

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA
WORKSHOP
Workshop on Human Services and the
Community Human Services Partnership
Tuesday, November 28, 2023
1:00 p.m.**

The Leon County Board of County Commissioners met for a Workshop addressing Human Services and the Community Human Services Partnership on Tuesday, November 28, 2023, in the County Commission Chambers. Present were Chair Carolyn Cummings, Vice-Chair Brian Welch, and Commissioners Bill Proctor, Rick Minor, Nick Maddox, Christian Caban, and David T. O'Keefe. Also present were County Administrator Vincent Long, County Attorney Chasity O'Steen, and Clerk to the Board Beryl Wood.

Also in Attendance:

Wanda Hunter, Assistant County Administrator
Shington Lamy, Assistant County Administrator
Abigail Sanders, Health & Human Services Manager
Jackie Fortmann, Human Services Analyst

Chair Cummings called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the workshop.

County Administrator Long welcomed all attendees, introduced the agenda item, and underscored its significance for the Board. He highlighted that, in response to the Board's request during the July 11, 2023, meeting, the presented item offered a thorough report on the human services facilitated by Leon County under the auspices of the Community Human Services Partnership (CHSP). The workshop aimed to put forth recommendations geared toward maintaining the County's effective response to community human service's needs. This involves ongoing improvements to the CHSP, strategic investments, and the cultivation of strengthened partnerships within the community.

County Administrator Long pointed out the fiscal implications associated with this item. The proposal suggests a realignment of current County CHSP funding earmarked for children, youth, and family programs (amounting to approximately \$488,672) in response to the establishment of the Children Services Council of Leon County. This reallocation aimed to address the escalating human service needs, particularly in the realms of emergency housing assistance and homelessness. Additionally, the item provided recommendations for the biennial budgeting and allocation process for CHSP. He explained the process for ratification of the item at the meeting in January.

Mr. Shington Lamy noted that the Board had specifically requested this workshop. He mentioned that they would offer a concise presentation and provide an overview. Mr. Lamy highlighted the presence of partners at the workshop and then delved into the County's commitment to human services, emphasizing the following key points:

- The County allocates \$10.25 million annually to human services programs.
- This constitutes approximately 3% of the County Budget.

- The funding supports a range of services, including those related to homelessness, healthcare, housing, and other critical areas.
- The County has invested \$40.2 Million in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In FY2024 - \$5.6 million in County and City is allocated for funding to
 - 50 agencies
 - 82 human services programs
 - Across 11 human services categories

He presented a comprehensive overview of CHSP:

A collaborative partnership with the City aimed at planning, coordinating, and investing in addressing human services needs.

CHSP Process;

- Two-year funding cycle
- Board establishes overall funding level
- 11 Human Service Categories
- Citizen Review Teams (CRTs) review applications, quarterly reports, etc.
- Board approval of funding

CHSP Performance Metrics

- Developed by the FSU Askew School in 2021 to measure the effectiveness of CHSP in addressing human service needs
- 16 Common Performance Metrics
 - Evaluate the performance of individual programs
 - Evaluate the overall effectiveness of CHSP funding
- FY 2023 results as a baseline; 2023 marked the county's first year of Performance Metrics usage.

Children's Services Council and Human Services

- Leon County citizens voted to establish dedicated funding sources for children and family services and programs
- Received approximately \$7.25 million in annual funding
- In FY2023, the CSC awarded \$6.4 million to agencies serving children, youth, and families
 - This is more than four times the funding allocated for children, youth, and families through CHSP (\$1.41 million) during the same fiscal year.

Proposal 1: Realignment of CHSP Categories

- Reduce from 11 categories to six (6) categories
 - Basic needs & Community Support
 - Homeless Services
 - Disability Services
 - Healthcare Services

- Senior Services
- Gun Violence Intervention (City Funded Only)
- Funding from previous categories to be utilized for emergency housing assistance and homelessness based on data on community needs and feedback and input from community outreach events and Board priorities.

