



Board of Directors Meeting

April 19, 2021

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

"VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM WEBINAR WITH A QUORUM OF
MEMEBERS PHYSICALLY PRESENT
AND SOME MEMBERS ATTENDING VIRTUALLY"

The Children's Trust Board of Directors Meeting was held on April 19, 2021 commencing at 4:00 p.m., at 3250 Southwest 3rd Avenue, United Way, Ryder Conference Room, Miami, Florida 33129. The meeting was called to order by Kenneth Hoffman, Chair.

ORIGINAL

BOARD MEMBERS:

Kenneth C. Hoffman, Chair
Mark A. Trowbridge, Treasurer
Karen Weller, Secretary
Dr. Edward Abraham
Dr. Magaly Abrahante (Zoom)
Laura Adams
Matthew Arsenault
Dr. Daniel Bagner (Zoom)
Hon. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall (Zoom)
Hon. Danielle Cohen Higgins (Zoom)
Constance Collins

1 BOARD MEMBERS: (Cont'd.)
2 Mary Donworth
3 Rev. Richard P. Dunn II
4 Gilda Ferradaz
5 Lourdes P. Gimenez (Zoom)
6 Nicole Gomez
7 Valrose Graham
8 Mindy Grimes-Festge
9 Nelson Hincapie
10 Pamela Hollingsworth (Zoom)
11 Tiombe-Bisa Kendrick-Dunn
12 Dr. Susan Neimand (Zoom)
13 Annie R. Neasman (Zoom)
14 Hon. Orlando Prescott
15 Javier Reyes
16 Emily Rosendo (Zoom)
17 Hon. Isaac Salver (Zoom)
18 Sandra West (Zoom)
19 Shanika Graves
20 Leigh Kobrinski
21
22 STAFF:
23 Bevone Ritchie
24 Bianca Montenegro
25 Carol Broga

1 STAFF: (Cont'd.)
2 Christiana Taylor
3 Dane Minott
4 Diana Beltre
5 Donovan Lee-Sin
6 Felix Becerra
7 Garnet Esters
8 Grettel Suarez
9 Imran Ali
10 James Haj
11 Jennifer Richiez
12 Joanna Revelo
13 Josefina Greene
14 Juana Leon
15 Juliette Fabien
16 Kathleen Dexter
17 Lisanne Gage
18 Lisete Yero
19 Lori (Katherine) Hanson
20 Muriel Jeanty
21 Rachel Spector
22 Sabine Dulcio
23 Sandra Camacho
24 Sandra Fish Mathurin
25 Sasha Filippova

1 STAFF: (Cont'd.)
2 Sheryl Borg
3 Stephanie Sylvestre
4 Susan Marian
5 Tatiana Canelas
6 Trisha Barnett
7 Victoria Cividini
8 William Kirtland
9 Ximena Nunez
10 Yesenia Reyes
11
12 GUESTS:
13 Marilu Villa
14 Helene Good
15 Justin Cabrera
16 Sasha Filippova
17 Antonio Drayton
18 Olive Cooper
19 Rita Gangi
20 Richard Shutes
21 Jorge Torrales
22 Myrna Charlton
23 Tania Ramirez
24 Raul Peron
25 Tamika Lewis

1 GUESTS: (Cont'd.)
2 J Martinez
3 Yesenia Reyes
4 Garnet Esters
5 Sebastian McCormick
6 Juan Carlos Gonzalez
7 Rosy Castro
8 Stephanie McNeil
9 Heather Winters
10 Cibele Stempniak
11 Gabriela Saenz
12 Jessica Marcia
13 Yolanda Castro
14 Andrew Pocock
15 Naomi Legagneur
16 Jean Warring
17 Thema Campbell
18 Ana Hernandez
19 Irenaida Diaz
20 Camila Gil
21 Alisha Reyes
22 Cheryl Hodge
23 Francisco Fins
24 Jackie Shakespeare
25 Yannet Amador

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PROCEEDINGS

(Recording of the meeting began at 4:02 p.m.)

MR. HOFFMAN: Okay. Good afternoon. We do have a quorum, so I'd like to call the meeting to order. It's 4:02 p.m., and we have a lot on the agenda today.

The first thing I'd like to do is to do a brief remembrance of our former director, Rodester Brandon.

About two years ago, we said goodbye to Rodester as an at-large member of the Board. He passed away a few weeks ago after a battle with cancer -- a brief battle with cancer, and so today we wanted to say our final goodbye's.

Rodester was a founder of the Miami Wind Symphony and served as its principle conductor. He loved teaching music as much as performing, and his career included teaching musicians at the New World School of the Arts, Miami Dade College, and Homestead High School where he was a band director.

In his role as a director of the Children's Trust, Rodester was soft spoken but thoughtful with his words, always passionate about helping children, particularly through our programs that support music and the arts. He always maintained a

1 pleasant demeanor and a smile.

2 He served as chair of our nominating committee
3 for several years, and in that role, he helped
4 guide us in the selection of other directors and
5 officers. He was a kind and compassionate person
6 who leaves behind a great legacy of helping others.

7 I would like us to observe a moment of silence
8 and reflect in his honor, and then if anyone would
9 like to add a few words, you'll have the
10 opportunity to do so. Thank you.

11 Is there anyone who would like to say a word
12 about Rodester? Reverend Dunn? Oh, you looked
13 like you were teeing up. Nelson -- were you -- no.

14 MR. HINCAPIE: Sure. I think you said
15 everything in the kind, gentle, soul and soft
16 spoken. He was such a good human being. When my
17 son was going to start playing the flute, I reached
18 out to him and he guided me, and you know, he
19 opened the door to knowledge -- music knowledge to
20 me and my son.

21 So, he is -- he is still an amazing human
22 being, and he lives through the music played by
23 every person who had the opportunity to meet him.
24 I'm a better person because I met him.

25 We're a better Board because he was one of our

1 board members, and this community is a better
2 community because we got to enjoy Rodester. You
3 know, unfortunately his passing was untimely, but
4 he lives on with us in our memories, and certainly
5 he lives in my heart, and I can hear his voice.
6 Thank you.

7 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you, Nelson. Anyone else?

8 DR. ABRAHANTE: I always enjoyed his
9 contagious smile. I don't think there was one time
10 that he came to the meeting without smiling, and
11 that is something that sometimes we take for
12 granted, and we shouldn't, and I thank him for
13 that.

14 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you, Magaly. Anyone else?

15 MR. HAJ: Mr. Chair, if I may. I'm sorry.

16 MR. HOFFMAN: Go ahead, Jim.

17 MR. HAJ: Mr. Chair, I just want to let the
18 Board know I was able to speak to Rodester about
19 two weeks prior to his passing when we found out
20 that he was sick.

21 And I called him, and I let him know on behalf
22 of the Children's Trust Board and the family how
23 much he means to us and how much we love him, and
24 how much we care for him, and he was very touched.

25 And he also stated about the years on the

1 Board and how much it meant to him, how much the
2 board members and his relationships, and how he got
3 to know the Board and what the staff meant to him,
4 and it really helped fulfill his life. He was a
5 appreciate of the call, he was appreciative of the
6 thoughts, of the Board.

7 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you. Anyone else, and
8 then we'll move on. Okay. Thank you. Muriel, do
9 we have any public comments?

10 MS. JEANTY: No, Mr. Chair, we have no public
11 comments.

12 MR. HOFFMAN: Okay. Then I'll turn it over to
13 Karen Weller, our secretary, for approval of the
14 minutes of the March 15, 2021 board meeting.

15 MS. WELLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The board
16 of directors met on Monday, March the 15th, 2021.
17 The minutes can be found on pages five through
18 seven of your packet. Hopefully, everyone had an
19 opportunity to read the review. May I have a
20 motion for approval?

21 PASTOR DUNN: So moved.

22 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Second, Trowbridge.

23 MS. WELLER: Thank you. All those in favor?

24 ALL: Aye.

25 MS. WELLER: Opposed? The motion carries. I

1 pass it back to you, Mr. Chair.

2 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you. Last month, Governor
3 DeSantis announced his appointments for the three
4 gubernatorial vacancies on our Board.

5 Two of our directors, Pastor Richard Dunn and
6 Marissa Leichter were reappointed by the Governor
7 and we look forward to continuing with both of
8 them.

9 In addition, the Governor brought a new name,
10 Annie Eastman, to our Board. Annie is waiting her
11 official appointment letter, but she is on this
12 call.

13 Annie is President and CEO of Jesse Trice
14 Community Health System which strives to improve
15 the quality of life and achieve health equity for
16 all by providing innovative -- access to innovative
17 quality comprehensive primary health.

18 She's a graduate of the Florida A&M University
19 School of Nursing, former Deputy Secretary of
20 Health and Chief Public Health Nurse in the Florida
21 Department of Health, and Executive Administrator
22 of the Miami Dade Health Department.

23 She's been involved in numerous community and
24 advocacy roles in South Florida, with much of her
25 work involving the Trust directly or indirectly.

1 Annie, we look forward to working with you on
2 the Board. Would you like to say a few words?

3 MS. EASTMAN: Thank you so much. I am so
4 delighted to be a part of this Board. As you said
5 Chairman Hoffman, I've known about the organization
6 for -- since its inception, so that I'm dating
7 myself a little bit here.

8 But thank you all for all you do and again,
9 I'm just delighted that I'm a part of it. You have
10 been a wonderful Board in making sure that the
11 children and families in this community were served
12 from health, from social services, from many other
13 aspects.

14 And so, I look forward to working along each
15 one of -- alongside each one of you and furthering
16 that mission here in Miami-Dade County. So, thank
17 you very much.

18 MR. HOFFMAN: Okay. Thank you. I would also
19 like to welcome in person to our first Board
20 meeting, Ed Abraham, who is appointed as an at-
21 large director at our last meeting and attended our
22 last meeting.

23 So, then we'll move on to the training portion
24 of the meeting. For many years, we've conducted
25 annual training of the Board on the basic

1 principles of the Children's Trust Code of Ethics,
2 and more recently on the role of the Office of the
3 Inspector General.

4 This year's trainings were originally
5 scheduled for our January board meeting which was
6 cancelled because we didn't have a sufficient
7 number of board members to have a quorum.

8 These presentations will be brief, but they
9 will include a lot of important information that
10 every board member should be aware of, so I would
11 appreciate it if everyone would give our presenters
12 their attention.

13 First, I'm going to introduce Felix Jimenez.
14 He's the Inspector General for Miami-Dade Office of
15 the Inspector General. Felix has been with that
16 office since February 20 and was appointed
17 inspector general in September 2020. Felix?

18 MR. JIMENEZ: Good afternoon. Thank you very
19 much. I want to begin by thanking you for the
20 opportunity to tell you a little bit about the
21 Office of the Inspector General.

22 My only regret is that we're not in person,
23 and I'm hopeful that by next year I'll be able to
24 attend and speak to the Board in person.

25 I want to also thank you all for your service

1 to the children of this community. To tell you a
2 little bit about the office, Juana, I am going to
3 ask you to go through the slides if you would?

4 MS. LEON: Yeah.

5 MR. JIMENEZ: If you would, go to the next
6 slide, please? So, back in the late '90s, and I'll
7 try to go through these as quickly as possibly
8 because I know you have a full agenda.

9 Back in the late '90s, some of you may recall,
10 that Miami had developed a reputation of the being
11 the nationally -- the corruption capital, and as a
12 result, there were a lot of things that were done.

13 I remember the state attorney's office and the
14 US Attorney's Office enhance their public
15 prosecution offices. The Miami-Dade Police created
16 its own public corruption investigations unit, and
17 the Board of County Commissioner's created the
18 Office of the Inspector General. Next slide.

19 So, we have had three inspector generals in
20 the history of our office. Christopher Mazello,
21 retired FBI agent was our first, and many of you
22 may remember Mary Cagle, who was our second
23 inspector general.

24 Mary served for two terms and I was her
25 deputy, and I was recently appointed as the third

1 inspector general in her office. We are an
2 independent agent. I'll talk a little bit more
3 about that in a minute, and also as what we call
4 the holistic approach to the cases that work. Next
5 slide.

6 So, we talked about independence, and what's
7 important about being independent. What is an
8 independent office of the inspector general?

9 So, it goes down to the selection of the
10 inspector general who is selected by an Ad Hoc
11 panel that is comprised of the state attorney, the
12 public defender, the Chairperson of the Commission
13 on Ethics, the President of the Miami-Dade
14 Association of Chiefs of Police, and the special
15 agent in charge of the Florida Department of Law
16 Enforcement's Miami Office.

17 So, they are brought together to interview and
18 select and make a recommendation to the
19 commissioners for the appointment of the inspector
20 general. I recently underwent that review.

21 We are created by ordinance, and part of our
22 power is to investigate anyone at any level in
23 county government. We are only the inspector
24 general for Miami-Dade County government as
25 compared to Mr. Arrojo who will be speaking to you

1 about ethics.

2 They have jurisdiction over municipalities in
3 Miami-Dade County. We do not. We are only four in
4 mandated county government. Unless there's a nexus
5 to a municipality, we would not have jurisdiction.

6 What's also very important toward our
7 independence is our funding. It's very creative.
8 They quarter one percent of most county contracts,
9 so we have pretty much control of our purse.

