney Vento Program to come make a presentation to the Board about homeless children in Alachua County.

Next Meeting Dates

Regular Board Meeting - Monday, May 11, 2026 @ 4:00 pm

Adjournment

Chair Chance adjourned the meeting at 6:09 pm.



CHILDREN'S TRUST
OF ALACHUA COUNTY

Children's Trust Board Meeting

Sign - In Sheet

04/13//2026 from 4pm-6pm

Name	Organization	Email
CHRIS STOKES	WIMSEC	BishopStokes2@gmail.com
Pamela Hankins	Grace To Overcome	grace2overcome2030@gmail.com
Corey COUNS	RPCP	corey@cnfcp.org
Adrienne C. Thicke	Hands On Gainesville	Adrienne@HandsOnGainesville.org
Amber Riess	Healthy Families	Amber.Riess@ufl.edu
Jeanne Mastrodicasa	CFNCF board member	jmastro@ufl.edu
Jeffrey Weisberg	RPCP	
Heort Phoenix	RPCP	
Deonte Lee	Goodwill on NF	
Leah Calhoun	PEAK Literacy	leah@peakliteracy.org
Leslye Banis	CFNCF	LBanis@cfncf.org
Barzella Papa	CFNCF	B.papa@cfncf.org
Shardé Goodie	TWA / Goodwill	
Carl Smart	Alachua County	csmart@alachuacounty.org
Bobby Coleman	GTF	

Joseph Hillhouse 4/13 GFR
Caleb Young 4/13 GFR
Ashia Brunings 4/13 SF
Brandy Stone 4/13 GFR
Jaime Kumck 4/13 GPD

Hillhouse@CityofGainesville.org
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Kumckj@cityofgainesville.org



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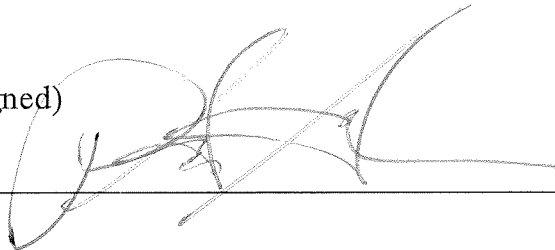
CHILDREN'S TRUST OF ALACHUA COUNTY

OATH OF OFFICE

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF ALACHUA

I, Phillip A. Pena, do solemnly swear that I will support, protect, and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States and of the State of Florida; that I am duly qualified to hold office under the Constitution of the state; and that I will well and faithfully perform the duties of a Board member of the Children's Trust of Alachua County on which I am now about to enter. So help me God.

(Signed)



Submitted and sworn to before me this 13th day of April 2026.

(Signed)



Mary Chance, Board Chair

Name and Title of person authorized by law to take oath.



CHILDREN'S TRUST
OF ALACHUA COUNTY

CHILDREN'S TRUST OF ALACHUA COUNTY
OATH OF OFFICE

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF ALACHUA

I, **Commissioner Ken Cornell**, do solemnly swear that I will support, protect, and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States and of the State of Florida; that I am duly qualified to hold office under the Constitution of the state; and that I will well and faithfully perform the duties of **Vice Chair** of the Children's Trust of Alachua County on which I am now about to enter. So help me God.

(Signed)

Submitted and sworn to before me this 13th day of April 2025.

(Signed)

Mary Chance, Board Chair

Name and Title of person authorized by law to take oath.



CHILDREN'S TRUST
OF ALACHUA COUNTY

PROCLAMATION

Child Abuse Prevention Month, April 2026

WHEREAS, strong communities are built by supporting children and families, and ensuring every child has the opportunity to grow up safe, healthy, and surrounded by caring relationships; and

WHEREAS, the Children's Trust of Alachua County is dedicated to funding and supporting a coordinated system of services that allows all youth and their families to thrive; and


WHEREAS, positive childhood experiences and supportive environments help children succeed in school, build resilience, and lead healthy, productive lives; and

WHEREAS, although more than 5,000 cases of child abuse are reported each year in Alachua County, our community continues to come together to provide hope, healing, and support to thousands of children and caregivers through prevention, advocacy, and care; and

WHEREAS, through strong partnerships with the Child Abuse Prevention Task Force and many dedicated community organizations, we are building a culture of prevention that strengthens families and reduces the risk of abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, Child Abuse Prevention Month is a time to recognize the power of community, celebrate the impact of collective action, and recommit to creating a brighter future for all children;

NOW, THEREFORE, WE THE CHILDREN'S TRUST OF ALACHUA COUNTY, do hereby proclaim April 2026 as **CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH** and call upon all residents, businesses, and community partners to support families, uplift children, and work together to ensure every child can grow, learn, and thrive.