Proposal 2: Line-Item Funding for Emergency Homeless Shelters

- Five (5) emergency homeless shelters
- Shelters receive very limited funding through the federal and state governments for shelter operations
- Establish a subcategory in the Homeless Service Category for line-item funding to shelters to expand services
- Greater oversight and accountability

Proposal 3: Strengthen Partnership with 2-1-1 Big Bend

- 2-1-1 Helpline
 - Connecting Leon County residences to available human service resources 24/7
 - Recommendation: Coordinate with the City to contract directly with 2-1-1 to enhance the Helpline for greater access to human services
- 2-1-1 Lyft Transportation Program
 - Transportation assistance 2nd highest requested service in Leon County
 - Provides on-demand transportation to essential services (i.e. supermarket/food bank, medical appointments, job interviews)
 - Currently available to veterans only
 - Recommendation: Coordinate with CSC to contract directly with 2-1-1 to expand the Lyft Transportation Program services to County residents
 - Approximately 3,000 more rides per year
- Community Information Exchange (CIE)
 - Platform for collecting and sharing data between human service providers and stakeholders
 - Improves the delivery of human services
 - Implemented or being evaluated in local communities around the country, including in Florida
 - Recommendation: Coordinate with 2-1-1, the City, CSC, UPHS, and UWBB to explore the feasibility of a local CIE system.

Mr. Lamy stated that they would come back in the near future for Board consideration.

Chair Cummings requested that the proposals be handled separately.

Commissioner Maddox asked County Attorney O’Steen if they needed to make a motion before discussion.

County Attorney O’Steen stated yes, the Board policy applies to the meeting.

Commissioner Maddox noted he would like to make a motion regarding Options #1,4, and 5. He then recused himself from Options #2 and 3 due to being CEO of Family Promise of the Big Bend but requested that he be allowed comments.

Commissioner Maddox moved to waive the policy to allow discussion before a motion is made, seconded by Commissioner Minor. The motion carried 6-0. (Commissioner Proctor out of Chambers.)

Commissioner Maddox raised concerns about the implications of reallocating funds, emphasizing the importance of adhering to proper procedural frameworks. He specifically addressed Options #2 and 3, suggesting that the process should align with the two-year funding cycle. He also noted variations in the funding process for CHSP, which utilizes pillars. He highlighted the necessity for a transition plan. Commissioner Maddox expressed that he was focused on ensuring a structured and well-planned approach to fund reallocation, especially in the context of the CHSP with its unique pillars.

Chair Cummings stated she understood his concern in looking at item #2 and directed discussion to Option #1.

Commissioner Maddox moved, seconded by Commissioner Minor, to approve Option #1: Accept the report on human services in Leon County and the Community Human Services Partnership.

Commissioner Proctor inquired about approving Option #1; would it approve all of the items?

Commissioner Cummings stated no, as she would like to discuss all of the items.

Commissioner O'Keefe commented on the metrics with Option #5 and what it means. He asked about the number of people linked to service provisions and what is that outcome?

Mr. Lamy responded that is what is linked to services. He further explained how performance metrics are used when applying the results to different categories. He stated the results were a general overview on purpose.

Commissioner Proctor asked about the specifics of the workshop and the dynamics of how and/or if they should readjust their proposals.

Commissioner Maddox moved, seconded by Commissioner Minor, to approve Option #1: Accept the report on human services in Leon County and the Community Human Services Partnership. The motion carried 7-0.

Chair Cummings directed discussion to Proposal 1.

Commissioner Minor reflected on his past involvement with CHSP and his ability to view the situation from various perspectives. He raised the issue of transferring CHSP funding to CSC and expressed concern about the potential challenges faced by some of the 34 programs in securing funding. Using Kids Incorporated as an example, he noted that certain programs might face difficulties in obtaining funding. Commissioner Minor emphasized the importance of knowing the destination before making any significant decisions, suggesting a collaborative effort to ensure the continuity of essential services for children. He recalled the collaborative

input solicited in 2017 and highlighted the need for a thorough understanding of the implications before proceeding.