10 And then most importantly or most recently, in
11 the last general election by a falling majority,
12 the citizens of Dade County voted us into the Home
13 Rule Charter. And the importance of that is that
14 the only way that our office could be abolished
15 would have to be through a voter referendum. Next
16 slide.

17 So as I mentioned earlier, we are created by
18 ordinance, and the ordinance provides us with
19 subpoena powers. We also have the power to conduct
20 -- use.

21 We can participate -- not participate, just
22 monitor procurements as they occur, so within the
23 cone of silence we can be a part of that.

24 We issue reports. We can also request
25 documents and other information from county

1 government. Next slide.

2 So people ask, who does the inspector general
3 report to? So, we report to the public. We don't
4 report to the mayor. We don't report to the Board.
5 And so, who inspects the inspector general?

6 So, we do that in two ways. One is the
7 Association of Inspector's General conducts a peer
8 review of our office and they come in and they do a
9 top to bottom review of every discipline within our
10 office to make sure that we're in compliance with
11 the Association of Inspector's General standards,
12 and also by the GAO standards for our audit shop.

13 In addition to that, our investigations unit
14 is the largest part of our office, and the Florida
15 Commission of Law Enforcement Accreditation has an
16 arm that does accreditation of offices of
17 inspector's general, and we are going through our
18 fourth re-accreditation.

19 Our -- all of our -- we have been credited and
20 re-accredited each time meeting or exceeding the
21 standards established by that commission. Next
22 slide.

23 This gives you a breakdown as to our office,
24 how it's divided, and as you can see, the largest
25 section is investigations followed by our audit

1 unit. And then, we have a very robust contract
2 oversight unit and everything that we do goes
3 through our legal unit as well. Next slide.

4 This gives you our T.O., which reflects the
5 information I just provided. Next slide. One of
6 the things that we also do is, we have the ability
7 to set up shop in different departments throughout
8 the county.

9 We do have a permanent office at the Miami
10 International Airport. We have a squad of
11 investigators there. The airport is often
12 considered the economic engine of the counties.

13 We have a full-time staff at water and sewer,
14 which is undergoing a multi-billion-dollar capital
15 improvement project that we have -- that we
16 actively monitor, and as you can see from the
17 slides, JMH in the Port of Miami. That doesn't
18 mean that we can't set up shop -- excuse me --
19 elsewhere in any other county department.

20 I mentioned our jurisdiction. We have one
21 other -- one exception to that and that is an
22 inter-local agreement that we have with the Miami-
23 Dade County Public Schools where we provide
24 inspector general services with them. Next slide.

25 I apologize. So, we are very reactive and

1 complaint driven. We try to be as proactive as we
2 can, but you can see from our fiscal year of 19-20,
3 information on the complaints that are received and
4 the majority of the complaints, are through our
5 website. And the work that we do -- a lot of the
6 work that we do, results from the complaints that
7 we receive. Next slide.

8 This gives you a comparison of the complaints
9 coming into our school board office. Next slide.

10 And what we refer to as a holistic approach
11 is, we try to use whenever possible, the different
12 disciplines in our office to address a lot of the
13 cases that we're working. Be it audit
14 investigations or contract oversight cases, and it
15 turns out to be a very, very successful approach by
16 having so many different sets of eyes looking at
17 the cases that we work. Next slide.

18 So, this gives you a comparison of the Miami-
19 Dade County budget, which is about nine billion
20 dollars, over 28,000 employees compared to the
21 inspector general's office which is \$6.7 million
22 and 38 employees.

23 So, when we make this presentation to county
24 employees, you say, how can 38 employees oversee,
25 provide, you know, our mission of the tracking and

1 waste fraud and abuse in county government?

2 Well, we do that because we depend on our
3 employees to be our eyes and ears, you know, see
4 and say something, and we do that through the
5 employee protection ordinance.

6 We provide -- the ordinance provides
7 protection against retaliation and also
8 confidentiality for employees for providing
9 information to our office trying to make the county
10 better. Next slide.

11 Very similar to the county budget, the school
12 board budget actually has a smaller staff at the
13 school board and a much smaller budget. Next
14 slide.

15 So, the OIG and the Children's Trust, we've
16 had a very, good, longstanding relationship with
17 the Trust. Over the years, we've done several
18 fraud investigations. I want to say that every one
19 of those investigations resulted as a referral
20 trust to us asking them to assist.

21 These cases -- many of these cases where we
22 were privy to some type of criminal activity, were
23 prosecuted through the state attorney's office.

24 Some of you may know that there's one current
25 case that I cannot comment on because it's still

1 being in the process involving an afterschool care
2 program in the South Dade Homestead area.

3 We've done a few of those cases. We've also
4 done -- gotten other referrals from the Trust that
5 we have looked into, and we've determined that
6 there was no fraud involved, and the Trust has
7 worked with those agencies to help put them on
8 track and get them back into the fold, so to say.
9 Next slide.

10 So, I would encourage everyone to go on our
11 website. Our annual reports are all published
12 there. You can see a lot of our information and a
13 lot of our individual cases, audits, and reports
14 that are there, and a lot of the things that we do.

15 Again, you can call us at any time if you have
16 any questions. I don't know if we have enough time
17 for questions at this moment, but I would encourage
18 everyone.

19 Feel free to call me if you have any questions
20 about our office or if there's anything that we can
21 do to assist. Thank you again.

22 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you. Next, we'll hear
23 from Jose Arrojo, the Executive Director of the
24 Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust.
25 He'll go over -- excuse me -- he will go over some

1 important information with respect to the code of
2 ethics, which all of our board members are subject.

3 Jose's been executive director since September
4 of 2018, and before that, he spent over two decades
5 at the Miami's State Attorney's Office, including
6 14 years as chief assistant state's attorney,
7 tasked with leading the office's special
8 prosecution units, supervising all investigations
9 and prosecutions of crimes committed by public
10 officers and employees. Jose?

11 MR. ARROJO: Thank you so very much and thank
12 you to your staff for hosting me and I will keep
13 this as brief as I can.

14 The presentation is rather lengthy, but since
15 we're crunched for time, I just want to predicate
16 the presentation by saying I'm going to go over
17 some of the finer points.

18 I'm going to time myself so that I don't go
19 well over my allotted time, and then encourage you
20 if you have questions, to please reach out and --
21 by email or by phone, and we can work through
22 individual questions and answers as I know that
23 you're pressed for time. Slide, please.

24 So, I usually put that up there because as my
25 colleague Felix Jimenez said, we are, as the county

1 inspector general is, focused on county government,
2 although they do have the ability to follow county
3 money, you know, to other places.

4 The Ethics Commission, with our complete staff
5 of 16 employees, is charged with servicing Miami-
6 Dade County Government and all 34 municipalities.

7 And I put that up there because most Boards
8 and most cities have their own lawyers. You have
9 some very competent counsel from the county
10 attorney's office.

11 And so just as a general rule, you know, if
12 you have a question about a perspective transaction
13 that you're going to engage in, in your capacity as
14 a board member, you can certainly go to the county
15 attorney's office and they can contact us.

16 You can contact us directly. You can contact
17 us through staff. It doesn't make a difference how
18 you do it, but just, you know, just talk to us
19 before you're engaging in a transaction that you
20 think might implicate any of the provisions of the
21 ethics code.

22 And if you contact us directly or through
23 staff as a professional courtesy and because of
24 their competence level, I will always confer with
25 the assistant county attorneys that are assigned to

1 your Board anyway. Next slide.

2 So, why the county ethic's code? And that's
3 because the Section 2-11.1 of the Conflict of
4 Interest in the County Ethics Ordinance applies to
5 the Children's Trust. Next slide.

6 Over the years, we've had different
7 interpretations of whether the county ethic's
8 ordinance applies in total to the Children's Trust
9 or not.

10 And so finally, in order to provide
11 clarification and clear guidance, we went to our
12 Board, the Ethics Commission for Formal Ethics for
13 guidance. A couple of years ago we worked through
14 the issues with your staff and the assistant county
15 attorney's office.

16 And so therefore, our Board opined that the
17 entire ethics code applies to the Children's Trust,
18 its members, employees, lobbyists, and vendors.
19 And so, the entire ethics ordinance applies. Next
20 slide.

21 For purposes of the ethics ordinance, we
22 characterize you as autonomous personnel. The
23 county ethics code has three different categories
24 for board members, autonomous board members, like
25 yourself, advisory board members, or quasi-judicial

1 board members.

2 And so, we classify you as autonomous
3 personnel under the county ethics code, so any time
4 the county ethic code talks about autonomous
5 personnel, that's going to apply to board members.
6 Next slide.

7 We have dual jurisdiction over the ethics
8 code. So, we have jurisdiction to initiate
9 enforcement actions that are prosecuted by our
10 advocate before our ethics commission, which has
11 the authority to publicly reprimand and fine and
12 impose costs.

13 And knowing intentional violations of the
14 ethics code can also be prosecuted as second-degree
15 misdemeanors by the state's attorney's office.

16 In my experience, they usually don't charge
17 individuals ethic violations, but they will include
18 them as additional charges to more serious cases,
19 or sometimes use the ethics code to negotiate
20 criminal matters when they're done by way of plea
21 agreement. Next slide.

22 There's a whole variety of provisions in the
23 gift ordinance. Next slide, please.

24 And I would only leave you with a couple of
25 thoughts, all right? So -- and again, you know, we

1 can spend more time if you have questions or you
2 can contact me directly.

3 So just to be clear, you know, gifts under the
4 county ethics code is going to apply to anything of
5 economic value.

6 So, it can be something tangible that you can
7 hold in your hand. It can be something intangible,
8 it can be a service.

9 It can be tickets to an event, you know. Any
10 of these things are going to qualify as gifts under
11 the ethics ordinance. Next slide.

12 All right. So, for you-all, and for all
13 county employees and other board members, unelected
14 officials, just remember that you may not solicit,
15 not accept anything of economic value if there's a
16 nexus between that gift transaction and your public
17 position.

18 So, anytime that you are soliciting or anytime
19 that someone is offering you something that has an
20 economic value, and there are some nexus between
21 that gift transaction and your position on the
22 public board, the best thing to do is pause, speak
23 to the county attorney that's assigned to your
24 Board.

25 Reach out to the ethics commission and let us

1 talk through it so that we can determine if it's an
2 acceptable gift that you can solicit and/or accept,
3 or whether the nexus between the gift transaction
4 and your public position is such that you have to
5 decline and you may not accept the give. Next
6 slide.

7 Sometimes when you think about gifts, you
8 think about nefarious purposes, but just remember
9 that what you should focus on or what we encourage
10 you to focus on is that nexus between the gift
11 transaction and your public position.

12 The gift could be offered as a simple courtesy
13 without any nefarious intent, but if the nexus is
14 there, it's still going to violate the ethics
15 ordinance. Next slide.

16 There is the county ethics code is unique in
17 that it has its own section that talks about travel
18 and lodging expenses.

19 So, if you are going to travel in your
20 official capacity as a board member to a
21 conference, to an event, to a legislative, you
22 know, to a legislative function somewhere outside
23 of the jurisdiction, just remember that if any
24 portion of your travel, lodging, or meals is going
25 to be funded by someone that -- by someone that has

1 a relationship with the county, with the Children's
2 Trust, that you may be prohibited from accepting
3 that.

4 So, if it's a county contract or a county
5 vendor, something, you know, someone that sits in
6 that relationship with the county, the Children's
7 Trust, you may be prohibited from accepting the
8 travel and lodging cost from them. Next slide.

9 Obviously, if the Children's Trust pays for
10 your travel or if the county pays for your travel,
11 that does not constitute a gift. Next slide.

12 So, remember we talked about gifts that you
13 solicited or accepted that have a nexus to your
14 county position, right? Those are prohibited.
15 Some gifts you can accept, but just because you
16 accept them, you know, it doesn't mean that you
17 still don't have to report them.

18 So, there's a gift disclosure provision on the
19 county ethics ordinance. If you have any questions
20 about whether you have received gifts that you have
21 to disclose, reach out to us or speak to the
22 assistant county attorney that's assigned to your
23 Board, so that we can provide you with guidance on
24 that. All right? Next slide.

25 During, you know, during charity ball season,

1 if you're involved as a service provider or you're
2 involved with, you know, working with at risk
3 communities, a lot of time there are charitable
4 events, balls, or events that are, you know,
5 partially recognition events, and then also
6 partially to raise funds.

7 Just remember, if you receive tickets to one
8 of those events, the Plus One is a gift to you, all
9 right, or the Plus Two is also a gift to you.

10 So, you have to report not only the value of
11 your ticket, but the value of the Plus One or the
12 Plus Two, okay? Next slide.

13 So, just be careful, right? Just be careful
14 with gifts in your public position. I know that
15 many of you hold public positions of significance
16 with other entities or with other not-profits.

17 Just remember, you know, South Florida is a,
18 you know, before COVID, was kind of a strange
19 place, right? We'd hug and kiss you. We like to
20 give gifts, and that's great. Just be sensitive
21 with gift giving because of your public position.
22 We can go forward to a couple of more slides, the
23 lobby.

24 So, the county has a lobby ordinance, and you
25 might -- you traditionally will associate lobbying,

1 right, with a third party, a high paid retained
2 advocate who is lobbying an elected body on policy
3 or zoning.

4 But just remember the county lobbying
5 ordinance is very, very broadly worded and it's
6 going to essentially apply to any person whether
7 it's retained or that he or she is retained by a
8 third party or in- house entity that is advocating
9 some action or inaction, either policy,
10 legislation, procurement, zoning, anything like
11 that.

