

File Attachments for Item:

3. 8.11.2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes



CHILDREN'S TRUST REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 11, 2025, 4:00 PM CTAC, 4010 NW 25th Place, Gainesville, FL 32606

Call to Order – Chair Cornell called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Ken Cornell – Board Chair, Cheryl Twombly – Vice Chair, Dr. Maggie Labarta – Board Treasurer, Tina Certain – Member, Dr. Kamela Patton – Member, Lee Pinkoson – Member

Board Members Attending Virtually: Dr. Nancy Hardt – Member

A quorum of the Board was physically present. Member Certain moved to allow Hon. Susanne Wilson Bullard and Dr. Kamela Patton to participate virtually due to extraordinary circumstances if needed; seconded by Dr. Labarta. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

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Agenda Review, Revision, and Approval

Member Pinkoson moved the agenda to be approved with item 12. Policy Updates pulled from the consent agenda for discussion under item 19A. Dr. Labarta seconded the motion which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Consent Agenda

1. Board of Attendance YTD
2. 6.9.2025 Board Workshop Minutes
3. 6.9.2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
4. 6.9.2025 Regular Board Meeting Evaluation - Survey Results
5. FY 2025 Budget Report (May-Jun)
6. FY 2025 Checks and Expenditures Report (May & June)
7. FY 2025 3rd Quarter Financial Report
8. FY 2025 3rd Quarter Financial Report to the BOCC
9. FY 2025 Programmatic Awards and Expenditures Report (May & June)
10. Emergent Needs Requests and Approvals
11. Sponsorship Requests
13. FY 2026 TRIM Submission to ACPA

General Public Comments - none

Chair's Report

Chair Cornell reflected on the TeensWork Alachua end of summer event on August 7th. The program reported 272 participants served (out of 900 applicants). Chair Cornell would like to see more involvement from community partners to increase the number of participants in the future.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Marsha Kiner thanked the Board, staff, and community members who attended the Board Retreat on July 17th that was well facilitated by C. Robinson Associates. There were many takeaways from the meeting. Staff are currently working to bring back a timeline for feedback in September. The discussion on the lifecycle of a nonprofit will help the Trust determine where CTAC falls on that spectrum as well as the providers.

CTAC hosted an after-school provider convening in July and covered impact, reviewed surveys, highlighted available resources including enrichment activities, school district support, and others. ED Kiner thanked all who were involved in making it a great day.

The Board acknowledged the first day of school and end of summer break and noted future August board meetings be scheduled for the Monday after school starts. Thanks to all 24 summer camps for all they provided for children and families.

Food for Kids Weekend Backpack program requested support in the amount of \$36,000 to provide food for a minimum of 273 students at 13 additional schools. Member Pinkoson moved to approve the request; Member Certain seconded the motion.

Public comment - Margot DeConna, Executive Director of Food for Kids Backpack Program, thanked the Children's Trust for their approval, stating they would not have been able to take this on without the CTAC's financial support. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Presentations

15. Flourish Alachua Mid-Year Report

Mia Jones, CTAC Early Childhood Coordinator, provided highlights and accomplishments from the Flourish Alachua program. The end of year report will be completed in September. Cohort 1 (mid-year) had attendance challenges but garnered positive feedback overall, with participants ranging from newer doulas to experienced ones. Cohort 2 will conclude in September. Recruitment for Cohort 3 will begin shortly thereafter. Member Pinkoson asked if the attendance challenges affected the program's impact. Jones explained that it did not because the requirement to finish 8 sessions was met by all participants (out of 28 opportunities). Dr. Hart inquired about linking doulas to the nurse home visiting program and the UF Mobile Clinic. Jones responded that while there is potential for collaboration with Healthy Start, further work is needed to establish these connections. Member Certain commented that the handoff/collaboration between the mobile health unit and the newborn home nursing program could expand services to the least served through relationships and greater trust.

16. Community Literacy Collaborative Plan Update

Dr. Theresa Beachy, Chief Organizational Strategist for the Center for Nonprofit Excellence, provided an update and presented the framework plan for the Community Literacy Collaborative. The plan is structured through a four-team collaborative model.

Team 1 – Design, training and evaluation.

Team 2 – Implementation and partnership support for the project.

Team 3 – Community Advisory Council

Team 4 - Coordinating and Strategic Communication

Dr. Hardt requested the Executive Summary be revised into more readable, common language. Member Certain agreed and received clarification on the plan's provision for organizational autonomy to prevent forcing currently funded organizations out of their comfort zones. The board discussed concerns about the timeline and urgency of implementing the plan right away with providers who are already providing literacy support successfully. ED Kiner thanked Dr. Beachy for her leadership and reminded the board that this is a framework that may look different after it is shared with the providers and community for feedback. Two meetings are scheduled for now, but more should be expected. Chair Cornell emphasized the importance of this joint effort and acknowledged City and County Commissioners for being in attendance. CTAC staff are committed to doing this well rather than fast.

