

Indian River County Florida

*Indian River County Administration Complex
1800 27th Street, Building B
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indianriver.gov*



Children Services Advisory Committee

Needs Assessment Subcommittee Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Committee Members

Hope Woodhouse, Chair Brian McMahon
Carrie Maynard-Lester Michael Kint Autumn Schneider

CSAC STAFF:

Cindy Emerson, IRC Community Services
Ms. Maya Miller, IRC Community Services
Megan Kendrick, IRC Human Services
Robert Catapano, Human Services

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Michael Kint called the September 25, 2024, meeting of the Children's Services Advisory Committee-Needs Assessment Subcommittee to order at 2:05 P.M.

2. **ROLL CALL**

6 Voting Members / 4 for Quorum

Members Present

Carrie Maynard-Lester
Michael Kint
Hope Woodhouse – Joined via Teams/Phone

Members Absent:

Brian McMahon
Autumn Schneider

Also Present:

Cindy Emerson, Community Services Director
Megan Kendrick, Human Services Manager
Robert Catapano, Human Services
Ms. Maya Miller, Community Services, Recording Secretary

QUORUM WAS NOT MET

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Not able to Approve January 5, 2024 Minutes due to quorum not met.

4. **COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT**

Mrs. Megan Kendrick reported the 1st Professional Development had to be rescheduled. 28 people registered for the professional development sessions, indicating significant interest in the initiative. The first part of the impact in action session was rescheduled to November, with both sessions planned for November 5th.

The 2nd Community Forum for Nurturing Families & Communities is October 3, 2024. The County SHIP Program will also share information at the forum.

Mrs. Kendrick informed the Committee that staff is communicating with Dr. Moore and the School District to develop the panel for the next Community Forum for Success in School & Life; and Brooke Flood will be presenting for Kindergarten Readiness.

Mrs. Cindy Emerson reported, the CSAC timeline and workflow that staff is closing out FY23-24 and simultaneously preparing for FY24-25 contracts and 25-26 RFP. Staff cautions the committee regarding making changes with indicators. The needs assessment approval must be completed by January to proceed through CSAC Main Committee and the Board of County Commissioners.

There is a concern regarding the reasonableness of a 3% decline over five years, especially given the significant declines previously observed. It was agreed that the internal goals should align with the county's goals, which is considered a smart approach. The committee will vote on the proposed indicators, which are set for a three to five-year timeframe.

The next steps involve reviewing the needs assessment and ensuring that priority areas still reflect the greatest need, along with specific strategies and indicators for each focus area.

Staff is developing a strategic plan for children's services, focusing on community impact, communication and engagement, and fiscal responsibility, with specific indicators tied to each priority area.

There is a concern regarding the availability of updated data before the RFP submission deadline, as some data will not be released until later in the year. The discussion noted that kindergarten readiness has shown an upward trend, indicating an increase in the number of children entering kindergarten prepared. The committee agreed to monitor trends in data over the next year and to compare local data against state data to assess the impact of implemented programs.

5. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Mrs. Emerson & Mrs. Kendrick reported the needs assessment updates.

There is a concern regarding the lack of data to support the prioritization of programs aimed at tracking students' transitions from high school to college or career paths. The absence of this data makes it difficult to assess the effectiveness of current initiatives.

The committee and staff agreed that gathering data on the expansion of pathways for college and career success is a priority. They need to explore how to track students' transitions effectively and identify sources for this data.

Committee members were assigned to update the current data. For example, Michael Kint has been assigned the responsibility of overseeing the youth obesity data collection.

The committee members agreed to update any new demographic data available and leave blanks where data is not available, while also showing prior year data.

There is significant concern regarding the limited availability of programs serving children with special needs, particularly in after-school or enrichment settings. Next steps: the committee discussed the need to expand current offerings in the community to include children with special needs, potentially by integrating them into existing programs.

Further discussion continued regarding the needs assessment updates and data integration for this year.

The updates will be utilized to create a heat map that visualizes where services are being provided throughout the County. This map will also help to identify geographic areas with unmet needs.

The committee agreed to meet October 23 to finalize the details for the data updates.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Public Comment.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

No further comments, the meeting was adjourned at 3:44PM by Michael Kint.

A recording of this meeting is on file at the office of the Community Services Department and available upon request.

Prepared By Recording Secretary: Ms. Maya Miller