12 If they're engaged in some advocacy activity,
13 that could constitute lobbying and that person has
14 to register as a county lobbyist, right? Next
15 slide.

16 All right. You have your own specific section
17 and your ethics policy regarding lobbying, right?
18 Which means it is incumbent upon you, and you're
19 going to be voting.

20 You vote on significant procurements,
21 significant funding allotments to service
22 providers, you buy stuff, you -- tangible items,
23 you buy services.

24 So, if anyone is approaching you and
25 advocating you on -- advocating on something that

1 you are going to vote on or consider it as a board
2 member, that person could be lobbying you.

3 And it's incumbent upon you to do the big time
4 out and say hold on a second. You know, you're
5 advocating on something that I may be called upon
6 to vote or consider. This may constitute lobbying.

7 Let's pause, let me talk, through this issue
8 with the county attorney's office, and with the
9 ethic commission. Let me make sure that you're not
10 required to register as a lobbyist. Next slide.

11 Okay. We talked about that. Next slide. All
12 right. We can continue, please. All right. Let's
13 go to the two-year rule.

14 All right. So, really more for staff than for
15 board members, but just remember there's a two-year
16 and a reverse two-year rule that's in place for
17 staff members that rotate out of public service,
18 right?

19 They are barred for a two-year period from
20 lobbying their former employee, and if you as a
21 Board and you as an agency hire from the private
22 sector. There's also a two-year period where that
23 person that you hired from the private sector may
24 not be in a position where he or she is monitoring
25 contracts with their former employee, employer, or

1 firm, and they cannot be in a position where there
2 are supervising anything having to do with the
3 prior firm and the prior employment -- employer.

4 So, it's a two-year -- both a two-year rule
5 and a reverse two-year rule that applies for
6 personnel that are going in and out of government
7 service. Next slide.

8 If you don't remember anything about our talk
9 this afternoon, right, just remember the
10 exploitation. This is the guts of the ethics
11 ordinance.

12 This is the guts of any ethics ordinance or
13 ethics protocol either in the private or the public
14 sector. And that is, that in your official
15 capacity as a board member, you may not use your
16 official position to secure a special benefit or
17 privilege for yourself or a third party, right?

18 Now, notice it's special privilege. You know,
19 in your capacity as a board member, you are going
20 to vote on matters where you are going to direct
21 funding and services that are going to go to
22 agencies and persons.

23 That's in your official capacity. That's not
24 a special benefit. That's what you're there for.
25 To use your judgement and your professional

1 expertise to make these decisions on behalf of the
2 Children's Trust and for the benefit of children in
3 our community.

4 But if it's a special benefit, something that
5 is something that is outside of that official role,
6 it could constitute exploitation. Again, just
7 pause and seek for guidance before you act. Next
8 slide, please.

9 Clearly, this is really not going to apply
10 significantly to you because you're board members,
11 right? More for staff, but the exploitation also
12 expands to using any types of resources, materials,
13 support staff services, anything that is for the
14 use of the Children's Trust.

15 You are prohibited from using it for any
16 personal business or any personal endeavors that
17 you may be engaged in outside of your official
18 role, okay?

19 Financial conflicts of interest, please?
20 Okay. I'm going really, really fast because Imran
21 Ali told me that I shouldn't take a lot of time
22 this afternoon.

23 So, financial conflict of interest. So
24 suffice it to say, the financial conflict of
25 interest provisions in the ethics code are

1 Byzantine, Psychedelic, Complicated, they go from
2 the obvious to the obscure.

3 So, just four things to remember, all right?
4 And we can go through the slides in detail some
5 other time, but just four things to remember.

6 In your individual capacity as Magaly
7 Abrahante, or as Jose Arrojo, right? You are
8 prohibited from transacting with the Children's
9 Trust in your official -- in your individual
10 capacity, right?

11 Your immediate family members may likewise be
12 prohibited from transacting with the Children's
13 Trust in their individual capacity, all right?

14 So, individual capacity, you and your
15 immediate family members. Then you, through a firm
16 or an entity may be prohibited from transacting
17 with the Children's Trust.

18 So, Jose Arrojo individually may be prohibited
19 from transacting with Miami Dade County, right?
20 Or, you know, Arrojo at South Florida Consultants
21 may be prohibited from transacting with the county
22 if I have an ownership interest in that entity.

23 So, just remember, it is you or your family
24 members, and your individual capacity, or through a
25 firm or an entity, and then your immediate family

1 members and their individual capacity, or through a
2 firm or an entity.

3 If you come across any transaction, where on
4 the other side of the Children's Trust is you, a
5 family member, a company that you're engaged in or
6 employed with, or a company that your family is
7 engaged with or employed with, that's the time to
8 pause and ask for guidance because that transaction
9 may violate the financial prohibition terms in the
10 county ethics code.

11 Scroll down some more, please. Go on, thank
12 you. Let's go to the slide on conflicting
13 employment if we can. All right.

14 So in your official capacity, for purposes of
15 our conversation, is your role as a board member.
16 You may not accept, normally you have other
17 employment, your day job, if it creates a
18 substantial conflict of interest with your duties
19 on the Children's Trust.

20 This is kind of a bread-and-butter business
21 for the ethics commission. We give out hundreds of
22 these opinions all the time. Usually for full-time
23 employees or staff members that engage in private
24 employment or outside employment or moonlighting.

25 But for you-all, it is highly unlikely. But if

1 you believe that your day job, your private job,
2 poses some type of conflict of interest, it's
3 something for us to talk about. You can go a few
4 more slides, please.

5 Holding conflicts. All right, so this is the
6 biggie, all right? And this is where the lion's
7 share of the ethics commission's interaction with
8 the Children's Trust occurs, and that is on
9 conflict of interest, right?

10 And not only is the county ethic's codes
11 voting conflict prohibitions more stringent than
12 the state ethics ordinance, but your own appearance
13 of impropriety, your own Section 3D, is more --
14 your ethics policy is more stringent than the
15 county ethics code.

16 So really, the Children's Trust and the Public
17 Health Trust that runs Jackson Health Systems,
18 those are the two entities in county government
19 that have the most significant and restrictive
20 conflict of interest and appearance of impropriety
21 provisions. And that's a good thing, right?

22 So, next slide. All right. So, just very,
23 very quickly. Number one, if you're going to vote
24 on an item and it may impact an entity of which
25 you're an officer, director, partner of counsel,

1 consultant, employee, fiduciary, beneficiary, you
2 may have an automatic prohibited voted conflict
3 that you can't vote on.

4 If you have one of the second tier of
5 relationships with the entity, and it's going to
6 impact you in a unique manner, different from the
7 general community, you may also have a voting
8 conflict of interest.

9 And then there's a catch-all, right? Where if
10 they elected -- if you, as a board member, might
11 directly or indirectly profit or be enhanced by the
12 action, then you may have a voting conflict.

13 Your staff is very, very, efficient in
14 identifying all the agenda items. Before your
15 meetings, they reach out to us, they speak to the
16 lawyers on my staff, and we provide ethics opinions
17 for all board members before your meetings.

18 Go on, please. You can continue, thank you.
19 Continue, thank you. All right.

20 Cone of silence. So, just so very, very
21 quickly. Since you are engaged in procurement,
22 right, you buy things, you buy services, right?

23 There's a county cone of silence, and so it's
24 designed so that when you are going to procure a
25 service or buy a tangible item that your

1 professional staff can review bids if you -- if
2 it's your request for proposals or request for
3 bids, can review all of the proposers, you know, in
4 a sanitized environment without outside
5 interference.

6 And then when staff comes to you, they can
7 give you their best-informed professional guidance
8 on who should be the vendor. Who you should buy
9 the service from or who you should buy the product
10 from.

11 During that time period that your professional
12 staff, from the issuance of the request for
13 proposal or the request for bids until they make
14 their formal representation to you, you should have
15 no involvement or communications with staff that's
16 involved in the procurement.

17 Nor should you be involved in communications
18 with any vendors or proposers or their
19 representatives, right, that sanitized time period,
20 when your staff is engaged in their due diligence,
21 so that they can give you the best-informed
22 decision, the best-informed recommendation.

23 You should stay away from communications
24 because ultimately, you will be called upon the
25 make the -- to vote on the procurement. Next

1 slide, please.

2 There is this thing in the county charter that
3 has been there since the 1950s. It is the county's
4 own Bill of Rights.

5 It was -- the ethics commission was given a
6 review and enforcement authority over it in the
7 late 1990's. Suffice it to say, next slide, that
8 it affords citizens these essential rights.

9 You already discharged those -- these
10 obligations through the functioning as a Sunshine
11 Board, and by affording the members of the public
12 the opportunity to public comment, to afford --
13 offer public comments at the beginning of your
14 meetings. Continue, please. Want to go through a
15 few more? All right.

16 Let's go to government and Sunshine. All
17 right. So, you are a Sunshine Board. You have,
18 you know, the county attorney's office and your
19 staff are charged with discharging all of your
20 obligations as a Sunshine Board.

21 So, I'm just going to go through these very,
22 very, quickly. So basic rules; don't talk to each
23 other about anything that is going to come before
24 the Board, you know.

25 Mr. Salver can't talk to Ms. Abrahante about

1 something that is going to come before the Board
2 individually. If the two are then are talking
3 about it and it's outside of the Sunshine, then you
4 know, then that's a per se Sunshine Communication
5 and it shouldn't be occurring. It violates the
6 Sunshine Ordinance. Continue, please? Continue.

7 So, a couple of things to be concerned about.
8 On two-way communications, just remember not only
9 can Ms. Abrahante, and I'm picking on her because
10 I'm looking at her face right here because she's at
11 the top, and Mr. Salver, I'm picking on him because
12 I know how -- from his elected position.

13 So, not only may Mr. Salver and Ms. Abrahante
14 not talk to each other, they can't use a third
15 party as a liaison, right? So, they can't reach
16 out to Mr. Ali and say, "You know, I want some
17 information on this agenda item that's coming up."

18 And by the way, you know, I would really like
19 to know what where Isaac's thinking is on this
20 because he has some background on it and then Mr.
21 Ali can't turn around and say, "Well, I spoke to
22 Mr. Salver and he said x, y, and z."

23 So, not only does it prohibit two or more of
24 you from talking to each other, but you should be
25 careful when you have staff. Okay, continue?

1 All right. So, very brief on electronic --
2 I'm sorry, continue. Continue, continue. Okay.
3 All right. Let me get a public records real quick.
4 A little more, okay. Real quick.

5 The only thing I want to say about Florida's
6 public records laws is that most public boards,
7 elected officials, and municipalities, and in the
8 county, and most public board members, right,
9 whether they're, you know, whether they're on city
10 commissions, or on our county boards, utilize these
11 little things that we carry around, right, these
12 little smart phones, right, and utilize them to
13 conduct public business.

14 And just remember that even though it's your
15 phone, just like this is my phone, right, and you
16 pay for it, your public agency may not pay for it.

17 If you are using your cell phone, right, your
18 smart phone to engage in email transactions using
19 your private email accounts or you're engaging in
20 text exchanges and you're conducting public
21 business as text exchanges, if they're anything
22 more than transitory messages and they get into
23 actual substance of items, then those
24 communications constitute public records.

25 And since they constitute public records and

1 they're in your phone, then there really should be
2 some process for you to archive those
3 communications because if someone makes a public
4 records request and wants any and all text
5 exchanges between Jose Arrojo and Isaac Salver
6 regarding the application of the financial
7 disclosure provisions of the ethics code to a
8 prospective transaction, and Mr. Salver and I had
9 been text messaging each other, that's a matter of
10 the public record and we have to provide it.

11 So, just remember if you're going to use your
12 privately owned devices to transact public
13 business, then recognize that there should be some
14 procedure in place for you to archive these
15 communications.

16 Speak to the county attorney's office if
17 you're using it. The best thing is, don't use text
18 exchanges for anything more than scheduling or
19 transitory very, very brief matters.

20 Don't go into anything -- any degree of
21 substance because it could constitute a public
22 record, and for Christ's sake, don't say or write
23 anything in these messages that you would not feel
24 comfortable with reading in the morning Herald with
25 your coffee, okay?

1 Continue, please. Okay, keep going. All
2 right, a little more. Okay. So, I should be
3 making your staff and everyone very, very happy
4 that I was able to go through that in a relatively
5 expedited manner. So, last slide please.

6 If you have any questions reach out to us.
7 Call us directly, call us through the county
8 attorney's office. Call us through your staff. We
9 are here to service you as board members and to
10 talk to you about the application of the ethics
11 code.

12 Just one thing, please. If you contact me, I
13 will be able to give you ethics guidance about your
14 individual future conduct. I can't give you advice
15 or guidance about somebody else's future conduct.
16 I can only do that for them.

17 And as in regards to past conduct, I can't
18 help you with that. I can look at that for a
19 possible enforcement action, but I can't give you
20 guidance on something you already did. So, thank
21 you very much for inviting me, and have a good
22 afternoon and stay safe. Thank you.

23 MR. SALVER: Jose?

24 MR. ARROJO: Yes?

25 MR. SALVER: Do I get royalties for, you know,

1 using me as an example?

