

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF PALM BEACH COUNTY
COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, September 22, 2011 - 5:30 p.m.
2300 High Ridge Road, Boynton Beach, Florida**

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chair Macon called the meeting to order at 5:55 p.m.

Present:

Steven L. Abrams

Judge Ronald V. Alvarez

Frank A. Barbieri, Jr.

Perry Borman

Dari Bowman

Vincent Goodman

Rod Macon

Bill. Malone

Excused: Greg Langowski, Willie A. Miller, Jr.,

A. Invocation – led by Vince Goodman

B. Pledge of Allegiance – led by Chair Macon

C. Presentations

1. Overview of the Sunshine Law – Leonard Berger, Senior Asst. County Attorney

Tom Sheehan, General Counsel stated that he would normally do the annual review of the Sunshine Law at this meeting, and that he had invited Senior Assistant County Attorney Leonard Berger to give the review this year.

Leonard Berger, Senior Assistant County Attorney stated that the problem with the Sunshine Law (“the Law”) was that it was easy to forget to be mindful of it in the course of your daily business. He stated that the Law specified that all official decision of the Council should be open to the public. He stated that “official acts” applied to every step of the decision making process – including committees that were formed charged with making recommendations to the Board. He stated that the Law was broadly construed to ensure that no-one could get around it. He stated that one obvious way to get around it would be if two Council members met for lunch and ran through items forming decisions, to be recited at a later official meeting. He stated that the Courts had interpreted the Law to cover individual conversations between two or more Council members, or any type of communication between two or more Council members. He stated that these conversations/communications could not be done outside of the Sunshine Law.

Mr. Berger stated that the Law applied to any conversations, perchance meetings, emails back and forth, Facebook, and Twitter communications. He stated that it also prohibited voting by secret ballot, straw polls, and other such activities. He stated that Council members should be aware and remember that this was a real law. He stated that Council members should be mindful of the business of the Council, because it was clear that Council members would run into each other in the course of their daily business.

Mr. Berger stated that agency responsibility was not part of the equation, Council members were not responsible for reasonable notice, Minutes, location of meetings (accessible to the public), etc. He stated that consequences of violating the Sunshine Law included prosecution as a second degree misdemeanor, and being subject to a \$500 civil penalty. He stated that decisions linked to a violation of the Sunshine Law could be voided which could be very damaging and embarrassing to the organization.

Mr. Berger stated that another consequence of violating the Sunshine Law would be that the violator in question would be responsible for paying the attorney's fees of the person alleging the violation.

Steven Abrams asked what would happen when the Superintendent discussed (potential CSC) business with the Chair of the School Board (who was also a Council member). Mr. Berger stated that such an individual discussion should not take place, and that it should be discussed during a Council meeting. He stated that you had to be mindful of the things you discussed with whom on a day-to-day basis.

The meeting was recessed for the TRIM Public Hearing at 6:03 p.m.
The meeting was reconvened at 6:08 p.m.

2. Minutes

A. September 8, 2011 Council Meeting

An omnibus motion by Alvarez/Barbieri to approve the Minutes from the September 8, 2011 Council meeting and the Minutes from the September 8, 2011 TRIM Public Hearing was approved by unanimous vote.

B. September 8, 2011 TRIM Public Hearing

An omnibus motion by Alvarez/Barbieri to approve the Minutes from the September 8, 2011 Council meeting and the Minutes from the September 8, 2011 TRIM Public Hearing was approved by unanimous vote.

3. Individual Appearances – Agenda Items – none

4. Program Review Committee Report

Judge Ron Alvarez stated that there had been a presentation by Dr. Julie Spielberger of Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago regarding the longitudinal study. He stated that numerous

entities were involved in the study, with the purpose of informing CSC of the system being funded by CSC, whether it was working and if it needed change, if so, where changes were warranted. He stated that the study reaffirmed how important early parenting is in a child's development.

A motion by the Program Review Committee to approve the Program Review Committee Consent Agenda and Business Agenda in its entirety was approved by unanimous vote.

5. Business/Consent Agenda

A. Consent Agenda Management

1. Additions, Deletions, Substitutions
2. Items to be Pulled for Discussion – There were no Agenda Items pulled for discussion purposes.
3. Adoption of the Consent Agenda, Revised Warrants List, and Financial Statements of July 31, 2011.

A motion by Goodman/Abrams to approve the Consent Agenda, Revised Warrants List, and Financial Statements of July 31, 2011 was approved by unanimous vote.

B. CSC Funded Programs – Current – N/A

C. CSC Funding Allocations – Future

1. Resolution #11-014 and Attachment "A" – 2011/2012 CSC Funding Allocations – Approved by Consent

D. Planning & Development – N/A

E. Personnel – N/A

F. Financial

1. Warrants List - Approved by Consent

G. Administration – N/A

6. Business/Non Consent Items

7. Walk-In Items – N/A

8. Chief Executive Officer's Report

Tana Ebbole stated that there had been service awards for five and ten years of service, and that photographs were included in the CEO Report.

Ms. Ebbole stated that Beth Halleck had received her Certification in Research Practice and congratulated her on her achievement.

9. Legal Reports

Tom Sheehan, General Counsel stated that with respect to the Inspector General's office, staff was continuing its conversation and a recommendation would be brought forward at the October Council meeting.

Mr. Sheehan thanked the Board for its diligence in having a quorum present for both September Council meetings and TRIM hearings.

10. Council Committees – N/A

11. Individual Appearances – Non-Agenda Items – N/A

12. Council Members' Comments

Judge Ron Alvarez thanked the Council for his nomination for the Gladstone Award, he stated that it was a huge honor and a surprise to be awarded such a designation.

Perry Borman stated that the Department of Children and Families were conducting an educational summit October 28, 2011. He stated that the subject matter of the summit was improving the educational outcomes for children in foster care. He stated that DCF also enjoyed fantastic relationship with the school district. He stated that the summit would be held at the South County Civic Center.

Vince Goodman thanked Clerk of the Council Lisette Usborne for her work on the Minutes of the meetings. He thanked the staff for informing the Board of the good work being conducted, and thanked staff for their numerous communications.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

Dari Bowman, Secretary

Gaetana D. Ebbole, Chief Executive Officer