Mr. Lamy clarified that recommendations for transferring funds to CSC are not made by their organization, emphasizing their transparency in collaboration with the City and other stakeholders. He acknowledged the significance of children's services and emphasized that their goal is not to halt funding for children and families but rather to manage limited resources. Mr. Lamy clarified that the funding comes from different sources, seeking to provide clarification on the allocation process.

Commissioner O'Keefe noted the substantial nature of the proposed change and expressed concern about the impact on metrics, questioning whether they would remain interconnected or lose their baseline.

Mr. Lamy affirmed the critical role of metrics in their operations, assuring that they would persist despite the changes.

Commissioner O'Keefe drew attention to the significant reduction in funding, specifically the \$400,000 that would no longer be allocated. He emphasized the need to minimize the burden on the existing process.

Mr. Lamy explained that CSC has its established process, and organizations are notified when funding opportunities arise. Workshops are conducted to educate entities on how this process functions.

Expressing his reservations about altering the established process, Commissioner O'Keefe highlighted the time and effort spent over the past years in building relationships with these organizations. He also voiced concerns about potentially relinquishing influence with a decision to redirect \$400,000, particularly in Categories 5 and 6. Commissioner O'Keefe questioned whether the Florida statutes governing CSC funds permits such reallocations.

County Attorney O'Steen referenced an opinion from the CSC Attorney that already interpreted the referenced provision of the statute. She referenced the language of the statute and stated that the provision would not prohibit from modifying or eliminating funding for children's services.

County Administrator Long added that they could make the substitution argument that if the CSC continues to run programs and services through the CHSP there would be a substitution problem. The CSC is adding things to avoid that problem.

Commissioner O'Keefe commented that the explanation makes sense but, in his opinion, it sends the wrong message and added to the discussion of difficult choices.

Chair Cummings addressed the need for a legal opinion to determine if funds from the CSC were replacing other funds allocated to nonprofit entities, and whether there was any circumvention of the law.

Commissioner Proctor inquired about the \$400,000, specifying its impact on cities and the \$1 million allocated to support children's services. He expressed support for the initiative and highlighted the existing model in place. Commissioner Proctor also discussed the issue of

homelessness and proposed directing funding to the Kearney Center. He provided details on the amounts received and suggested a need for rescaling to address the current challenges.

County Administrator Long shared that the CHSP process starts soon, in February. He stated they can bring it back if needed at the January meeting. He commented that the line item for shelters goes to that and stated that will give the Board time to figure out what direction they would like to go.

Commissioner Proctor is looking at 4B on the memorandum of understanding and commented that the 2017/2018 CHSP shall serve as the base funding for human services for CHSP funding. He further asked if CSC would catch everything that we're eliminating as the bottom line. He stated that we should treat homelessness as a different category. He also referenced 6 categories, which one will fall in the gap.

Mr. Lamy responded, stating that the objective is to assess how certain programs will be managed. He pointed out that CHSP operates on a two-year funding cycle, and he emphasized that this extended timeframe would provide an opportunity to enhance their understanding of the process.

Commissioner Proctor gave a shout-out to Deputy County Administrator Alan Rosenzweig as he prepared for retirement and added that this was his last meeting.

Vice-Chair Welch expressed his concerns regarding CHSP, noting a lack of full understanding of how CSC categories functioned. He conveyed unease about the expedited timeline for pulling funding and reallocating it. Vice-Chair Welch emphasized that he would feel more at ease if the partners were reassured and if he had answers to the questions raised.

County Administrator Long clarified that the Board has the option to revisit this item in January. He noted that while they have presented information on the "what," the detailed procedures or the "how" have not been thoroughly discussed yet. County Administrator Long assured the Board that staff is willing to provide more information and delve into the specifics when the Board is ready to address the implementation details.

