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Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County

1-28-2020

Juvenile Welfare Board Finance Committee Meeting: 2020: 01: 28

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

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Juvenile Welfare Board
Investing in children. Strengthening our community.

JWB FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, January 28, 2020
1:30 PM

Juvenile Welfare Board
14155 58th Street North
Edmonds Neri Conference Room
Clearwater, FL 33760

Revised Agenda

- I. ACTION**
 - A. Approve Budget Amendment for Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc. PreK All Day Program
 - B. Approve Budget Amendment for Florida Department of Health, Pinellas County Health Department Healthy Families Pinellas Program - **Revised 01/27/2020**
- II. DISCUSSION**
- III. OPEN AGENDA**

The Juvenile Welfare Board Finance Committee welcomes input from the public. Public Presentation Procedures are available to assist with addressing the Board. Requests for special funding are not appropriate during the Open Agenda.

- IV. ADJOURN**

Future Meetings

JWB Finance Committee Meeting
Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 9:00 AM

JWB Board Meeting
Thursday, February 13, 2020 directly following Finance Committee Meeting

JWB Finance Committee Meeting
Monday, April 27, 2020 at 1:00 PM

Notice: These meetings are subject to audio and video recording at any time.



Finance Committee Meeting

January 28, 2020

Approve Budget Amendment for Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc. PreK All Day Program

Item I.A.

Recommended Action: Approve an increase in funding by \$126,129 to expand the Early Learning Coalition PreK All Day program.

Strategic Plan Alignment: School Readiness

The Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program is offered free to all four year olds living in Florida regardless of income. The program is offered either school year or summer only. The school-year option is a total of 540 hours per year and is typically operated three hours a day for five days per week. This is not a full day program which does not include summer and requires families to pay for wrap care, seek other options for care, or to not participate at all.

In 2018-2019, an estimated 26 percent (2,256) of eligible four year olds did not attend state-funded VPK programs in Pinellas County. The high costs of wrap care and transportation have been cited as some of the biggest barriers to participation. The PreK All Day program was designed to fill the gap for low-income families with limited resources.

The PreK All Day program aligns with JWB's School Readiness focus area and was first funded in the fall of 2017 with the Early Learning Coalition (ELC) of Pinellas County. The PreK All Day program supports VPK by providing wrap care to children ages four to five living in Pinellas County. Families must meet the eligibility criteria of being 300 percent or below the federal poverty level and not be eligible for any other state subsidized child care funding. A select number of high quality early learning centers are chosen by ELC and approved by JWB to participate and this allows families to choose locations throughout the county. Centers are selected based on School Readiness rates, accreditation, and Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) scores.

The program initially struggled its first full year with low participation rates and lapsed revenue. In FY19, ELC put forth additional effort to recruit eligible participants into the program and this effort has been successful. Today the program is serving a total of 184 children. Seventy-eight children are enrolled with community-based providers and 106 children are being served via contracts with R'Club Child Care and YMCA of Greater St. Petersburg in partnership with Pinellas County Schools and Head Start. The program has 18 children on the waiting list. ELC is projecting a deficit of approximately \$61,807 due to over enrollment and has projected a cost of \$64,322 to serve the children on the waitlist. ELC has requested a total of \$126,129 to address both needs.

Staff are requesting a budget amendment to increase funding for the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc. PreK All Day program from \$618,948 to \$745,077 by reducing the Future Programming

budget by \$126,129 from \$1,100,000 to \$973,871. The annualized amount of this increase that is anticipated for FY21 is \$250,000.

Staff Resource: Judith Warren



Finance Committee Meeting

January 28, 2020

Approve Budget Amendment for Florida Department of Health, Pinellas County Health Department Healthy Families Pinellas Program

Item I.B.

Recommended Action: Approval of increased funding for Pinellas County Health Department-Healthy Families Pinellas by \$172,730

Strategic Plan Alignment: Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect

BACKGROUND:

JWB funds the Pinellas County Health Department (PCHD) for the Healthy Families Pinellas (HFP) and Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) programs. These are evidence-based, voluntary maternal-child health home visitation programs aimed at reducing the incidents of child abuse and neglect. In FY18, those families participating in either HFP and NFP did not experience an out-of-home removal 12 months following services, at rates of 98 percent and 97 percent respectively.

Prior to 2018, seven state-funded Healthy Start Coalition staff were housed in obstetrician offices to engage new parents, share available resources, and provide referrals to the five home visitation programs in the County (two of which JWB funds). Since 2018, the Coordinated Intake and Referral (CI&R) process happens only through telephone contact by staff located in the Coalition office. As a result of reduced face-to-face engagement opportunities, there has been a significantly reduced flow of referrals to existing home visitation programs at the local level. Prior to elimination of these positions, Unable to Locate (UTL) rates were approximately 25 percent; after implementation, they increased to 45 percent. Furthermore, decreased referrals have been noted across JWB-funded programs, with a 50 percent decrease in direct referrals to HFP alone.

JWB staff have been actively participating in a local CI&R workgroup since the summer of 2018 to monitor the impact of these changes. Based on the reduced successful referrals to home visitation programs, JWB is seeking increased HFP funding for six full time employees (FTEs), who will be housed in obstetrician offices, to replace the positions lost as a result of the CI&R implementation. HFP will dedicate these FTEs in collaboration with the Coalition. By establishing these positions, we anticipate more successful linkages and engagement of new and expectant parents in home visitation programs, including HFP and NFP. The overarching goal is to reestablish an effective safety net for families at risk to prevent children and families entering the already taxed child welfare system in Pinellas County.

Staff are requesting a budget amendment to increase funding for the Florida Department of Health, Pinellas County Health Department Healthy Families Pinellas program from \$5,917,214 to \$6,089,944 by reducing the Future Programming budget by \$172,730 from \$973,871 to \$801,141. The annualized amount of this increase that is anticipated for FY21 is \$250,000.

Staff Resource: Judith Warren