



CHILDREN'S TRUST REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

ANNUAL MEETING

December 09, 2024, at 4:00 PM

Alachua Co. Headquarters Library, Meeting Room A, 401 E University Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601

Call to Order

Chair Pinkoson called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Roll Call

PRESENT

Chair Lee Pinkoson
Vice Chair Ken Cornell
Treasurer Cheryl Twombly – attended virtually
Member Kamela Patton
Member Tina Certain
Member Mary Chance
Member Judge Denise R. Ferrero
Member Nancy Hardt
Member Maggie Labarta

Motion made by Vice Chair Cornell, Seconded by Member Ferrero to allow Member Twombly to participate virtually due to extraordinary circumstances.

A physical quorum of six members voted on this motion.

Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Agenda Review, Revision, and Approval

Motion to approve the agenda made by Vice Chair Cornell, Seconded by Member Ferrero.

Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Consent Agenda

1. Board Attendance YTD
2. 11.4.2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
3. 11.4.2024 Board Meeting Evaluation - Survey Results
4. FY 2025 Budget Report (October)
5. FY 2025 Checks and Expenditures Report (October)

6. Adoption of Policy Updates to Employee Handbook and Board Policies
7. November Sponsorship Applications

General Public Comments

Chair's Report

Executive Director Kiner recognized Trust Member Judge Denise R. Ferrero for her service on the Board, as this will be her last meeting. ED Kiner presented her with an office plant in appreciation for her service to the children and families of Alachua County.

The Board welcomed the new Superintendent of Alachua County Schools, Dr. Kamela Patton. She was administered the CTAC Oath of Office by Member Judge Ferrero.

8. Election of Officers for 2025

At each Annual Meeting of the Children's Trust of Alachua County, in December, new officers must be nominated and appointed by the Members of the Board. According to the CTAC By-laws and order of succession, the current Vice Chair will become the new Chair, the current Treasurer will become the Vice Chair, and the new Treasurer shall be nominated from the remaining members.

Motion made by Vice Chair Cornell, seconded by Member Chance to nominate Member Labarta as the CTAC Treasurer for the 2025 calendar year, effective immediately.

Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Upon approval, Member Pinkoson passed the gavel and title to the new Board Chair Ken Cornell. The new Vice Chair is Cheryl Twombly, and the new Treasurer is Dr. Maggie Labarta.

Executive Director Kiner recognized Member Pinkoson for his service as Chair of the Board of the Children's Trust of Alachua County and presented him with an office plant in appreciation for his service to the children and families of Alachua County.

Executive Director's Report

9. 12.9.2024 ED Report

Executive Director Kiner showed appreciation to her staff for several successful accomplishments this past month. She offered thanks to the Finance Team for completing and closing out FY2024, the Communications Manager for completing an impressive CTAC Annual Report, and the Community Engagement Manager for her work with the Annual Very GNV Holiday Parade.

10. Speak Your Piece Art Contest - Recognition and Awards

In September 2024, The Trust launched a contest for high school art submissions, entitled "Speak Your Piece", that depicted a theme of anti-violence or peace. The top three works of art will be put on display at the Children's Trust of Alachua County offices.

Motion by Member Certain, Seconded by Member Chance, to recognize and congratulate the winners and their guests; First Place: Jaden Alfonzo, Second Place: Francheska Melendez, Third Place: Lea Sanchez.

Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Presentations

11. Training on Public Records/Sunshine Laws

Trust Attorney Bob Swain discussed Board Member's responsibilities and requirements regarding public records, retention schedules, sunshine laws, and voting conflicts.

Old Business

12. Mentoring Programs – Evaluation Results (Amy Wagner and Bonnie Wagner)

The Research, Planning, and Evaluation Coordinators presented the Year 1 Evaluation Results from RFP 2023-02: Youth Mentoring Program. A total of 14 organizations provided 1-on-1 or group mentoring programs to 409 youth in Alachua County. Overall, the youth built strong relationships with mentors and maintained or made gains in social-emotional skills and academic performance and avoided involvement with the juvenile justice department. The demographics show that 82% of the youth were Black or African American and 10% were White. Of the mentors, 35% were Black or African American and 56% were White. The majority of the mentees were male (65%), while the majority of mentors were female (57%). The youth served were in grades elementary (13%), middle (52%), and high (35%). While the majority of performance measures were met and exceeded, and the youth served had positive outcomes, there was one outstanding area of improvement. Providers reported challenges recruiting and retaining mentors, especially volunteers. The team will explore strategies to improve mentor recruitment for future mentoring programming.

13. Head Start Summer Bridge 2024 Program Overview

CTAC Staff Mia Jones and Bonnie Wagner presented the outcomes of the Head Start Summer Bridge 2024 Program which partnered in Alachua County with Episcopal Children's Services. The 8-week program served 110 children aged 3-5 within five Early Learning Centers, with a total CTAC investment of \$183,352.00. This second year of funding added a Program Manager position, offered extended hours, and built on the successful education plan from Summer 2023. The number of children served nearly doubled from 56 to 110 and the program saw significant learning gains in literacy, math, and social-emotional skills. Surveys showed that 75% of parents reported that their child would not have been enrolled in any summer care if not for this program. The Board has approved funding for Summer 2025, and the team aims to once again increase enrollment, increase average attendance, continue to enhance the educational offerings, and look into adding more early learning center locations.

14. Live Local Act Exemption Resolution

Section 196.1978(3), Florida Statutes requires the Alachua County Property Appraiser to exempt certain properties from ad valorem taxes if they meet the criteria of the Live Local

Act Property Tax Exemption. This statute also allows taxing authorities to opt-out of providing the exemption to certain households whose annual income is between 80-120% of the median annual adjusted gross income within the metropolitan statistical area.

Motion made by Chair Cornell, Seconded by Member Certain, to approve Resolution 2024-15: Live Local Act Property Tax Exemption.

Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

New Business

15. SAMIS Update (Demetrica Tyson, Bonnie Wagner, and Scott Sumner)

In March 2023, the Board approved an agreement to acquire and implement an integrated online information management system, SAMIS. This system is currently used by nine children's services councils across the state of Florida to manage provider grants, fiscal budgets, invoices, and track data. The purpose of this program is to track work with funded programs, improve quality, and enable CTAC to better demonstrate the impact of funded services. Over the past year, CTAC staff have been testing, onboarding, and training providers through in-person, virtual, and 1-on-1 sessions. Benefits of the program include the ability to automate processes, enhance shared collaboration, and provide more efficiency in data collection. It also assists with backup documentation, monitoring of CTAC and provider invoice status for timeliness, and integrates budget and contract workflows. Future plans include further training, including a trauma series, and the integration of business analytics to improve overall performance.

General Public Comments

Board Member Comments

For Your Information

Items in this section are for informational purposes only and do not require action by the Trust.

16. Comprehensive Literacy Plan and Assessment November 2024 Update

Next Meeting Date

Regular Board Meeting - Monday, February 10, 2025 @ 4:00 PM
Children's Trust of Alachua County, 4010 NW 25th Place, Gainesville, FL 32606

Adjournment

Chair Cornell adjourned the meeting at 5:50 PM.