Vice-Chair Welch expressed enthusiasm for the idea, stating that he loves it. He pointed out that the Board has confidence in the "what" aspect of the proposal. He emphasized the importance of returning with a well-thought-out policy, ensuring that there is a certain level of confidence among the partners involved.

Commissioner Maddox commented on the ongoing process of working through the financial aspects and raised concerns about a potential shortage. He emphasized the need to thoroughly discuss the process to understand its implications. Commissioner Maddox indicated that the decision would return for ratification in the next form and pondered the possibility of maintaining the current categories for the next two years. He expressed that the absence of the City in the discussion does not bother him, as they are an independent entity. Commissioner Maddox deliberated on the choice between keeping the existing categories unchanged or exploring new possibilities and the associated procedural considerations.

Commissioner Proctor asked Commissioner Maddox whether the Board was relinquishing the process to the CSC. He asked if the Board would retain ultimate oversight as well as putting forth the idea of the process.

Commissioner Maddox reiterated that each organization has its own process, emphasizing that it's the CSC Board's responsibility to determine if their process aligns with their objectives. He raised concerns about the potential impact of losing six categories and questioned the implications for organizations that would have to approach CSC in light of these changes.

Commissioner Proctor conveyed his concerns, expressing worry about whether the Board's actions might not only be shaping a process but potentially restricting access. He emphasized the importance of ensuring that the decisions made are facilitating an open and accessible process rather than imposing limitations.

Commissioner Minor recommended considering feedback from CHSP recipients and proposed a discussion on a functional transition, with a reevaluation at a later point. He emphasized the need to finalize the process by February, highlighting that the CSC would collaborate with many partners currently associated with CHSP. Commissioner Minor mentioned that numerous agencies are currently applying to CHSP, and if a decision isn't reached now, there is still time for CSC to refine its process.

County Administrator Long conveyed that when the discussion returns in January, the Board can provide direction if not all questions are addressed at that time. However, he emphasized that delaying decisions could result in the inability to reallocate the \$1.4 million dollars within the specified timeframe.

Commissioner O'Keefe asked if the CSC asked the County to remove and defund these categories.

Mr. Lamy answered they did not.

Chair Cummings addressed the time-consuming nature of the discussion and highlighted the shared goal of working together for the betterment of children. Commissioner Proctor brought up the CSC rollback of the millage rate. She stated that the CSC was determined to provide sufficient funding based on the needs assessment conducted on services previously provided.

Commissioner Proctor emphasized the importance of contemplating the needs of the citizens of Leon County. He raised the issue of existing resources, noting insufficient staff and expressing worry about adding workload without additional funding. Commissioner Proctor pointed out that many entities might not meet funding requirements, advocating for a slow and deliberate approach. He expressed specific concerns about the statute, calling for legal opinions from the County, City, and programs associated with CSC to ensure there are no resource issues. He urged a thorough examination of the ramifications, emphasizing the need to ensure that actions align with legal principles and laws concerning children.

County Attorney O'Steen offered background and context for those unfamiliar with Chair Cummings' memorandum. She specifically addressed federal prohibitions and clarified that the statute is an intent statute. According to Attorney O'Steen the statute doesn't explicitly state that if a County creates a CSC and is currently providing resources for children's services, the County is thereafter prohibited from decreasing or entirely eliminating existing resources for children's services. It is a policy decision for the Board, not a legal issue. She emphasized that the absence of such a prohibition doesn't imply that the Board has the unrestricted ability to maintain or decrease funding, as the budget is still subject to fiscal considerations and constraints.

Commissioner Proctor expressed concern about potentially imposing an unfunded mandate on the CSC and voiced agreement with the Chair's suggestion to proceed cautiously with Option #2. He emphasized that the current situation is marked by too much confusion, and he believes it is not yet ready for implementation.