Member Pinkoson moved for acceptance of the Community Literacy Collaborative plan and activities with an addition to immediately fund programs currently doing the work. Member Certain seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Public Comment - Commissioner Anna Prizzia, Alachua Board of County Commissioners expressed her excitement and gratitude for the literacy work that has been developed today. She warned against "perfect being the enemy of good." Prizzia urged the Board not to wait another year before something happens. She stated there are already groups working on Category #2 who are using some of the tools being highlighted in the framework. Leah Galione from PEAK Literacy commented that the framework looks wonderful and listed various sites/programs PEAK is currently working with in the community. She stated that she needs more support and more funds to go out into the community to engage in the work more fully. Jennifer Reaves, UF Literacy Initiative (UFLI) agreed with Prizzia and Galione. She said the literacy collaborative is off to a great start. UFLI receives calls requesting support every day and they are already working with two CTAC funded programs currently. She asked that CTAC not wait another year to begin funding those who are currently providing literacy support as there are programs right now that they can assist. Commissioner Desmon Duncan Walker, City of Gainesville, thanked the Trust for sharing the information. She also thanked Dr. Beachy for assuming responsibility. Many of the literacy disparities are in her district (1). She stated that the work being done here now has the potential to impact outcomes many years from now and needs to start ASAP. She noted there are additional organizations that are not on the list, who should be invited to participate.

Board Comments - Dr. Hardt said she heard the urgency but fears adding to fragmentation, as Team 1 begins. Early projects could begin to be funded but we should not fund something that creates fragmentation, especially with one year of funding. Responding to a sense of urgency

from a strategically coherent place is best, according to Dr. Hardt. Member Certain recommended everyone see the film "Sentenced". She asked if there could be a way to show the film which highlights the realities of illiteracy in families. Additionally, she suggested that sites already using UFLI and PEAK Literacy should be provided with funding so the wait won't be a year before the work could begin. She also requested feedback from those who have been doing literacy work on why this has not yet worked as an honest self-evaluation is needed. Chair Cornell does not want to wait a year either. Member Pinkoson would like staff to review and come back with an update. He would fund only those things we know are currently working. Dr. Labarta added we should allocate money without shortchanging the funding that the process needs.

17. Doula Friendly Designation National Initiative 2025 Overview

Mia Jones, CTAC Early Childhood Coordinator, introduced Angela Daniel, who presented on the Doula-Friendly Initiative, DFI, highlighting UF Health as the nation's first doula-friendly designated hospital. She thanked CTAC for its support through funding the initiative and supporting the efforts to make the DFI possible. Terry provided information on doulas, including their role, spectrum of care, and scope of work. The group is now working on a designation for HCA North Florida Hospital.

Old Business

18. Gun Violence Program and Funding Updates

Kristy Goldwire, Chief Operating Officer, introduced representatives from the City of Gainesville and Alachua County Gun Violence Initiates. Brandy Stone from the City and Chief Moya of the Gainesville Police Department shared gun-related statistics, including the numbers of stolen firearms, seized/recovered firearms, shots fired, injuries, homicides, and suicides. Overall, the data shows a reduction compared to the previous year. When asked by Chair Cornell what's working best, Chief Moya credited the dedication of GPD's officers and emphasized the importance of continued collaboration. Member Certain requested updated numbers through the end of summer from the city.

Stone presented the gun violence initiative budget and year-to-date expenditures. She noted that procurement for the technology hubs is still in process, with funds for the strategic planning consultant not yet spent. Some staff salaries and community outreach program expenses are pending.

Corey Collins reported on the Youth Steering Committee, noting challenges in getting youth to complete the online application. Two meetings have been held so far, generating valuable real-time feedback. The City has now contracted with DPI, LLC for strategic planning consulting through a formal RFP process.

Brittany Coleman provided highlights from the Violence Interruption Program: 34 referrals, 225 field contacts, 50 home visits, 105 parental contacts, 28 conflicts mediated, and 73 neighborhood contacts. She highlighted the BOLD program's success in ongoing follow-up and case management, which has eased the burden on violence interrupters.

