



ALACHUA COUNTY, FL
Joint Alachua County BoCC /
Alachua County School Board Special Meeting
Meeting Agenda

April 29, 2024

3:00 PM

Alachua County School Board Auditorium
620 E. University Avenue
Gainesville, FL 32601

In-person **Public Comment** is taken after each non-ministerial motion A the conclusion of the meeting, **individuals** can also speak for up to 3 minutes about any matter during the **General Comment** period.

All persons are advised that, if they decide to contest any decision made at any of these meetings, they will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose they may need to ensure that verbatim record of the proceedings is made which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. (Section 286.0105 Florida Statutes)

If you have a disability and need an accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact the Alachua County Equal Opportunity Office at (352) 374-5275 at least 2 business days prior to the meeting. TTY users please call 711 (Florida Relay Service).

- A. Call To Order
- B. Welcome
- C. Introduction
 - 1. Diyonne McGraw, Chair, Alachua County School Board
 - 2. Mary Alford, Chair, Alachua County Commission
- D. Adoption of the Agenda

Recommended Action:
To approve the Agenda.
- E. Items For Discussion
 - 1. Comprehensive Literacy Plan
 - 2. Playground for Shell Elementary - 24-00378
 - 3. Attendance/Homelessness - 24-00415
 - 4. Housing
 - 5. Behavior/Gun Violence
- F. Public Comment
- G. Commission General Comments and Information Discussion
 - 1. County Commission Comment
 - 2. School Board Comment
- H. Adjourn

Recommended Action:
To adjourn the meeting.



Agenda Item Summary

File #: 24-00378

Agenda Date: 4/29/2024

Agenda Item Name:

Playground for Shell Elementary

Presenter:

Jason Maurer, Parks and Open Space Director

Description:

Alachua County and the School Board recently partnered on a playground project at Lake Forest Elementary School, wherein the County invested nearly \$400,000 to provide shade over the existing playground and gaga pit, provided shaded swings, installed a ¼ mile walking trail, benches, trash cans, and a new sidewalk to make everything ADA accessible.

This pocket park is available to the general public after school hours from 6 p.m. until sunset and on weekends from sunrise to sunset. Wild Spaces & Public Places paid for half and Impact Fees paid for the other half of the improvements. Staff would like to explore a similar project at Shell Elementary.



Alachua County Community Support Services Attendance and Homelessness – 4/29/2024

Housing Initiative Partnership (HIP)

HIP recognizes the need for stability among our families who are homeless or living with others as they await permanent housing. Alachua County Community Support Services, Alachua County Housing Authority and Family Promise of Gainesville has established a partnership to help our most vulnerable families by offering housing vouchers to families who are awaiting placement on the Housing Choice Voucher program and/or subsidized family which can take several years. Currently, there are nine families receiving assistance. These families consist of fourteen adults and 22 children.

Prevention & Homeless Services

The Division of Social Services works closely and collaboratively with many organizations in the community. The Division serves as a source of information and brainstorming for other community providers, including sharing of resources and concepts to develop strategies for serving individuals across the County.

School Counselors and Homeless Liaisons regularly reach out to identify resources and develop plans for serving their students and families.

Homeless Related Services

Provided over \$21 million in rent and utilities under the Federal

Emergency Rental Assistance Program (2021 - 2023)

- 4,604 applications were submitted.
- Rent and Utility assistance averaged \$10,000 per household.

Homeless Prevention services to assist in keeping families housed in FY 2022-2023

- 821 Individuals impacted through Emergency Financial Assistance (Rent, mortgage, & utilities) - \$346,432
- Supported 112 Households with moving into permanent housing through deposit assistance - \$103,401.

Supportive Services

- 373 Individuals assisted with funding for primary care, prescriptions, and/or vision services.
- 111 Households received assistance for Property Non-Ad Valorem Assessments – reducing their housing instability. Over \$29,000 in waivers/reimbursements were provided.
- 165 Cremations & Burials to assist indigent individuals with final disposition.
- An Unclaimed Memorial Service is held annually to recognize those served.
- Provided Information & Referral services to over 30,000 callers.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and Rapid Rehousing (RRH) Programs for unhoused individuals

\$1.5 million annually

PSH

- Served 70 Households/75 Individuals
- 79% Housing Stability Rate
- Average 40 days to permanent housing from program entry date
- Average Monthly Rent is \$ 1,141
- Current Capacity: 30 slots (hiring for 2 case manager positions – which will bring provide for 25 additional participants)
- Current Caseload: Over capacity with 35 households

RRH

- Served 36 Households/43 Individuals
- 80% Housing Stability Rate
- Average 26 days to permanent housing from program entry date
- Average Monthly Rent is \$1,215
- Current Capacity: 25 slots
- Current Caseload: At capacity



Gun Violence Prevention Actions & Recommendations

April 29, 2024

Alachua County BoCC Leadership Commitment

- BoCC Adopts Resolution Declaring Gun Violence a Public Health Crisis
- BoCC Establishes MOU with the City of Gainesville and Santa Fe College to Address Issue Collaboratively
- BoCC Commits \$150,000 to Addressing Gun Violence Prevention

Alachua County BoCC Programs Commitment

- Alachua County BoCC Programs Deployed in Community Care Call-Outs
- Alachua Co BoCC Programs will be Key Partners in Gun Violence Task Force
- Alachua Co Victim Services & Rape Crisis Center Providing Services to Crime Victims 24/7
- Alachua Co Crisis Center Providing Support and Interventions to Residents in Crisis 24/7
- Alachua Co Social Services Providing Financial Supports to Individuals and Families in Crisis

Alachua County BoCC Programs Commitment

- Additional Alachua County BoCC Programs
 - CAPP Agencies – Quality Childcare/Education, Food, and Housing
 - Housing Services
 - Veteran Services
 - Community Stabilization Program
 - Foster Grandparent Program
 - Camp Cuscowilla, Alachua Co Parks & Open Space Dept
 - CareerSource
 - Court Services

Near Term Recommendations

- Convene a Gun Violence Prevention Task Force
- Continue participation in Community Care Call-Outs
- Scale-Up Victim Services & Rape Crisis Center and Crisis Center Outreach and Education Programs

Long Term Recommendation

- Commit to Continuous Improvement based on Data, Evidence, and Peer-to-Peer Learning
- Support Creation of a Long Term Plan to Address Gun Violence
- Research and Implement Gun Violence Prevention Initiatives that Focus on Youth and Families.
- Consider Hosting a Gun Violence Prevention Summit in the Future (2025)

Questions or Direction?