2 MR. ARROJO: You know, commissioner, it's
3 always good to see you, sir. Always good to see
4 you, so...

5 MR. SALVER: Sorry. Good to see you too,
6 again.

7 MR. ARROJO: Have a good evening, everyone.
8 Bye-bye.

9 MR. SALVER: All right. God bless.

10 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you, Jose.

11 MR. ARROJO: Thank you.

12 MR. HOFFMAN: Let's be careful out there,
13 okay? Now, I'm going to turn the meeting over to
14 Dan Bagner. He's the Chair of the Nominating
15 Committee. He'll give us a report on the committee
16 meeting held on April 8th. Dan?

17 DR. BAGNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good
18 afternoon, everyone. The nomination committee met
19 on Thursday, April 8th to interview two extremely
20 strong candidates for our vice-chair position.

21 Our very own Pastor Dunn and Pam
22 Hollingsworth, they made our decision extremely
23 difficult for us. Ultimately, we voted to
24 recommend to the Board that Pam Hollingsworth be
25 appointed Vice Chair of the Board.

1 I want to thank Pastor Dunn for volunteering
2 for this position and his continued commitment and
3 the passion that he brings to this Board. Can I
4 please get a motion to approve the recommendation
5 of the nomination committee?

6 PASTOR DUNN: So moved, Richard Dunn.

7 DR. BAGNER: A second?

8 DR. BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: Second, Bendross-
9 Mindingall.

10 DR. BAGNER: Discussion, comments? Okay.
11 Hearing none, all those in favor of Pam
12 Hollingsworth filling the position of the vice
13 chair position?

14 ALL: Aye.

15 DR. BAGNER: All those opposed? Any recusals?
16 The motion passes, and congratulations, Pam.

17 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you.

18 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you. Thank you, Dan.
19 There's been a fair amount of change in the
20 composition of the Board over the few years that
21 I've been Chair of this Board, and one of the
22 things that I emphasized when I became Chair, was
23 to encourage all board members to participate in
24 any number of ways including bringing ideas to the
25 staff between meetings and participating in our

1 committees.

2 We have a wealth of experience, expertise,
3 viewpoints, represented on the Board, and I'm
4 hopeful the Trust is able to benefit from it.

5 So, I would like to continue to encourage all
6 of our new board members as well as our existing
7 members to sign up for one or more committees where
8 they have an interest or they can add value.

9 I also wanted to talk about the executive
10 committee. Our executive committee consists of the
11 four officers, the Chair, Vice Chair, secretary and
12 treasurer. The Chairs are the standing committees,
13 who are not otherwise officers, and three
14 additional board members appointed by the Chair.

15 The composition of our executive committee has
16 changed over time as the individuals who are
17 holding officer positions have changed. But the
18 At-Large, some of the At-Large member positions
19 haven't changed in a number of years.

20 I do plan to look at this to take the
21 prerogative to change one or more of the At-Large
22 members in the next -- before -- probably before
23 the next meeting.

24 It's not to distract -- detract from any
25 individual that's been serving in that position,

1 but to bring in a few new members to the committee,
2 or one or more, new members to the committee to
3 recognize their contribution, to allow them to
4 participate in the management of the Trust as well.
5 So, that will probably be announced at the next
6 board meeting.

7 Our next item is approval of the May 2020,
8 that is the 2020 Board of Director's Meeting
9 Minutes Summary as amended.

10 This is a housekeeping item to amend
11 Resolution 2020-57 to include the reason for the
12 amendment made at the program's committee on May 7,
13 2020.

14 Resolution 2020-B was taken to the program's
15 committee on May 7, 2020 where it was amended
16 during the committee process.

17 The resolution was then approved at the board
18 of director's meeting, but the language related to
19 the amendment that happened if the committee was
20 not in the minute's summary of the Board.

21 So, pursuant to a newly implemented policy on
22 the advice of our legal counsel, this item and
23 board minutes are being brought back to the Board
24 for approval to reflect the amendment that was made
25 at the committee.

1 Then language of the amendment is recommended
2 action. On May 7, 2020, the Program Services of
3 Childhood Health Committee amended Resolution 2020-
4 B to waive the formal competitive procurement
5 process.

6 Said waiver was requested to align with a
7 four-year funding cycle contract term for Family
8 Strengthening services with a five-year funding
9 cycle terms of the Children's Trust broader
10 parenting initiative which includes a parenting and
11 family services program.

12 So, the resolution is authorization to
13 negotiate a resolution -- I'm sorry -- as amended
14 to an authorization to negotiate and execute
15 contract renewals with eight providers, identified
16 herein, for Family Strengthening services, in a
17 total amount not to exceed \$3,254,155.00, for a
18 term of 12 months, commencing August 1, 2020, and
19 ending July 31, 2021; authorization to add two
20 additional 12-month renewals to align with the
21 funding cycles for the broader parenting
22 initiatives; and request a waiver of the formal
23 competitive procurement process.

24 We are not approving any new funding. Again,
25 we're just approving for advice of counsel and

1 amendment to the minutes of the May 2020 meeting.

2 Do I hear a motion to that effect?

3 DR. BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: So moved.

4 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you. And a second? No?

5 MR. TROWBRIDGE: I'll second it, Trowbridge.

6 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you. Any discussion? All
7 those in favor?

8 ALL: Aye.

9 MS. COLLINS: Excuse me. I was going to
10 recuse myself in an abundance of caution because
11 Lotus House Women's Shelter is one of the Family
12 Strengthening providers.

13 MS. KOBRINSKI: So, I think the first motion
14 is the minutes, correct? Approval of the minutes
15 and the second one will be for the resolution. You
16 can recuse from the resolution.

17 MS. COLLINS: Okay.

18 MS. KOBRINSKI: The minutes are just changing
19 to put amended 2020-57 was amended. It's just
20 reflecting that it was amended at the program's
21 committee, and the resolution itself under
22 recommended action we just added the first
23 paragraph to reflect the amendment of the program
24 committee.

25 So, we have the first motion which was for the

1 approval of the minutes. You don't have to recuse
2 for that.

3 MS. COLLINS: Okay. All right.

4 MR. HOFFMAN: I'm sorry. Maybe I didn't
5 understand. Are we reapproving the actual
6 amendment for funding which is already passed
7 because that wouldn't require a recusal.

8 MS. KOBRINSKI: Right. No, that's what I
9 said. So, the first motion just approves the
10 minutes again, and then the second one could be for
11 the actual resolution and the resolution is the
12 only thing she needs to recuse from.

13 MR. HOFFMAN: Okay. All those in favor?

14 ALL: Aye.

15 MR. HOFFMAN: Any opposed? Okay. Leigh,
16 could you clarify what we're supposed to have a
17 motion on now?

18 MS. KOBRINSKI: And then, if we get a motion
19 to approve Resolution 2020-57 as amended.

20 MR. HOFFMAN: Can I have a motion to approve
21 2020 -- Resolution 2020-57 as read, as amended.

22 MR. TROWBRIDGE: I'll move that, Trowbridge.

23 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you. Does Constance need
24 to --

25 MS. KOBRINSKI: Yeah, so Constance Collins --

1 MR. HOFFMAN: Recuse this.

2 MS. COLLINS: I'm recusing myself.

3 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you, Constance.

4 MS. COLLINS: Okay.

5 DR. BAGNER: I also need to recuse. Bagner,
6 employed by FIU.

7 MR. HOFFMAN: Okay, Dan. Anyone else?

8 MS. FERRADAZ: Mr. Chair, I'm not sure if I
9 have to recuse. The Department of Children and
10 Family makes referrals to this program and it's
11 captured in the description of service. I believe
12 I recused the last time.

13 MS. KOBRINSKI: If you recuse from the initial
14 resolution, then you should recuse for the
15 amendment as well.

16 MR. HOFFMAN: Okay.

17 MS. KENDRICK-DUNN: Kendrick-Dun, I'll recuse.
18 I'm employed by Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

19 MR. HOFFMAN: Okay. Do we have any more
20 recusals?

21 MS. ABRAHANTE: Do I have to recuse because I
22 also work for Miami-Dade County Public Schools?

23 MR. HOFFMAN: Yes, you do.

24 MS. ABRAHANTE: Okay.

25 DR. BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: Mr. Chair?

1 MR. HOFFMAN: Yes?

2 MS. COLLINS: I need to recuse as well.

3 DR. BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: I need to recuse
4 also. I'm a school board member, Dade County
5 Public Schools.

6 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you.

7 PASTOR DUNN: Mr. Chair, since we're somewhat
8 on a roll here, I'm part-time employed by Miami-
9 Dade, so I need to recuse myself.

10 MR. HOFFMAN: I'm going to ask our counsel,
11 but I believe so.

12 MS. KOBRINSKI: I'm just going to ask staff to
13 look to see who recused last time because they seek
14 an opinion from the Commission on Ethics for each
15 of these resolutions.

16 DR. BAGNER: Pastor Dunn, you do need to
17 recuse.

18 PASTOR DUNN: I do?

19 DR. BAGNER: Yes.

20 PASTOR DUNN: Thank you.

21 MR. SALVER: Can I just have the county
22 attorney comment on what happens when more people
23 are recusing than voting on an issue? This is
24 Isaac Salver. Remind us.

25 DR. BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: Yes, good idea.

1 MR. HOFFMAN: I don't think that's the case
2 here though, Isaac.

3 MS. KOBRINSKI: Right. We still have a quorum
4 for the meeting, so there's still a majority --

5 MR. HOFFMAN: A quorum for the meeting and
6 more than enough people attending either by Zoom
7 with excuse or in person to approve without the
8 recusals.

9 MR. SALVER: I don't know if that's accurate,
10 but I'll take your word for it.

11 MR. HOFFMAN: Any discussion on the motion?
12 Okay. All those in favor?

13 ALL: Aye.

14 MR. HOFFMAN: Any opposed? Okay. The motion
15 carries. I was just reminded that we did have a
16 backup executive committee meeting scheduled this
17 afternoon, and obviously we were able to obtain a
18 quorum here, so that meeting, if it hadn't already
19 been, is cancelled.

20 Before we jump into the next agenda item, the
21 Program Services and Childhood Health Committee
22 agenda, today we're going to be considering a
23 number of amendments and renewals to some of our
24 youth development and after school contracts, so I
25 suspect that the number of our providers may be

1 listening to this meeting.

2 I just wanted to take the opportunity to thank
3 all of our providers for their extraordinary work
4 during the past year. We've spoken at the Board
5 many times about what the Trust, staff, and Trust
6 management has done in particular to meet the
7 challenges in our community that we're presented by
8 the pandemic.

9 But it really is our providers who have been
10 on the front lines, who have had to be agile and
11 inventive and have had to adapt their businesses
12 and their practices to the ever-changing
13 circumstances brought around by the pandemic.

14 I thank you for your dedication and efforts
15 and we look forward to continuing to work with each
16 one of you to improve the lives of children and
17 families in Miami-Dade County. And with that, I'll
18 turn it over to Pamela Hollingsworth, our Program
19 Services and Childhood Health Committee Chair.

20 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
21 Good afternoon, directors, staff, guests. The
22 Program Services and Childhood Health Committee met
23 on the 4th of April -- pardon me, the 8th of April,
24 to consider the resolutions that I bring to you
25 today.

1 Before we start with the resolutions, we did
2 have a presentation in our programs committee, but
3 for the sake of time today, I'm going to provide a
4 brief overview of the presentation that our CEO
5 presented at the program's committee.

6 Our K-5 grade afterschool programs and summer
7 camps, and that relates to Resolution 21-41, served
8 more than 17,000 children in 208 sites throughout
9 Miami-Dade.

10 In our 6-12th grade afterschool programs and
11 summer camps and that is referring to Resolution
12 2021-42, served close to 7,000 youths in 75 sites
13 throughout Miami-Dade.

14 And the majority of participants served last
15 summer, received in-person programming without any
16 major COVID-19 outbreaks. The attachments inside
17 of your packets show their mid-year performance for
18 the school year.

19 Our K-5 programs have served 8500 children
20 with 21 percent of them reporting living with one
21 or more disabilities, while our 6-12 programs have
22 served more than 2500 children with a 27 percent of
23 youths reporting one or more disabilities.

24 And note also that the observations of both
25 programs indicate most of our providers were able

1 to fully engage their participants. And with that,
2 on to the resolutions. Resolution 2021-40.
3 Authorization to execute contract amendments with
4 19 programs identified herein, to increase funding
5 for their Youth Development contracts, which
6 incurred additional expenses as a result of
7 delivering full day supports during the first six
8 weeks of Miami-Dade County Public Schools virtual
9 schooling, for a one-time total additional amount
10 not to exceed \$174,762.00, each for a term of 12
11 months, commencing August 1, 2020, and ending July
12 31, 2021, subject to annual funding appropriations.
13 May I have a motion, please?

14 MS. NEIMAND: So moved, Neimand.

15 DR. BAGNER: Second, Bagner.

16 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. Are there any
17 recusals? And as we move into discussions, I'll
18 remind you that these amendments relate to a
19 county-wide effort in the youth development
20 programs have continued to serve students, and
21 these amendments reflect, as you know, the 2021
22 school year.

23 It began in the fall with six weeks of online
24 learning as indicated, and these 19 programs are
25 among them. And they operated from a minimum of

1 ten hours a day to include pickup and drop off in
2 addition to virtual schooling.