Commissioner Proctor moved, seconded by Commissioner Caban, to table Option #2 to allow staff additional time for analysis on the CSC and seeking a crystal-clear legal understanding of what the statute means. He proposed bringing the discussion back in January. Additionally, Commissioner Proctor suggested that staff reach out to non-profits to gather their responses in writing.

Commissioner Minor commented on the need for a legal opinion concerning existing programs that are transitioning to CSC for funding. He specifically asked for more information regarding CSC's ability to fund organizations with existing programs making the shift to CHSP. Commissioner Minor suggested that Commissioner Proctor's motion should encompass a legal opinion from CSC's attorney that specifically addresses this scenario.

County Attorney O'Steen clarified that the CSC Attorney, who represents the CSC, cannot provide a legal opinion to the County.

Commissioner Minor sought clarification on the question.

County Attorney O'Steen asked Commissioner Minor for specifics on what he would like an opinion to address.

Commissioner Minor clarified that he would like an opinion to cover whether the County Commission, having funded children's service programs, can phase these programs out with the expectation that the Children's Service Council will subsequently fund them.

Commissioner Proctor expressed that he would not accept the proposed amendment. Instead, he suggested that the information regarding any legal opinion the CSC Attorney provides to the CSC could be included in the January item as part of the overall discussion. He stated the County has an attorney, and he trusts her opinion.

Commissioner Minor noted that the County Attorney might not be able to provide an opinion on what the CSC can do, as it could be beyond the scope of her responsibilities.

Commissioner Maddox suggested that the Board ask the Chair of the County Commission to send a letter to the Chair of the CSC requesting that the chair of the CSC ask for the legal opinion of the CSC attorney.

County Attorney stated this was ill-advised, due to the potential for a sunshine law violation.

Commissioner Proctor moved, seconded by Commissioner Caban, to table Option #2 to allow staff additional time for analysis on the CSC and seeking a crystal-clear legal understanding of what the statute means. He proposed bringing the discussion back in January. Additionally, Commissioner Proctor suggested that staff reach out to non-profits to gather their responses in writing. The motion carried 6-0, with Commissioner Maddox recused.

Commissioner Proctor moved, seconded by Commissioner Minor, to approve Option #3: Approve the establishment of a subcategory in the Community Human Services Partnership Homeless

Services Category for the line-item funding of emergency homeless shelter services, and direct staff to

provide options for the appropriate funding levels in coordination with the City of Tallahassee and the Children Services Council of Leon County as part of the FY 2025 budget process.

Commissioner Proctor proposed directing staff to provide options for appropriate funding levels, expressing the view that the current funding level is inadequate compared to the work being undertaken by the organization.

Commissioner Maddox commented on emergency shelters and gave an explanation of the differences between each of the shelters.

The motion carried 6-0, with Commissioner Maddox recused.

Commissioner Proctor moved, seconded by Chair Cummings, to approve Option #4: Approve the establishment of annual outside agency line-item funding to 2-1-1 Big Bend for the 24-hour Helpline and Lyft Transportation Program, and direct staff to provide options for the funding level in coordination with the City of Tallahassee and the Children Services Council of Leon County as part of the FY 2025 budget process.

Commissioner O'Keefe expressed support for the proposal and highlighted the Lyft Program, acknowledging the \$60,000 contribution to continue the initiative. He suggested an amendment increasing the amount to \$75,000 to facilitate more rides, viewing it as a positive and impactful way to assist the community.

Mr. Lamy stated the County would not provide the entire amount as this is a partnership with the City. Commissioner O'Keefe asked that \$75,000 be allocated as the total overall amount.

Chair Cummings inquired about the feasibility of limiting the program to one ride per month and sought clarification on how such a limitation would be addressed.

Mr. Lamy responded, explaining that the program is connected to other resources like "dial-a-ride." He mentioned that the company running the program is engaged in similar efforts to offer rides to the elderly and veterans, thereby providing additional resources. Mr. Lamy also noted that 2-1-1 is an awareness point for such services.

Chair Cummings asked for the bill amount.