Chair Cornell asked Caleb Young what additional support is needed. Young stressed the importance of “boots on the ground,” noting his small Gainesville team has now expanded into Archer. Young expressed pride that there were no funerals this summer and credited community collaboration for reducing violence in targeted neighborhoods, including Duval, Forrest Pines, Lewis Place, Majestic Oaks, Sweetwater Square Apartments, and Tiger Bay. July saw a spike in fights in the 32609 area, but intervention efforts helped prevent escalation. Future reports will include youth-specific data for ages 18 and under.

Regarding the technology hubs, stakeholder feedback emphasized the need for community-centered, structured programming; collaborative use; multi-layered offerings; and remediation for participants. The application process is in draft form, with a launch planned for the end of the month pending CTAC feedback, and an anticipated start in January 2026.

It was requested the Board roll unspent FY25 gun violence funds into FY26, with anticipated expenditures by January or February 2026. Dr. Hardt inquired whether there was flexibility in how unused funds could be spent. Dr. Labarta moved to accept the report and Member Pinkoson seconded the motion. Member Pinkoson asked what would happen to funds not being spent by February, and CFO Goldwire clarified that the Board is being asked to approve the funding plan. Scott Sumner, Chief Financial Officer, suggested it may be useful to see the City of Gainesville’s overall funding commitment to the initiative (estimated at \$963,000+). Stone provided specifics: \$648,000 through One Nation One Project, \$150,000 allocated by the City Commission, and \$173,000 for the Youth Steering Committee. Other funding dollars will continue through 2026. Dr. Hardt asked how much of the work focuses on youth 18 and under. Stone referred to Youth Services Coordinator Cherie Kelly, who spoke about the impact of addressing youth gun violence and the importance of adult role models. Coleman added that roughly 40–50% of field contacts involve youth, with 150+ backpacks distributed to school-aged children, and many home visits directly benefiting youth.

Dr. Labarta moved that the Board approve the budget recommendations for FY26, which was seconded by Member Pinkoson.

Carl Smart with Alachua County provided an update on their current RFA and requested unspent funds also be rolled into next year.

The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

19. FY 2026 Budget Update

Director of Program Operations Belita James reviewed programmatic changes to the budget. Member Certain asked that the changes be presented differently for readability in the future. Member Pinkoson noted that totals are not included in the report. Dr. Labarta would like to know what the potential draw-down would be. CFO Sumner expects fund balance for the upcoming fiscal year will be \$6.5-7 million. Dr. Labarta would like to look at a more actual report. COO Goldwire added that the updates and suggestions from the board were

implemented. Reductions in contracts were made, and they will continue to get better each year.

The Board questioned whether a special meeting or workshop was necessary to prepare for the upcoming TRIM meetings on September 8th and 22nd. Member Pinkoson moved to receive the report. The motion was seconded by Member Certain and passed by unanimous voice vote.

19A - Policy Updates – Unplanned Funding Request

Member Certain moved a provision be added to the policy that staff provides the Board with a list of unplanned funding requests and their disposition. The motion was seconded by Dr. Labarta and passed by a unanimous voice vote.

New Business

General Public Comments

Sherry Kitchens from the Child Advocacy Center commented that trauma responsive care for mental health providers went from having a waiting list of 115 down to 20 or 30 thanks to CTAC. It is expected to go up when school starts. Flexibility is appreciated and they expect to draw down all funds.

Board Member Comments

Dr. Hardt voiced support for everything Ms. Kitchens and her team are doing.

Dr. Patton reflected on meeting CTAC program participants and attending red-carpet Back to School events at Littlewood with Chief Moya and at Kanapaha with Sheriff Scott.

Member Certain gave regrets for missing TWA celebration and retold her recent conversation with Ian Fletcher (Chamber) who suggested CTAC reach out to Career Source. They have a budget item for school age students. Chair Cornell will revisit this suggestion at the next Career Source board meeting. Due to various funding cuts, more requests are expected.

Vice Chair Twombly also thinks CTAC will see more needs presented due to limited funding streams and resulting gaps.

Dr. Labarta shared Medicaid cuts are coming in 2026. Many children will lose their Medicaid funding and access to needed resources.

For Your Information

Items included for informational purposes:

CTAC Providers Receiving CTAC Enrichment (Requested by Board Member Labarta)

Next Meeting Dates

Regular Board Meeting - Monday, September 8, 2025 @ 4:00 pm

Special Meeting - First TRIM Hearing - Monday, September 8, 2025 @ 5:01pm

Regular Board Meeting - Monday, September 22, 2025 @ 4:00 pm

Special Meeting - Final TRIM Hearing - Monday, September 22, 2025 @ 5:01pm

Adjournment

Chair Cornell adjourned the meeting at 7:05 pm.

DRAFT