3 And do note that Trust staff conducted budget
4 analysis to ensure costs were in line with past
5 expenditures.

6 Moving into discussion from the directors?
7 Hearing none, all those in favor?

8 ALL: Aye.

9 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there any opposed?
10 The resolution carries. Resolution 40 -- pardon
11 me, 2021-42. Authorization to negotiate and
12 execute contract renewals with 57 providers
13 identified herein, to deliver high-quality after-
14 school programming for 3,798 middle and high school
15 youth and summer programming for 2,492 middle and
16 high school youth, in a total amount not to exceed
17 \$14,451,841.00, each for a term of 12 months,
18 commencing August 1, 2021, and ending July 31,
19 2022, for year-round and school-year programs, with
20 one remaining 12-month renewal, subject to annual
21 funding appropriations. May I have a motion,
22 please?

23 MS. WELLER: So moved, Weller.

24 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: And a second?

25 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Second, Trowbridge.

1 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there any recusals?

2 DR. BAGNER: Bagner, employed by FIU, Center
3 for Children and Families.

4 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. Other
5 recusals?

6 MS. KOBRINSKI: I'm sorry, Madam Chair.
7 Muriel, can you confirm that Dr. Bagner had to
8 recuse from 42 or 2021-41?

9 MS. JEANTY: Yes.

10 MS. KOBRINSKI: I think we're on 2020 --
11 sorry, 2021-42. We skipped over --

12 DR. BAGNER: Oh, I'm sorry. I missed that. I
13 apologize.

14 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: I read them out of order.
15 So, 42 is --

16 DR. BAGNER: I take back that recusal.

17 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: My apologies to the Board,
18 and thank you, Leigh. So, we are on 42. May I
19 finish with this resolution and then move back to
20 41?

21 MS. KOBRINSKI: Yes.

22 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. So, recusals
23 have changed. Again, this is the resolution for
24 the 57 providers with afterschool programming. Dan
25 has removed his recusal. Are there any other

1 recusals?

2 Okay. Then, moving into discussion, again
3 this is the third year of the funding cycle for
4 these 57 county-wide programs, and there is a map
5 inside your packet.

6 These middle and high school programs also
7 adapted to the four -- the six-weeks of the school
8 year in which learning was 100 percent online.
9 These programs provided an average of 77 days of
10 service to 2,684 children, and again with 27
11 percent presenting disabilities.

12 Programmatically, these programs offer
13 structured activities to promote academic success,
14 social and emotional learning, SEL, and skill
15 building in one or more specialized areas.

16 Discussion, observation from the Board,
17 please? Hearing none, all those in favor?

18 ALL: Aye.

19 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there any opposed?
20 The resolution carries. And now let's go back to
21 Resolution 2021. Pardon me, 41. 2021-41.

22 Authorization to negotiate and execute
23 contract renewals with 82 providers identified
24 herein, to deliver high-quality after-school
25 programming for 12,257 elementary school children

1 and summer programming for 13,185 elementary school
2 children, in a total amount not to exceed
3 \$36,018,147.00, each for a term of 12 months,
4 commencing August 1, 2021, and ending July 31,
5 2022, for year-round and school-year programs, with
6 one remaining 12-month renewal, subject to annual
7 funding appropriations. May I have a motion,
8 please?

9 MS. GIMENEZ: So moved, Gimenez.

10 MS. HOLLINSWORTH: Thank you. And a second?

11 MS. COLLINS: Second, Collins.

12 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. Are there any
13 recusals?

14 DR. BAGNER: Bagner, employed by FIU, Center
15 for Children and Families.

16 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Okay. Very well. And
17 moving into discussion for Resolution 41, 82
18 providers. Again, they've continued to work during
19 those six weeks, 91 days of service was provided to
20 8,415 children with 21 percent of them reporting
21 special needs.

22 Programmatically, the programs offered
23 structured activities to support academic success,
24 social and emotional learning, physical fitness,
25 and an age grade appropriate literacy focus.

1 And you will note that three programs are
2 recommended for renewal with changes in funding
3 amounts, and two programs are not recommended for
4 renewal, with one moving to a summer only model,
5 and one which is no longer delivering services in
6 Miami-Dade County.

7 So, for Resolution 2021-41, further discussion
8 from the Board? Hearing none, all those in favor?

9 ALL: Aye.

10 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there any opposed?
11 The resolution carries. Resolution 2021-43.
12 Authorization to negotiate and execute a contract
13 renewal with Nova Southeastern University, Inc.,
14 for program and professional development supports
15 for The Children's Trust's providers and staff in a
16 total amount not to exceed \$661,676.00, for a term
17 of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2021, and
18 ending September 30, 2022, with one remaining 12-
19 month renewal, subject to annual funding
20 appropriations. May I have a motion, please?

21 MS. NEIMAND: So moved, Neimand.

22 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: And a second?

23 MS. GIMENEZ: Second, Gimenez.

24 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there any recusals?
25 Okay. Moving into discussion. This is Nova

1 Project Rise, and Project Rise has met its overall
2 performance, has met expectations, and in the first
3 five months of the 2020-21 contract year, there was
4 3,229 completions of 30 online courses and 138
5 people attended eight virtual group trainings.
6 Note also, that two additional courses were created
7 by Project Rise during the first six months of this
8 contract term. Project Rise also collaborated with
9 other funded PPD providers in creating the course
10 Navigating Uncertainty, Helping Families Cope with
11 COVID-19, and this was available to all providers.
12 Coaching was provided with 58 provider staff
13 members from 19 programs, for 113 total hours
14 through 106 virtual sessions.

15 Discussion, observations from the Board,
16 please? Hearing none, all those in favor?

17 ALL: Aye.

18 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there any opposed?
19 The resolution carries. Resolution 2021-44.
20 Authorization to negotiate and execute a contract
21 renewal with Florida International University Board
22 of Trustees (FIU) for reading enhancement services,
23 in a total amount not to exceed \$882,168.00, for a
24 term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2021, and
25 ending September 30, 2022, with two remaining 12-

1 month renewals, subject to annual funding
2 appropriations. May I have a motion, please?

3 MS. NEIMAND: Moved, Neimand.

4 MS. DONWORTH: So moved, Donworth.

5 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. And that was a
6 second as well? Are there any recusals?

7 MS. KOBRINSKI: Sorry, who seconded it?

8 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: I think -- I thought --
9 did -- Donworth was the second, I believe. The
10 first --was that Neimand?

11 MS. NEIMAND: Yes.

12 MS. KOBRINSKI: Thank you.

13 DR. BAGNER: Recusal Bagner, employed by FIU.

14 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Dr. Bagner.

15 And moving into discussion for 44. Again, a
16 contract renewal with FIU.

17 The FIU Reading Explorers Program is county-
18 wide and provides reading enhancement services to
19 existing Trust-funded afterschool and summer
20 programs, and Trust-affiliated early childhood
21 education programs.

22 Now, in response to COVID-19, Reading
23 Explorers met the needs of K-5 youth development
24 providers by offering a virtual coaching connection
25 café series engaging both parents and students.

1 Reading Explorers also implemented two
2 coaching series during the summer. One focused on
3 reading instruction and the other on STEAM
4 (phonetic). Both virtually and in person, with a
5 92 percent favorable rating.

6 Discussion, observations, questions from the
7 Board, please?

8 MS. KENDRICK-DUNN: This is Kendrick-Dunn. I
9 have a couple of questions and maybe comments. So,
10 my -- I want to better understand for our children
11 that our bilingual or multi-lingual, where do they
12 fit in this process?

13 I'm assuming that all the reading enhancements
14 are conducted in English, but we do have many
15 children in our community where their native
16 language is not English.

17 I've expressed this. This is something that I
18 think needs to be addressed by this Board. When it
19 comes to reading, the research -- and I've been
20 reading a lot of it.

21 I can help provide it to the staff or Board if
22 needed, that you know, one of the best ways to
23 acquire the English language if you do not speak it
24 as a native, is to receive instruction in your
25 native tongue or your native language, and then

1 those skills transfer over.

2 I think this is something that we really have
3 to look at because we have many children, I think,
4 in our communities that have a native language
5 other than English, and they are lacking literacy
6 in their native language and that is an issue.

7 Obviously, they're going to gain the English.
8 The majority of them, unless there is some type of
9 disabling condition like a learning disability, but
10 I'm just thinking in terms of social justice
11 because if you have a native language other than
12 English, I think especially with the Children's
13 Trust, that we have funding to advocate for the
14 literacy in both English and the native language;
15 the largest one being spoken in our community which
16 is Spanish.

17 This is something that I really thing we need
18 to address. The younger we can start this, the
19 better for the children. Like I mentioned, there
20 is a huge body of evidence that supports this.

21 The research is very, very, very clear, and
22 this is something that we really need to grapple
23 with. Making sure that children are literate in
24 both their native language as well as English.

25 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: I apologize. May I --

1 Jim, do we have feedback from staff or Tiombe? Did
2 you have a particular question or making an
3 observation?

4 MS. KENDRICK-DUNN: I guess a question and
5 observation, but I just, you know, want to know if
6 this is something that we're going to look into as
7 -- in the future being that we have children that
8 are multi-lingual, bilingual, and this is something
9 I think that we do not talk about.

10 This is a social just issue. There's a lot of
11 issues with, you know, the cultururation, but I think
12 this is something that we need to discuss as a
13 Board because I think it needs to be addressed.

14 I struggle with children just being literate
15 in English only, and their native language is not
16 English. They have difficulties communicating with
17 their parents maybe sometimes in writing and
18 speaking and reading.

19 And as I said, the evidence base is very clear
20 what should be done and the evidence shows that we
21 should be doing both, and I want to encourage this
22 Board and the staff to really look into this.

23 I am available to help. I know professionals
24 that can provide the information, but I want to
25 advocate for these children that, you know, culture

1 is very important and retaining your language and
2 being able to read and write in your language if
3 that is what the parent wants, and if that's what
4 the children want, then we need to look at that as
5 well.

6 This is something that I think is neglected in
7 many communities across our nation, and I want to
8 speak on behalf of the children that they have a
9 right to -- just as well as they have a right to
10 learn to read and write in English, and their
11 native language they have the right to do so as
12 well.

13 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Tiombe.

14 MR. HAJ: Madam Chair?

15 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Yes, Jim?

16 MR. HAJ: Madam Chair, if I may? I'm going to
17 ask Lori and or Rachal to tee it up, but Lori, if
18 you can just talk about the GOLD, the reading
19 score's program.

20 And I know as we get into the Board discussion
21 at the end of the meeting, do we have -- Tiombe to
22 your point in what was discussed at the retreat is
23 to add native language support to all our
24 enrichment activities at the Trust.

25 So, that's going to be in discussion shortly.

1 But Lori, if you can just talk specifically about
2 this reso in front of us?

3 MS. HANSON: Sure. I think Dr. Hart, who is
4 running this program, gave some information about
5 what's currently in place to Tiombe before the
6 meeting, and it's not that as a major focus.

7 The major focus is really about differentiated
8 instruction in reading in English for rising
9 kindergarten, first and second graders.

10 They do track, you know, English language
11 learners and could -- we could do some analysis.
12 They have a research review approved with the
13 school district to look at school data for the kids
14 who take part in this.

15 So, we could kind of look at it and see if
16 there's a been a differential impact for English
17 language learners versus not, but the curriculum
18 that they're using right now are from the Center
19 for Reading Research, you know, and have a clearing
20 house and is focused on instruction in English but
21 has had studies done on diverse populations, you
22 know, including Florida Head Start kids and that is
23 -- that includes school language learners.

24 But I do think, you know, to Tiombe's point,
25 there's additional exploration that we could look

1 into for this if we wanted to add, you know, some
2 other curriculum resources or approaches that could
3 be incorporated to that specific point.

4 I don't see Dr. Hart on the list of
5 participants unless she's on with just a phone
6 number and not her name.

7 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Lori.

8 MS. KENDRICK-DUNN: I just have one more
9 comment. Lori, thank you so much for that
10 information.

11 MS. HANSON: You're welcome, Tiombe.

12 MS. KENDRICK-DUNN: You know, I can see
13 because, obviously the LEA, the school district,
14 you know, they are required to provide ELL, ESOL
15 services, but I don't know how much, you know, as
16 far as the regulations are concerned.

17 That is more tracking their proficiency in
18 English. It does not track their proficiency in
19 their native language, and so that is an issue, and
20 we're talking about proficiency in their native
21 language and being able to read and write.

22 And I want to say, in addition to the English,
23 they're going to get the English. That is not the
24 issue here. The issue is making sure if I speak
25 Spanish, that I'm literate. If I speak Portuguese,

1 that I have the opportunity to become literate. If
2 I speak Haitian-Creole-French as a native language,
3 that I have the opportunity to become literate, not
4 only in English, right, because we have to think
5 about culture and how we even -- how many of us
6 that, you know, English is your native language,
7 and if you go back in many cultures, that's not how
8 it started.

9 And so, making sure that we're honoring people
10 that they have native languages in addition to
11 English that their children have the opportunity to
12 carry forth their legacy and to be fluent in their
13 native language.

14 But I think that, you know, in the future as a
15 Board, we have to, you know, when we're talking
16 about all the things that we do for children,
17 literacy in the native language in addition to
18 English, this is something that is very important.

19 And for some of these children it will become
20 -- it will help with livelihood; it will help keep
21 the connection with their cultures and their
22 family. This is something that is critical.
23 Again, the evidence base, the research is very
24 clear about this.