Mr. Lamy stated that it varies based on the ride.

Commissioner Minor referred to the agenda item about enhancing the 2-1-1 helpline and inquired whether some of the proposed enhancements could address the specific issue under discussion.

Mr. Lamy stated it is included within the item and shared that the critical component is the connection with 2-1-1.

Commissioner Minor asked about the duration of the contract with Lyft.

Mr. Lamy answered that it's a 1 year contract.

Commissioner Minor recommended that staff reach out to Star Metro to coordinate these efforts.

Commissioner Caban asked for a friendly amendment to have staff include a status report on areas that do not have access to public transportation. He commented that people who lack smartphones also lack access to public transportation. He stated this is a barrier to entry to this program for folks who aren't able to access smartphones.

Commissioner Proctor approved this amendment.

Mr. Lamy clarified that the process involves calling 2-1-1 and is not facilitated through an app. He mentioned that there needs to be a communication channel for individuals to access the service.

Commissioner Caban inquired about expanding resources, specifically addressing how these resources could be extended to communities such as Ft. Braden.

Commissioner Maddox commented this is something that they need. He asked how many County funds the Board was willing to commit to taking care of folks in the unincorporated areas.

Commissioner Proctor moved, seconded by Chair Cummings, to approve Option #4, as amended: Approve the establishment of annual outside agency line-item funding to 2-1-1 Big Bend for the 24-hour Helpline and Lyft Transportation Program, and direct staff to provide options for the funding level in coordination with the City of Tallahassee and the Children Services Council of Leon County as part of the FY 2025 budget process, and direct staff to provide a status report on areas that do not have access to public transportation. The motion carried 7-0.

Commissioner Proctor motioned, seconded by Commissioner Maddox, for Option #5 – Direct staff to prepare an RFP to evaluate the feasibility of a community information exchange.

Mr. Lamy added that 2-1-1 is taking the lead on this, and they are extremely early in the process.

Commissioner Proctor stated that if this is from the mind of 2-1-1, he is flexible.

Commissioner Proctor withdrew his motion.

Commissioner Maddox motioned, seconded by Commissioner Minor, to approve Option #5: Direct staff to evaluate the feasibility of a Community Information Exchange in partnership with 2-1-1 Big Bend, City of Tallahassee, Children Services Council of Leon County, United Way of the Big Bend and other local stakeholders, to improve the efficiency, response, and effectiveness of the delivery of human services.

Commissioner Maddox stated he is comfortable with 2-1-1, and he is looking forward to this item coming back.

Commissioner Minor commented he appreciated what this could do and, fortunately, it can work with other communities.

Commissioner Proctor referenced the consultant study and number of contact services.

Chair Cummings commented that it would be a game-changer.

The motion carried 7-0.

County Administrator Long announced and congratulated Deputy County Administrator Alan Rosenzweig, recognizing his very last meeting after 23 years of service, including 552 commission meetings and 3,312 hours.

Commissioner Maddox extended accolades to Mr. Rosenzweig and wished him enjoyment in his time with his family.

Commissioner O'Keefe acknowledged Mr. Rosenzweig, expressing gratitude for his extensive work.

Commissioner Minor thanked Mr. Rosenzweig, recognizing his leadership and wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

Commissioner Caban expressed thanks to Mr. Rosenzweig and wished him enjoyment in his future pursuits.

Commissioner Welch offered congratulatory remarks.

Commissioner Proctor shared his congratulations and commended Mr. Rosenzweig for his extraordinary work for the County.

Chair Cummings concluded the congratulatory comments with a standing ovation for Mr. Rosenzweig. She thanked staff and County Administrator Long for their efforts on this item.

Adjourn:

There being no further business to come before the Board, the workshop was adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:



Carolyn D. Cummings

BY: _____
Carolyn D. Cummings, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

Gwendolyn Marshall Knight

BY: _____
Gwendolyn Marshall Knight, Clerk of Court
& Comptroller, Leon County, Florida