



## Agenda Item Summary

---

**File #: 24-01082**

**Agenda Date: 12/10/2024**

---

**Agenda Item Name:**

**14520 Community Health Worker Program Gainesville 4 All OJT Wage Subsidization Agreement**

**Presenter:**

Tom Tonkavich, Assistant Director Community Support Services, 352.264.6738

**Description:**

Gainesville 4 All OJT Wage Subsidization Agreement. As a result of CareerSource no longer being a County department, this agreement replaces the previous agreement executed by CareerSource, dated December 23, 2023, maintaining the original spirit of the agreement, but updating to reflect that Community Support Services will administer this agreement. This is an administrative change only – staff will present programmatic updates in early 2025.

**Recommended Action:**

Approve Agreement 14520 with Gainesville 4 All for OJT Wage Subsidization and authorize the Chair to execute same on behalf of the County.

**Prior Board Motions:**

On October 22, 2024 the Board of County Commissioners approved revisions to the CHW OJT Procedures Addendum A and contract template. This change was not a part of or intended to replace the requested report on funding and programmatic changes/recommendations for a sustainable CHW program, which is planned for early 2025.

**Fiscal Note:**

There is no additional fiscal impact associated with this agreement; funds were previously encumbered for the CareerSource agreement in this account. There is sufficient funding available in 052.29.0064.569.34.00

**Strategic Guide:**

All Other Mandatory and Discretionary Services

**Background:**

On October 25, 2022 the BoCC approved the Recovery Plan Closing Health Care Disparities with Community Health Care Workers and Improving Health Care Communications. This plan included provisions for On The Job Training (OJT) of Community Health Workers.

A testament to the success of this program, Gainesville 4 All launched the GEZ Family Learning Center with the goal of providing high quality education and support services for struggling families in

Northeast Gainesville. The Family Learning Center wanted to deepen the connection between the learning center and the parents of the students. They hired a CHW in January 2024, and the key responsibility was increasing parent engagement and utilization of social services.

The CHW lives in Northeast Gainesville and had previously established relationships with many of the parents. From January to November, the CHW has:

1. Met with every family enrolled at the learning center.
2. Curated monthly parent engagement activities including orientations, seasonal festivals, meet and greets with the staff.
3. Organized and participated in outreach activities with displaced homemakers, survivors of domestic violence etc.
4. Referred and linked families to social services and additional educational support via DCF, Alachua County School System etc

Because the CHW has such strong positive relationships with the families, the Learning Center has seen enrollment skyrocket from about 20 students to 76! Most of it was through word of mouth and interest in the social change model utilized by Gainesville for All. Additionally, the Children's Trust of Alachua County is interested in partnering with Gainesville for All, in hopes of expanding the model (CHW included) throughout Alachua County. The success of the Gainesville Empowerment Zone is a true-to-life example that CHWs can have a positive impact on all social determinants of health, not just access to healthcare.