25 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Tiombe.

1 MR. HOFFMAN: We have a comment from Constance
2 as well.

3 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Yes, Constance?

4 MS. COLLINS: Yes, thank you. I want to
5 second Tiombe's comment. I know how critical it is
6 at our shelter that we deliver services
7 trilingually. Creole, Spanish, and English and
8 that we go the extra mile if someone does have an
9 additional language from whatever country.

10 I think of it as part of ensuring that
11 children feel welcome and accepted and valued to be
12 able to receive services in their primary language.

13 And I don't know if it's possible, but perhaps
14 when this gets renewed, we could make the request
15 of FIU to provide those added services in languages
16 that are consistent with a child's primary culture
17 or background.

18 So, I just want to say I do think that
19 delivering services in the native language of an
20 individual is really critical to their learning
21 process and I agree the evidence shows that to be
22 the case.

23 DR. BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: Madam Chair?

24 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Yes, Ms. Bendross-
25 Mindingall?

1 DR. BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: I am going to of
2 course, bring this conversation to our school
3 board. We're having our meeting on Wednesday and I
4 appreciate you Tiombe, for making this so
5 purposefully clear.

6 I'm going to move forward with what we're
7 doing and see how well we can partner with the
8 Children's Trust. Thank you very much.

9 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. Further input
10 from our board of directors? Hearing none, all
11 those in favor?

12 ALL: Aye.

13 MS. HANSON: I'm sorry.

14 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there any new -- oh,
15 go ahead, Lori, please.

16 MS. HANSON: No, go ahead and finish. I'll
17 make a comment after.

18 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Are you sure you don't
19 want to make it before the vote?

20 MS. HANSON: Yes.

21 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: So, I think we had -- it
22 was all those in favor?

23 ALL: Aye.

24 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there any opposed?
25 The resolution carries. Dr. Hanson?

1 DR. HANSON: Yes, I just wanted to make the
2 point clear that this program is kind of unique
3 because it is layered on top of our existing summer
4 camp programs which are all offered in three
5 languages across the community.

6 This is basically the reading tutor, the
7 teacher, the certified teacher that comes in and
8 does the differentiated instruction for those
9 children who are identified at the pre-pass point
10 in the summer, like, at the beginning of the
11 summer, as being struggling readers.

12 And so this is really -- this funding has
13 historically been directed at trying to keep from
14 having further summer learning loss in reading
15 skills and pre-literacy skills for the youngest
16 kids and even, you know, build -- actually have
17 learning gain in the summer for those kids who are
18 most struggling and behind.

19 So, it is not that this is a program by
20 itself, standing alone, only delivering services in
21 English -- in reading in the English language.

22 This is just one of the -- let's say if they
23 operate the tutoring four times a week for about an
24 half an hour a day, and that's in the context of
25 our ten hour a day, five day a week summer camp

1 program, which has multiple other activities and
2 multi-lingual staff that are running those summer
3 camps. So, just wanted to clarify that, that's
4 all.

5 And yes, I'm sure FIU would be happy to talk
6 with us further about how to support dual language
7 learners. Thank you.

8 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you very much.
9 Resolution 2021-45. Authorization to negotiate and
10 execute a contract renewal with CCDH, Inc. d.b.a.
11 The Advocacy Network on Disabilities in an amount
12 not to exceed \$200,000.00 for direct youth
13 inclusion supports and \$788,000.00 for program and
14 professional development support services for The
15 Children's Trust providers and staff, for a total
16 amount not to exceed \$988,000.00, for a term of 12
17 months, commencing October 1, 2021, and ending
18 September 30, 2022, with one remaining 12-month
19 renewal, subject to annual funding appropriations.
20 May I have a motion, please?

21 PASTOR DUNN: Moved by Richard Dunn.

22 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. And a --

23 DR. BAGNER: Second, Bagner.

24 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. Are there any
25 recusals? Okay. Hearing no recusals, let's move

1 into discussion. This is a county-wide service.
2 It's for direct youth inclusion supports along with
3 program professional development support services
4 for TCT providers.

5 And this includes funding the respite in-home
6 supports for children and youth who have
7 significant and multiple support needs. Funding to
8 increase participation for children and youth with
9 more significant accommodation needs in trust
10 funded and youth development programs, in training
11 and coaching for trust-funded programs and staff.

12 Now, the networks overall performance has met
13 expectations and in the first five months of the
14 2020-21 contract year, there were 476 course
15 completions of the two available online courses
16 created by the network.

17 Sixty-five people attended seven virtual group
18 training sessions, 26 people from 14 programs by
19 way of 29 virtual sessions for a total of 53 hours.

20 Direct youth inclusion and in-home supports
21 began with a soft launch last October and have
22 served two youths for inclusion supports and 11
23 youths for in-home supports for a total of 1,100
24 hours. And this is expected to increase as
25 children return to in-person services.

1 Discussion, questions, observations from the
2 Board?

3 PASTOR DUNN: Madam Chair?

4 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Yes, Reverend Dunn?

5 PASTOR DUNN: As I stated at our last meeting,
6 our program services committee meeting, this one
7 grabs at my heart in more ways than one, and I am
8 just so delighted that the Trust is moving in this
9 direction. It's very, very personal to me and I
10 know what intervention can do at the youth level if
11 dealt with appropriately.

12 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you for that.
13 Board members for --

14 DR. BAGNER: Madam Chair?

15 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Yes, Dan?

16 DR. BAGNER: I'd like to add a comment as
17 well. I just want to commend this group. They do
18 excellent work, and I want to remind my fellow
19 board members that, you know, we really do have a
20 commitment to children with disabilities, and just
21 to keep that in our mind as we discuss this summary
22 later of the retreat because this group can't do
23 their work if we don't sufficiently and
24 significantly include a number of children in these
25 programs with disabilities. Thank you.

1 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Dan. Thank
2 you. Let's see, let's pull up the screen for the
3 feedback from our board of directors. Hearing
4 none, all those in favor?

5 ALL: Aye.

6 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there any opposed?
7 The resolution carries. Resolution 2021-46.
8 Authorization to negotiate and execute a single
9 source contract with Jewish Community Services for
10 the 211 Helpline call center for children and
11 families in our community, for a term of 12 months,
12 commencing October 1, 2021, and ending September
13 30, 2022, in a total amount not to exceed
14 \$1,174,176.00. May I have a motion, please?

15 PASTOR DUNN: So moved, Richard Dunn.

16 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you.

17 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Second, Trowbridge.

18 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. Are there any
19 recusals? And moving into discussion. 211
20 includes a 24-hour staffed call center, provides
21 comprehensive information referrals and crisis
22 counseling in English, Spanish, and Haitian-Creole.
23 It also provides services that support the
24 health and human service needs of children, youth,
25 and their families throughout the county, maintains

1 an up-to-date searchable online community resource
2 directory accessible by a computer and mobile
3 devices, as well as online chat feature.

4 Active partnership with Help Me Grow, which is
5 a natural, national, and state-wide system
6 supporting families with young children, birth to
7 eight who are at risk for health developmental or
8 behavior issues.

9 And during the fiscal year 19-20, counselors
10 assisted 54,200 callers, and that's a 54 percent
11 increase over the previous year with a 126 percent
12 increase in call volume during the first two months
13 of the pandemic.

14 Note that the top five needs of 211 callers
15 are mental health, substance abuse, housing, food,
16 health care and information services.

17 And additionally, 211 is in the process of
18 moving to their new facility in North Miami. They
19 are upgrading some of their technology and looking
20 at enhanced software with features allowing for
21 more automated functions including call monitoring,
22 follow up, and other quality assurance functions,
23 and they will be providing us with ongoing updates
24 as things unfold in that area.

25 The floor is open for the directors.

1 Feedback, questions, discussion?

2 DR. BAGNER: Madam Chair, if I may?

3 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Yes, Dan.

4 DR. BAGNER: So, this was something that came
5 up during program committee. I just want it on the
6 record, you know, that we talked a bit about the
7 quality assurance features that they have already,
8 and I know that you had mentioned that they plan to
9 enhance those quality assurance measures.

10 I want to make sure that it's clear that what
11 we're really looking for, at least what I'm looking
12 for, is better quality satisfaction measures,
13 right?

14 So like, simply if we think about when you get
15 a call from a customer service agent and you -- and
16 then it texts you and says, "Press 1 if you feel
17 satisfied with the call," or if you received the
18 information that you were looking for. The fact
19 that we're not doing that already is concerning,
20 and I do want to bring that on the record that the
21 211 or -- I'm sorry -- that JCS does state that
22 that is a plan that they do -- intend to do because
23 this is a lot of money, and we want to make sure
24 that families who call this hotline are getting
25 their needs met.

1 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Dan. Feedback,
2 further questions, from the Board?

3 PASTOR DUNN: Madam Chair?

4 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Yes, Reverend Dunn?

5 PASTOR DUNN: Again, I just wanted to
6 reiterate the collaboration with the Jewish
7 Community Services. I'm proud to be a friend of
8 Rabbi Alan Litwak of the Temple Sinai congregation
9 and I'm very sensitive to all communities as it
10 relates. And so, I'm also slightly involved with
11 the MCCJ as well through that friendship. So, this
12 is a good resolution as well.

13 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you.

14 MR. HOFFMAN: Nicole?

15 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Further discussion?

16 MR. HOFFMAN: Yes, we have Nicole.

17 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Yes, Nicole?

18 MS. GOMEZ: Do we know how many calls come in
19 that are in English, Spanish, and then Creole, and
20 is there a need for -- to add an additional
21 language such as Hebrew for the Jewish community?

22 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Do we have staff present
23 that could answer that or is --

24 MR. HAJ: I'm not sure if JCS is on the phone,
25 but Nicole, we can certainly get that information

1 to you as soon as possible, and we can ask
2 regarding the additional languages.

3 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Jim. Thank
4 you, Nicole. Directors for the questions? Hearing
5 none, all those in favor?

6 MR. HINCAPIE: I have a question.

7 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Yes, Nelson?

8 MR. HINCAPIE: Madam Chair, I have a question.

9 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Yes.

10 MR. HINCAPIE: So, and I guess it's -- I'm not
11 on that committee, but from what Dr. Bagner said,
12 JCS does offer the possibility to have, I guess
13 it's a satisfaction survey at the end of the call.

14 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: He is wanting that to come
15 into play for 211. That's Dan's suggestion.

16 MR. HINCAPIE: Oh, okay.

17 DR. BAGNER: Yeah. I -- just of note, I saw
18 on the chat that the callers are asked if their
19 needs are met and satisfied at the end of each
20 call, but I think that's very different than
21 actually administering a survey so we could see
22 some data on satisfaction levels of callers.

23 MR. HAJ: Yeah. And if may, Nelson, we do
24 have a cold call provider that calls to make sure
25 that the -- and I'm not sure of the term that we

1 use. Lori, you help me out.

2 But we have blind callers that call to make
3 sure that a service is there, but what Dan asked
4 was for additional efficiencies for the customer
5 service aspect, this JCS says they're looking at
6 enhancing their systems and they want us to have
7 this one function.

8 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. And Lori's
9 reminded us that those are called secret shoppers.
10 Thank you, Lori. Okay. All right.

11 Additionally, unless we have something -- we
12 have a multi-lingual staff and also provide
13 translation services when needed, and that is from
14 Heather Winters. Thank you, Heather.

15 Are we -- further feedback? What numbers are
16 we ready to vote on this resolution? All those in
17 favor?

18 ALL: Aye.

19 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there any opposed?
20 The resolution carries, and that takes us -- let me
21 close my screen up. That takes us to our final
22 resolution of the day.

23 Resolution 2021-47. Authorization for a
24 procurement waiver to enter into a purchase
25 agreement with Community Health of South Florida

1 (CHI) to purchase personal protective equipment
2 (PPE) for Trust-funded programs, in a total amount
3 not to exceed \$250,000.00, for a term of 6 months,
4 commencing April 1, 2021, and ending on September
5 30, 2021. May I have a motion, please?

6 MS. GIMENEZ: So moved, Gimenez.

7 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. And a second?

8 DR. BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: Bendross-Mindingall.

9 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. Are there any
10 recusals? And moving into discussion. This
11 resolution seeks to provide continued support for
12 an array of Trust-funded providers through the
13 purchasing of PPE items such as three-ply masks,
14 sanitizing solution, and cleaning supplies to be
15 distributed from May through the end of the summer.

16 CHI is a trust-funded healthcare organization
17 that can leverage its buying power to procure these
18 items.

19 Feedback from our Board please? Questions,
20 observations?

21 MS. GIMENEZ: I have an observation which I
22 actually made the program services meeting last
23 week regarding the amount. My question was, you
24 know, I wondered where all these PPE's and social
25 distancing et cetera, how many children, because

1 of, according to at least my family, our children -
2 - grandchildren, have not gotten to see us as much
3 as they normally would during the flu season and
4 when I made that observation, I had as always, Mr.
5 Haj and staff.

6 In this case, Lori found an article from the
7 Washington Post which is very interesting where
8 last year 200 children died unfortunately from the
9 flu, and this year one.

10 So to me, I think this is very important that
11 we consider as a Board, to not just do this while
12 the pandemic is going on, but at least during flu
13 season time from now on to protect our children
14 because obviously, the PPE is working as far as,
15 you know, having transmission or non-transmission
16 of those type of diseases.

