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Juvenile Welfare Board Finance Committee Meeting: Lack of Quorum: 2020: 02: 13

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

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Juvenile Welfare Board

Investing in children. Strengthening our community.

JWB FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING – DID NOT OCCUR

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020 AT 9:00 AM

**JUVENILE WELFARE BOARD
14155 58TH STREET NORTH
EDMONDS NERI CONFERENCE ROOM
CLEARWATER, FL 33760**

NOTES

THE JWB FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING DID NOT OCCUR DUE TO A LACK OF QUORUM

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Rick Butler	Finance Committee Member	Present
Bob Dillinger	Public Defender - Finance Committee Member	Absent
Bernie McCabe	State Attorney – Finance Committee Chair	Attended by Phone
Michael Mikurak	Finance Committee Member	Present
Susan Rolston	Board Chair – Ex-Officio	Present
Karen Seel	Finance Committee Member	Absent

Mr. Mikurak announced there was not a quorum present, so the meeting could not be held, no action could be taken, but they could discuss because notice of the meeting had occurred.

He then asked Ms. Beth Houghton, Chief Executive Officer, to explain *Action Item II.B. Amend Contract with Early Learning Coalition (ELC) to Expand Prekindergarten for All Day Wrap Program* that was discussed at the January 28, 2020 Finance Committee meeting. At that time the Finance Committee asked staff to provide the cost of increasing the ELC budget more to include all children who are living at 400 percent of the poverty level. That increase will cost approximately \$900,000.

Ms. Houghton explained there are an estimated 2,256 eligible four-year-olds who are not attending the state-funded VPK programs in Pinellas County due to cost of wrap care and transportation issues. She then read the original recommended action to approve a budget amendment to increase funding for the ELC Prekindergarten All Day program and keeping the amount at \$126,129.

Due to the lack of the quorum, Mr. Mikurak suspended the discussion at 9:08 AM. He stated that if a third member of the Finance Committee would arrive to complete the quorum the meeting would commence.

The meeting did not commence.

Notes respectfully submitted by Joan Chamo, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board.



Juvenile Welfare Board
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JWB FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

**Thursday, February 13, 2020
9:00 AM**

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

REVISED AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. ACTION**
 - A. Approve Finance Committee Meeting Minutes for January 28, 2020
 - B. Amend Contract with Early Learning Coalition (ELC) to Expand Prekindergarten for All Day Wraparound Program
- III. INFORMATION**
 - Financial Report for January 2020 – **Report Added 02/10/2020**
- IV. ADJOURN**

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



JWB FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2020 AT 1:30 PM
JUVENILE WELFARE BOARD
14155 58TH STREET NORTH
EDMONDS NERI CONFERENCE ROOM
CLEARWATER, FL 33760

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

JWB STAFF PRESENT: Beth Houghton, Judith Warren, Lynda Leedy, Karen Boggess, Karen Woods, Megan Seales, Patrick Pidgeon, Joyce Sparrow, Lynn De La Torre, Jennifer Artiaga, Diana Carro, Lori Lewis, Jeanine Evoli, Anne Crawford, Richard Godfrey, Yaridis Garcia

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY MR. MIKE MIKURAK AT 1:30 PM.

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Karen Seel	Finance Committee Member	Present via phone
Bob Dillinger	Public Defender – Finance Committee Member	Present
Bernie McCabe	State Attorney - Finance Committee Chair	Present via phone
Michael Mikurak	Finance Committee Member	Present
Rick Butler	Finance Committee Member	Present
Susan Rolston	Board Chair	Present

I. ACTION

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

Mrs. Beth Houghton, Chief Executive Officer, shared statistics that show the effectiveness of Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) programs. Mrs. Houghton stated 26 percent of Pinellas County families who have children eligible for VPK do not participate. One of the reasons why families might not participate in VPK is a lack of access to affordable wraparound care for their children. The Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County PreK All Day Program was implemented to provide a quality prekindergarten program that also includes wraparound care.

Mrs. Houghton stated there are currently 18 children on the waiting list with the Early Learning Coalition for PreK All Day wraparound care. The Early Learning Coalition staff is requesting a budget amendment to increase the PreK All Day budget by \$126,129 in order to serve more children. Mrs. Houghton clarified the funds would be transferred from future programming.

Mr. Bob Dillinger asked if the income criteria for eligibility could be adjusted in order to serve more children. The current eligibility to enroll in the Early Learning Coalition’s PreK All Day Program is income 300 percent

Dr. Ulyee Choe, Director of Florida Department of Health, Pinellas County explained there were changes to Medicaid reimbursement at the state level. This change at the state level regarding Medicaid incentivized Healthy Start to shift its funding. Unfortunately, these changes led to low referral rates for home visiting programs. Dr. Choe further explained families respond better to receiving referrals in person from a friendly staff member versus being handed a card with a number to call.

Mrs. Houghton added that historically, home visiting programs have received funding from both state funds as well as other funding.

Mr. Dillinger asked if JWB reduced funding for home visiting programs when referrals declined. Mrs. Houghton answered JWB wrote a contract amendment to allow for two Department of Health staff members to work in OB offices and refer patients to home visiting programs, to both increase referrals and raise the number of clients served.

Dr. Choe further elaborated there has been a home visiting referral decline statewide, not just in Pinellas County.

Mr. Ray Hensley, Director of Florida Department of Health, Healthy Families Pinellas shared information about the changes to the Medicaid fee structure at the state level. There have been an estimated 200-300 fewer families referred to home visiting programs as a result of the changes. The referral system is now accessed through a phone bank instead of in-person at OB offices. Mr. Hensley explained that families prefer to have the face-to-face interaction instead of calling a number. The decline in home visiting referrals has been measured since July 2018.

Mr. Dillinger asked how the seven OB offices to have staff members were determined. Mr. Hensley confirmed the offices were selected based on the high usage of Medicaid and the number of high-risk mothers.

ACTION: Mr. Dillinger made a motion to recommend approval of a budget amendment for Florida Department of Health, Pinellas County Healthy Families Pinellas program, Mr. Butler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

II. DISCUSSION

Mrs. Rolston announced that Dr. James Sewell has resigned from his position on the Board effective February 29, 2020.

Mr. Dillinger inquired where JWB is in the process of additional Board appointments. Mrs. Houghton answered that we have not heard from Governor Ron DeSantis.

Mr. Dillinger requested that a copy of the Children who Refused Placement in Hillsborough County Report be shared at the February Board meeting.



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



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 \$801,141. The annualized amount of this increase that is anticipated for FY21 is \$250,000.

Finance Committee Meeting

February 13, 2020

Amend Contract with the Early Learning Coalition (ELC) to Expand Prekindergarten for All Day Wraparound Program

Item II.B.

Recommended Action: Approve an increase in funding by \$126,129 to expand the Early Learning Coalition PreKindergarten All Day Wraparound 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 family 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, it 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 PreKindergarten All Day Wraparound program was designed to fill the gap for low-income families with limited resources.

The PreKindergarten All Day Wraparound 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 PreKindergarten All Day Wraparound 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. 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. PreKindergarten All Day Wraparound 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