Chair, Children's Trust of Alachua County



CHILDREN'S TRUST OF ALACHUA COUNTY

MISSION STATEMENT

The Children's Trust of Alachua County funds and supports a coordinated system of community services that allows all youth and their families to thrive.

VISION STATEMENT

Facilitate equitable access and opportunity for all children, youth and families in Alachua County to ensure every child reaches their maximum potential

CULTURE STATEMENT

We put children first in every decision, ensuring supports that are universal, targeted, and community based. We invest in innovative, collaborative solutions that strengthen families and deliver lasting impact. Guided by integrity, respect, and inclusivity-we foster a positive culture where people and communities thrive together.



Pamela Hawkins, CDM, CFPP

Founder & Holistic Health Facilitator

Grace To Overcome, Inc.

Phone: 352-281-2406

www.grace2overcome@org

Why This Matters Now

For decades, I have been drawn to health maintenance, disease prevention, and the deeper question of what truly drives illness, struggle, and behavior—especially in children and families. While working with children and families in health and nutrition services, I often felt there was a disconnect. We were seeing symptoms but missing the root. In 2019 I was introduced to the **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE)** research through the work of Dr. Nadine Burke Harris. That moment changed everything. The science revealed something profound: childhood adversity is common, and it has measurable biological effects on long-term health.

“Adverse childhood experiences are one of the greatest unaddressed public health challenges of our time.”

The Science of Toxic Stress

Research shows that:

- Nearly two-thirds of adults report at least one ACE
- About one in six adults report four or more ACEs
- Higher ACE exposure is linked to increased risk of chronic disease, mental health challenges, and early mortality

Source: CDC Adverse Childhood Experiences Research

Regulation as Prevention

Grace To Overcome was founded on the belief that adverse childhood experiences have lasting negative effects on health and opportunity across the lifespan. Our mission is to increase awareness, strengthen prevention efforts, and equip families and communities with practical tools for healing and resilience.

*We are not broken.
We are biological.
We are hardwired to heal.*

TOXIC STRESS EXPLAINED

Understanding the Long-Term Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

1 What Are ACEs?

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are potentially traumatic events that occur before age 18.

Examples include:

- Physical, emotional, or sexual abuse
- Physical or emotional neglect
- Household substance abuse
- Mental illness in the home
- Domestic violence
- Parental separation or divorce
- Incarcerated household member

Source: CDC ACE Study

2 How Common Are ACEs?

2 in 3 adults report at least one ACE

1 in 6 adults report four or more ACEs

Higher ACE scores are associated with increased risk of:

- ♥ Heart disease
- ♥ Depression
- 🩸 Diabetes
- 🚫 Substance use

Source: CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

4 The ACE Pyramid

Adverse experiences can lead to a chain of effects across the lifespan:

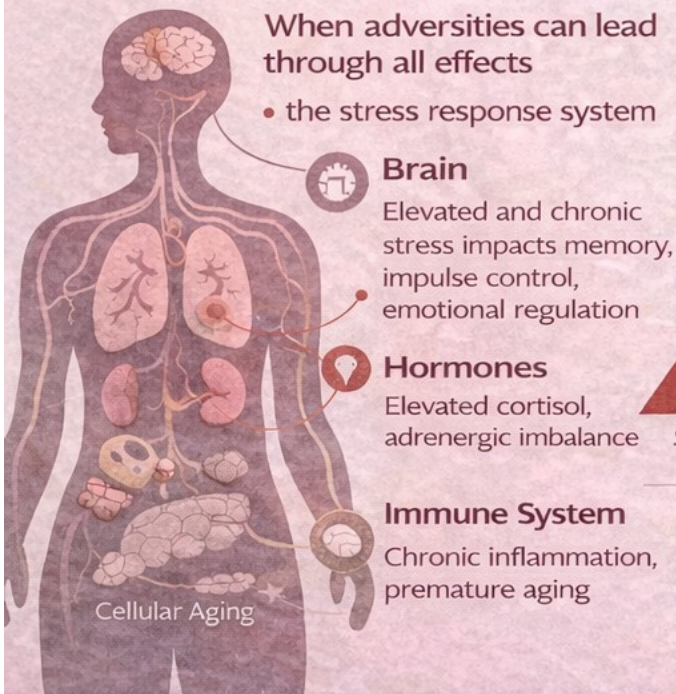


Source: CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

3 Toxic Stress in the Body

When adversities can lead through all effects

- the stress response system



The good news
Hardwired to Heal™ Initiative
grace2overcome.org



We are not broken. We are biological.

grace2overcome.org