17 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. Thank you for
18 that.

19 MS. GIMENEZ: You're welcome.

20 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Further feedback,
21 observations?

22 MR. HAJ: Madam Chair, you should just want to
23 remind when I say that program's committee. We do
24 have, if this is approved, we're going to have a
25 drive to distribute for summer programs sometime

1 probably in May.

2 We will let everybody know if I make a press
3 event around this, so we hope to see you at the
4 distribution event in May. Then again, June or
5 July as we get ready for the afterschool program
6 for the fall.

7 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Jim. I look
8 forward to that.

9 DR. BAGNER: If I may, this is a bit beyond
10 this particular resolution, but as we get closer
11 and closer to younger kids being able to get
12 vaccinated once the data are out, I hope that the
13 Trust can be involved in some of those efforts, at
14 least in terms of encouraging families to get their
15 kids vaccinated and whatever we can do on behalf of
16 the Trust, to help more past this pandemic. Thank
17 you.

18 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Dan. I don't
19 see any other hands raised. Comments? All those
20 in favor?

21 ALL: Aye.

22 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there any opposed?
23 The resolution carries. And with that, it's back
24 to you, Mr. Chair.

25 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you, Pamela. Okay. We're

1 actually running on time more or less, and it has
2 been a long meeting. We saved one of the best
3 items for last, which is a report on our board
4 retreat.

5 We did hold a board retreat back in February
6 to go over what's been done to address prior board
7 priorities that have been identified at the
8 previous year's retreat, as well as to try and set
9 some new goals and priorities and get feedback from
10 our directors for the upcoming year and beyond.

11 Jim had circulated to all of us, and I think
12 you got my email in advance of the meeting, a
13 report that summarizes the key takeaway actions
14 from the discussions.

15 The retreat was very well attended, and I'm
16 sure those of you who were there will agree that
17 the discussions were both informative, meaningful,
18 and pretty robust for a virtual retreat.

19 I'm going to turn it over now to Lori and Jim
20 to go through the highlights of the results. But
21 again, this reflects your feedback on the
22 priorities of the Trust, and we categorized them
23 into things that we were already doing, things that
24 we should expand are existing programs and some new
25 opportunities.

1 MR. HAJ: Mr. Chair, thank you. I'm just
2 going to turn it over to Lori to walk you through.
3 You emailed it, and I believe my iPad just went
4 down. I'm not sure if you have it on your iPad's as
5 well.

6 And Lori, if you can just walk the board
7 members through what is in front of them, and I
8 think we tried to categorize it to also make this
9 discussion relatively easy. So, Lori?

10 DR. HANSON: Sure, thank you. Thank you, Ken.
11 Thank you, Jim, and thanks to all the board members
12 who participated in the retreat. It was a very
13 rich discussion.

14 There were lots and lots of flip chart notes,
15 virtual flip chart notes, and as well as notes that
16 were taken during the session.

17 Staff had a lot of chance to review those and
18 compile the different -- three different rotations
19 through each of the three topics, and we have
20 provided them back for you since we didn't have
21 time at the end of that retreat day to, like,
22 report back out on every small group topic where
23 we've shared the full notes with you in this
24 document that you've got.

25 There's two pages for each of the three areas.

1 So, six pages of notes. I'm getting an echo.
2 Something just changed. We reviewed those notes
3 and I don't know --

4 There we go -- and we distilled down, based on
5 the themes that came up in repeated group
6 rotations, 24 possible priority actions. They're
7 broken into three categories as Ken mentioned.

8 Our goal for this evening's discussion is
9 really to confirm whether the note summaries, that
10 you feel they reflect the sentiment from the board
11 retreat discussions, and then also to affirm the
12 action priorities.

13 The first set of ten priorities on page one
14 are actions that are already in play that we heard
15 your continued support for, and then Juana, if you
16 could keep scrolling to the second page.

17 The next six priorities listed on page two are
18 new actions that are proposed to be undertaken
19 either through policy actions, advocacy efforts,
20 updating our funding guidelines in some way to have
21 new focus with our current initiative funding with
22 no really additional funding anticipated.

23 Or it might be to study an issue further, so
24 we currently don't have additional funding tagged
25 to these on page two, six priority actions.

1 And then finally on page three, the eight
2 actions that are on page three are things that we
3 have identified will require additional funding
4 investments at some point in the next three years.

5 We know that the budget process is obviously
6 year to year, so that first column of the little
7 dollar sign saying is really next budget year that
8 you're going to be starting planning on in the next
9 month, and or too, you'll start to see those things
10 coming from the finance committee and the Board.

11 But we wanted you to see things projected out
12 a couple of years from there, so we went out three
13 years, and I think the finance committee has been
14 doing the same in looking at the fund balance draw
15 down issues, so we wanted to align those timings
16 that you could see.

17 And we have -- as you can see, we've gone with
18 general funding amount estimates right now. We
19 want to -- we're really keen to hear your thoughts
20 on especially this page and these items that are
21 going to be requiring additional dollars in the
22 next fiscal year because that's going to impact
23 what we bring forward to the budget considerations
24 that the finance committee will take up in May and
25 beyond.

1 So, that's -- once we sort of have affirmation
2 that this is the right set of items, then we will -
3 - staff will work in the next month to tie actual
4 dollar amounts to these items and you'll see more
5 specificity going forward. With that, I'll leave
6 it open to the -- Ken, do you want to facilitate
7 the Board discussion or --

8 MR. HOFFMAN: I'll let you do that, Lori.

9 DR. HANSON: Okay.

10 MR. HOFFMAN: But I think one of the reasons,
11 obviously, this was distributed about a week or so
12 ago. There's a lot of information in here. I
13 think if you look at the -- as Lori was saying,
14 look at the continue, these are programs that are
15 already underway or issues that are already
16 underway.

17 I think the -- to me at least, the ones that
18 are the most important to sort of get a Board
19 buying it, is the page three initiatives because
20 these will require us to have funding in the
21 future, either next year or in future years.

22 And obviously, funding is dear to the Trust
23 and when we set priorities, we set them for things
24 that are important, but we also do it at the
25 expense of potentially doing other things.

1 So, that would be my guides, and of course,
2 anything we don't specifically address at this
3 meeting that you have a better, particular idea,
4 you're certainly welcome to, you know, discuss with
5 the staff in between board meetings. Constance,
6 you were --

7 MS. COLLINS: In a second, yes. Thank you.
8 First of all, this was an incredible summary of the
9 board retreat which I thought was an amazing
10 experience all by itself, and I just want to thank
11 the staff for pulling all of this together.

12 It really felt like a meaningful opportunity
13 for an exchange of ideas and this is a wonderful
14 way to see that that distilled.

15 There were two areas in particular that are
16 identified as new and funding neutral that I had a
17 question about.

18 One was the expansion of available childcare
19 hours that's listed on page two as a funding
20 neutral item. I'm not sure how that would work
21 functionally but am interested in finding that out
22 because I do think that for families most in need
23 having assessable high-quality childcare at
24 affordable rates at expanded hours because they
25 don't often have access to nine to five jobs.

1 And many are taking public transportation to
2 buses in one direction, two to three buses in
3 another, not having expanded hours means a lack of
4 financial self-sufficiency.

5 And so, I think if we think about poverty as a
6 trauma in and of itself and the inability to care
7 for your family in the way that you would like,
8 with quality of living, then I think expanded
9 childcare is an essential piece of that.

10 And the second funding neutral item
11 identified, was the greater emphasis on parenting
12 and therapeutic evidence-based programs for
13 prenatal and early childhood and that in particular
14 from the breakout sessions I was involved in, was a
15 great concern.

16 I think there was a lot of discussion about
17 the need for deeper mental health supports for
18 children and families. That was, like, one
19 recurring theme over and over again. I don't know
20 how that's funding neutral.

21 I think in both of these instances, if we're
22 going to have a meaningful impact, we're going to
23 have to invest resources.

24 And so, I just want to encourage the
25 investment of resources in two areas, these in

1 particular rather than identifying them as funding
2 neutral unless there's some other way that they're
3 addressed on page three.

4 MR. HOFFMAN: Lori, do you have any input on
5 this?

6 MS. HANSON: Sure. I'll try to comment very
7 briefly on those so that others can speak. But
8 with the expanded childcare, this was seen as
9 funding neutral in terms of the action that is
10 described underneath that heading.

11 So, we proposed to sort of take a look at
12 those entities that are more leading in funding
13 direct childcare, that's the Early Learning
14 Coalition and the county, you know, both fund
15 direct childcare slots and in almost -- in every
16 case where we fund childcare slots, we fund it
17 through one of those partners.

18 So, this is not something the Trust can just
19 come in and do an RP and fund the seats. It's a
20 systems-related issue that needs some study and
21 some look.

22 And we were thinking that depending on what we
23 find out, there might be a way to do some policy
24 change or piloting within our Thrive by Five QUIS.

25 So, that's why -- like, that effort of doing

1 that study and that action was listed as funding
2 neutral and then hopefully, looking to make
3 policies that could utilize our current childcare
4 resources that we invest, to require or support
5 extended hours where appropriate.

6 So, and then with regard to the mental health,
7 there are two places this can come into play. One
8 of them is on the following page where there's
9 additional funds proposed to be added to family and
10 neighborhood support partnerships.

11 Those do support a lot of mental health needs.
12 Mental health is a big focus for children as well
13 as parental mental health issues and substance
14 abuse issues that impact children.

15 So, we are proposing to add funding to that
16 funding cycle, but then we were thinking for our
17 family strengthening models of intervention, which
18 are therapeutic models that we would add some
19 earlier childhood prenatal to evidence-based
20 programs to that RSP when it comes out in the next
21 funding cycle.

22 But that we weren't necessarily proposing
23 adding funds which is in the new solicitation
24 opening some additional evidence-based programs to
25 be able to be proposed within that portfolio.

1 MR. HOFFMAN: Okay. Any other -- Nelson?

2 MR. HINCAPIE: Yes, Mr. Chair. I agree with
3 Constance a hundred percent in terms of being able
4 -- for parents to be able to take their kids to,
5 you know, if a mother works the graveyard shift,
6 she's got no options. So I agree with Constance
7 and both of them, mental health and the extended
8 care.

9 I also wanted to -- can we go back to the
10 iPads where we can see -- because the Zoom does not
11 allow us to see, scroll down, or -- so, it's
12 difficult when, you know, when somebody's
13 controlling the screen, we can't have access to the
14 resolution.

15 So, I'd love to see if we can go back to the -
16 - I mean, keep this, but give us the option to
17 search through. That's it.

18 PASTOR DUNN: Mr. Chair, very quickly.

19 MR. HOFFMAN: Yes?

20 PASTOR DUNN: I was intrigued by the ready
21 plan, but I wanted to see if we can get -- I can
22 get some clarity on that because the last part of
23 Cross-cutting says, "This will intersect with 20/30
24 racial equity challenge Kellogg Foundation Grant if
25 received."

1 So, my brain started ticking, what if the
2 grant is not received, then what happens? Do we
3 have an alternate plan or a supplement plan or a
4 backup plan of such because I know most of us know
5 right now this is some very tense times for this
6 country especially among African Americans with the
7 jury being sequestered right now in the Chauvin
8 case.

9 Needless to say that what happened socially
10 has an impact on our children and our youth. We
11 may not believe that, but I'm sure Judge Prescott
12 could attest to the fact that it has an impact.

13 And so my concern is a question. Is -- do we
14 have anything in mind possibly as an alternate plan
15 if we don't receive the Kellogg Foundation Grant.

16 MR. HOFFMAN: I think, and Lori can confirm,
17 that the point here is not that we would not go
18 forward with our own plans, but if we do receive
19 the grant, it will intersect with the actual focus
20 of the grant. But we do intend to invest in these
21 efforts, both on the Trust level as well as in the
22 community and with our providers.

23 PASTOR DUNN: Thank you. I appreciate that.
24 if I may add one last addendum to that, too. And I
25 don't know if this is something that is

1 legislatively possible.

2 Our very own board member, Dr. Dorothy
3 Bendross-Mindingall has an item right now as it
4 relates to the curriculum aspect of the Miami-Dade
5 County Public Schools, is there any way that we
6 could look at legally or legislatively the
7 possibility of working alongside what's already in
8 place since she already has a built-in school
9 system of the fourth largest district in the
10 nation, and it starts at the childhood level.
11 Children live what they learn.

12 MR. HOFFMAN: Right. I think we can work
13 alongside the school system. I don't think we can
14 fund the school system per se.

15 MS. KOBRINSKI: We're not allowed to fund any
16 program that's specifically under the privy of the
17 school district.

18 PASTOR DUNN: True.

19 MR. HOFFMAN: But we certainly would work with
20 any efforts that do get passed at the school board
21 level if we're able to. Any other comment or --

22 DR. BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: Mr. Chair?

23 MR. HOFFMAN: Yes.

24 DR. BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: Mr. Chair, I'm
25 sorry. Mr. Chair, I want to thank Reverend Dunn

1 for that comment and of course there were concerns
2 and -- well, not major concerns, but comments made
3 about the Children's Trust and of course, of my
4 membership on it, pleasant concerns.

5 I want to know, and maybe I'll have to sit
6 down with Jim or someone to see what we actually do
7 as Reverend Dunn is proposing for our children and
8 of course, families.

9 I made mention of our children who are not
10 reporting to school in any fashion and someone said
11 they had meetings. I think it was Jim, with them,
12 our school board, and I'd like to know more about
13 that and what are the strategies and what are we
14 doing.

15 And of course, I want to get some more
16 feedback on that. So, again, thank you, Reverend
17 Dunn for that comment, but we know that the
18 Children's Trust members are doing the afterschool
19 and the summer programs, they have probably a
20 little more contact with our children and their
21 families than the school board.

22 So, I'd really need to know exactly what are
23 we doing with the Children's Trust and of course,
24 the school board, and it might take a little more
25 time that we're proposing for this afternoon. So,

1 I am asking for that as a member of both agencies.
2 Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

3 MR. HAJ: Dr. Bendross-Mindingall, I'd be
4 happy to meet with you. The item regarding
5 attendance specifically is coming back to the next
6 board meeting, our hero's program.

7 And we have been doing a significant amount of
8 work the last couple of weeks. We have a --
9 today's Monday. Tomorrow we have another meeting
10 with the school district regarding how to support
11 the COVID slide and our students on many -- the
12 curriculum side of the house, and many other areas
13 of concern.

14 And if still may deal with -- Constance, a
15 question that you had. I spoke to the board chair
16 regarding reconvening the early childcare work
17 group sometime in the next couple of months.

18 We really kind of want to wait until the
19 session is over. We have the end of session
20 there's right now 60 million dollars sitting
21 allocated to early childcare, and there's an extra
22 two billion dollars going to Florida Early
23 Childcare.

24 So, it's not that we want to keep the cost
25 neutral, not that the needs are not there, but

1 let's find out -- let's stay in whatever lane we
2 can and do -- work with systems who are funding
3 those slots and see what they're doing and have a
4 kind of comprehensive discussion when session's
5 over about what do we really need to do to support
6 children and families.

7 So, that two billion dollars is good for three
8 years, so we kind of need to keep that in mind and
9 see how can we support all the needs of this
10 community and utilize the federal money too before
11 we start putting our --

12 DR. BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: Thank you again,
13 Jim. And of course, Mr. Chair, I want to follow up
14 having been there for eight years and understanding
15 the budget and how things fall out.

16 I definitely have an eye on what is happening
17 on Tallahassee, but through our lobbyists, et
18 cetera, I do want us to sit down and talk about
19 where we are and what we're doing so I can support
20 and report to the Board because they really have an
21 interest as to what happens with the Children's
22 Trust.

23 I do appreciate your remarks. And as soon as
24 -- and what time is your meeting tomorrow, if you
25 don't mind sharing?

1 MR. HAJ: It's in the afternoon. I don't know
2 the exact time because it's our team and their
3 team.

4 MS. HANSON: Four o'clock.

5 MR. HAJ: Four o'clock.

6 DR. BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: And where? In the
7 Board, are you going to be in the building?

8 MR. HAJ: No, it's virtual meetings. We have
9 standing meetings once a week with the school
10 district.

11 DR. BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: All right. Very
12 good. I'll get that information in. Maybe I can
13 join you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14 MR. HOFFMAN: You're welcome. Any other
15 comments?

16 DR. BAGNER: If I may, Mr. Chair?

17 MR. HOFFMAN: Yes?

18 DR. BAGNER: I had a brief question and this
19 might be something I missed during there too,
20 because I was running one of the breakout groups.
21 But one of the things I was curious to hear about
22 was the web content and functionality for parents
23 and caregivers, that was going to be something
24 we're expanding.

25 And while I can see the benefit of that, there

1 are so many other high priority ticket items like
2 we're discussing right now that I'm wondering what
3 is the high priority for this, to have this be an
4 expansion versus some of the other priorities that
5 were raised during the retreat?

6 MR. HAJ: Dan, if I --

7 MS. HANSON: Go ahead, Jim.

8 MR. HAJ: I don't know about Lori and
9 Stephanie, but this really was a low-cost issue.
10 Really to update our website or social media.

11 Everything that the parent had touch point for
12 so that they can be able to know where the services
13 are and to access services. So, I'll let Lori or
14 Stephanie chime in.

15 MS. HANSON: Sorry, my dog has decided to join
16 the meeting. So yes, the reason this came as a
17 priority was out of the Board's discussion around
18 the importance of parents across the board for
19 everything we do, as well as, you know, the
20 importance of making sure that we let parents know
21 what's available and what's out there, but we give
22 them good, you know, sort of preventative guidance
23 if you will, and also let them know about what
24 resources and programs we fund and what's
25 available.

1 So, we did as you all know, during the COVID
2 pandemic year, like, launched the StayHome.Miami
3 site, and so this was in the vein of thinking about
4 how do we -- like that was made as a temporary --

5 Obviously, we're not going to have to stay
6 home forever, right? We're going to have -- so,
7 how do we want to transition that type of a
8 resource?

9 That idea of a centralized place where you can
10 get parent related information, child educational
11 activities, you know, ideas and fun things you can
12 do, as well as you know, just information that
13 parents might benefit from in a more centralized
14 and organized kind of parent portal in our website.

15 Right now, it's kind of hard to find that type
16 of information in our site, and so this was just
17 really about -- and also recognizing that we need
18 to keep constantly fresh, right? You don't just
19 like create all this content and put it there and
20 then it stays static.

21 So, as Jim said though, we were thinking about
22 this as a relatively lower cost, you know, need.
23 So, but you know, important to hear you're feedback
24 about that. Thank you, Dan.

25 DR. BAGNER: Thank you.

1 MS. KENDRICK-DUNN: I have some feedback. One
2 is a question, but I just wanted to say thank you
3 to Jim and the staff for putting this together and
4 I'm so happy to see the native language supports
5 there.

6 Again, I can't reiterate how important this is
7 and I look forward to more discussion with -- among
8 the staff and the Board regarding native language
9 supports for our children.

10 And then, I wanted to ask if the gifted and
11 high-ability children was included here. I can't
12 scroll up and down, so maybe I'm just missing it.

13 And then the last thing, I just -- I guess
14 it's just a comment. A lot of what we do as a
15 Board to support children and families, that a lot
16 of time they're experiencing distress, marginalized
17 communities, et cetera.

18 But I want us to never forget that we want to
19 be strength based and also focus on the strengths
20 of the families and children we serve. And you
21 know, looking at children who are high ability and
22 have gifts and talents, looking at children who
23 speak multiple languages and have, you know,
24 dynamic and robust cultures, you know, for us to be
25 able as a Board in this process to ensure that our

1 children that do have strengths and families, that
2 they're able to continue to increase and build
3 those as well.

4 I am hoping in the future, you know, as things
5 change in our society, that we move away from
6 slowly but surely looking at people and children in
7 a deficit length because even somebody that's
8 marginalized, you know, I don't use the terms
9 disadvantaged and poverty and poor.

10 Those things are so demeaning to people
11 because people are minoritized and they are
12 marginalized in this society and I -- a lot of
13 people, not everyone, but a lot of the families and
14 children that we encounter, if we really understand
15 their stories, then we would know that despite some
16 of the things that they struggle with, they have a
17 lot of strength.

18 We have to talk more about those and not just
19 the things that are the negatives, and that's so
20 important. Children have to hear that.

21 You know, I'm one of the persons, you know,
22 everybody on this Board, they're a lot of people
23 here that are practitioners and some are not, but I
24 work with children every day and have done so for
25 more than the last 15 years and every single day

1 from three years old all the way up until 22.

2 And you know, the things that you hear, the
3 strengths, the things that you're able to see,
4 these children have so much to offer. Their
5 families have so much to offer even if they're
6 homeless. Even if they have disabilities. Even if
7 they're going through divorce and dealing with
8 domestic violence. Even if they have family
9 issues.

10 There are so many strengths there and every
11 day that God allows me and my ancestors to go to
12 work and work with the children that I'm honored to
13 that come my way.

14 They remind me of this every single day that
15 is just not that you're African American and we
16 have to look at the things that you've encountered
17 or, you know, that I'm an immigrant who doesn't
18 have legal papers in this country and I have to,
19 you know, this is what needs to be the focus.

20 There's so many more, and I want us to really
21 to just begin discussing and serving children that
22 have strengths too, and not leaving them out if
23 they need -- if they're gifted and talented, we
24 need to work with them.

25 If they have -- if they speak other languages,

1 it should not just be for the wealthiest community
2 that can put their children in magnet programs
3 where they can go learn English and Spanish, but
4 the very children that are here that speak these
5 languages, Haitian-Creole, French, Spanish, and
6 they're here.

7 And if they're living low-income communities,
8 they don't even get access to some of those
9 programs, and that is not right. And so we can
10 help build, I think as a Trust, we can help to
11 facilitate some of the injustices that we see on a
12 daily basis.

13 If we don't do this for these kids, when they
14 turn around and do the things that we see them do
15 because they're in pain, because they see that
16 they're ignored, because they see that nobody
17 cares, then it's our fault as a society.

18 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you, Tiombe.

19 MS. HANSON: Thank you, Tiombe, and I want to
20 appreciate your comments and I want to ask Juana if
21 she can scroll to page eight, the top of page
22 eight which is the page that has the green bar at
23 the top.

24 There is an item for us to add funding to the
25 family and neighborhood support partnership

1 initiative in the new funding cycle, and you can
2 see it's one of the higher dollar funding items
3 that's coming in the future.

4 Not this year, but beyond. And part of that -
5 - well, first of all before I -- part of that is to
6 expand the populations that would be served by
7 those partnerships and these were several of those
8 populations that were discussed,

9 And yes, the high ability or gifted students
10 who lack enrichment opportunities and economic
11 resources are on there along with a number of
12 others that you can see.

13 The bolded text is the -- are the items that
14 were discussed by multiple groups that had this
15 discussion.

16 And then, what I will also say about the, for
17 short, S&ST initiative, is that it's always --
18 well, since at least the last funding cycle or two,
19 we have a family strength framework that is
20 supposed to be guiding the initiative.

21 But I think what we've realized in doing some
22 reflection with the initiative and looking at data
23 and meeting with providers is that we put that
24 framework in place, but then we didn't really walk
25 the walk and practice it and do the training for

1 the staff to kind of make those shifts in mindset,
2 that make the shift in the language that you use,
3 the words that you use, the way you think about
4 building a collaborative care plan with a family.

5 So, we really have done a lot with the
6 providers already to start to have them learn about
7 the family strength framework that's in place,
8 which is from the Center for Social Policy
9 Research, I think is the right center to say.

10 And they also have a youth drive framework
11 because some of our partnerships don't serve
12 families. They actually serve youth on their own,
13 and so there's a parallel youth strength framework
14 and you can see that our theory of change is
15 written here.

16 It's the second sentence after the first -- in
17 the first paragraph that FNSG promotes positive
18 childhood experiences, builds family and youth
19 strengths relationships, and also supports basic
20 needs, so that children and families will achieve
21 better outcomes.

22 So, we really are taking this seriously as we
23 look into in the next year putting out a
24 solicitation for this and expanding some of the
25 populations we serve, really emphasizing that

1 strength-based approach. So, thank you so much for
2 that, Tiombe.

3 MR. HOFFMAN: And let's just remember, this is
4 just a check-in. The retreat was a check-in of how
5 we were doing on the priorities that we had and
6 what you wanted to see as directors.

7 So, even this product here, if we nod our
8 heads up and down, takes a lot of work. Not just
9 of staff, but in a lot of participation of our
10 directors as well at the committee level and
11 working directly with staff.

12 I do appreciate all the comments and the
13 direction, but we have a long way to go to
14 implement most of these initiatives and I think
15 that your continued participation as I said earlier
16 is very important.

17 Any other thoughts or comments?

18 MS. KENDRICK-DUNN: This is probably just a
19 question for Jim, probably a follow up. The
20 indigenous communities, did we ever get any
21 feedback if they want --

22 MR. HAJ: We have not. It hasn't been lack of
23 effort. We're still working on it. Actually,
24 Representative Juan Fernandez Barquin is helping,
25 assisting, coordinating this meeting.

1 MR. HOFFMAN: Okay. Thank you. Okay. I
2 appreciate everybody's participation and I'm going
3 to turn it over to Jim for the CEO report.

4 MR. HAJ: Mr. Chair, thank you. I'll be
5 quick. Financial disclosure is due by July 1st.
6 Young Talent Big Dreams and Champions for Children.

7 We'll be sending out emails regarding the
8 event and also Champions. It seems like we just
9 did the other day, but nominations are going to be
10 open for the Dave Lawrence Award and Program of the
11 Year.

12 Quarterly report on 44. Amendment reports on
13 45. And I just want to echo what Ken said earlier
14 about our providers.

15 I don't know if any of them are still on the
16 call, but I do want to thank them for the service
17 and what they've done all year.

18 We've done an amazing job, but it was really
19 was working hand in hand with the providers,
20 getting feedback, dealing with this pandemic day by
21 day, and it really was that partnership that made
22 it successful. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you, Jim. If I don't hear
24 any objections, the meeting is adjourned. Thank
25 you.

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MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, everyone.
(Whereupon, at 6:00 p.m., the meeting was
adjourned.)

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

The above and foregoing transcript is a true and correct typed record of the contents of the file, which was digitally recorded in the proceeding identified at the beginning of the transcript, to the best of my ability, knowledge and belief.

Signed this 11th day of May 2021.



Brenda Saliba, Transcriptionist