

Recap of the Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting October 29, 2018

The October 29, 2018 Hillsborough County Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting was called to order by Chair Kay Doughty at 8:30 a.m.

Members Present: Chair Kay Doughty, Vice Chair Tu Mai, Marlin Anderson, Barbara Aderhold, Joseph Odda, Linda Porter, Eric Johnson Joseph Caetano, Adam Elend, Joseph Pullara, and Wendell Duggins.

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Introductions: Mr. Joseph Odda lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Barbara Aderhold read the CAC purpose.

Public Comment: Dr. Jim Davison provided public comment regarding the presentation about All for Transportation. He noted that he is in opposition to the proposal, with concern of rising cost and insufficient solutions. He stated that he had provided the BOCC information regarding alternatives. He is on the CAC agenda next month to present this information.

Review of Meeting Recap: On motion by Mr. Wendell Duggins and seconded by Mr. Eric Johnson, the August 24, 2018 CAC meeting recap was reviewed and unanimously approved.

Presentation from Children's Services: JoAnn Rollins, Director of Children's Services, presented an overview presentation of the department. The presentation included the department mission statement, vision statement, and values. She discussed CINS/FINS, residential group care services, and child care licensing. She noted a somewhat recent change in philosophical approach to care and a holistic approach evidence-based therapeutic model, focused on seven dimension of health & wellness. The concluded the presentation with noteworthy data and successes of the children.

Questions from the CAC focused on community needs versus departmental capacity and cosmetology certifications. Linda Porter and Eric Johnson expressed an interest in coordination between their respective employers and Children's Services for additional opportunities.

Keith Carr presented on Phase 1 of an evaluation of Children's Services, which focuses on an appraisal of assets. He outlined the approach and methodology, which includes surveying, interviews, and geo-mapping. He noted sources, and that the only other government entities with similar services is Orange County. He provided the website information for further information, brccs.com. He reviewed the summary responses from the survey results. He noted that currently there is a crisis around foster care placements, including a high number of placement moves, which is believed to be damaging to children.

Mr. Carr briefly discussed the Families First Prevention Services Act, February 2018 (FFPSA). He noted that it impacts the state being able to pull down federal funding. He reviewed his recommendations to the County with emphasis on Option C, which includes re-engineering based on FFPSA. Once further information on the FFPSA is available in the second quarter, the County will have more information to make a decision.

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Mr. Anderson asked questions about the timeframes surrounding foster care. Chair Doughty reflected on the damaging nature of multiple placements for children. Mr. Johnson asked about cost, County capacity, and state services available.

Update on Strategic Initiative Projects: County Administrator Mike Merrill began his presentation by reflecting on the major points of Mr. Carr's presentation, noting the need for decision making in light of budget restrictions. He discussed the potential homestead exemption of Amendment 1 and impacts to the County's budget.

He expressed appreciation that the CAC is participating in the Strategic Initiatives. He discussed the extended timeframe expectations for the projects. He discussed the CAC members working slowly to truly gain an in depth knowledge and understanding of their projects. He discussed the budget process, which will begin in May 2019, and that it would be helpful to have recommendations on Strategic Initiatives at that time as decisions are made.

Ms. Porter noted an observation of duplication of service in her project.

Mr. Merrill also reflected on the All for Transportation initiative.

Presentation on Transportation Initiative: Kevin Thurman, of All for Transportation, presented on the transportation referendum initiative. He noted that Hillsborough County is growing and traffic is getting worse. He believes that All for Transportation provides a balanced plan based on priorities approved by bi-partisan leaders. The plan seeks to reduce congestion, improve intersections, traffic management, and reduce delays due to accidents. The plan seeks to reduce crashes, fix dangerous streets, lighting and sidewalks, and provide safe routes to schools. He outlined the plan's rules and an independent committee, which has a trust fund and annual audit.

Mr. Anderson expressed concern that the data is not present and the information has been misleading.

Mrs. Aderhold asked how the funds would be allocated and how changes could be made.

On motion by Mr. Caetano, and seconded by Mrs. Aderhold, the CAC waived the rules and allowed Dr. Davison to provide additional comment. He spoke to representation on the independent committee. He noted that mobility fees would be cut and that this would provide funding for a train. He believes that if this passes, money will be bonded, there will be no scenario planning, and that the transit side is recession proof and gentrification is not accounted for. He stated that if you do nothing the congestion goes up five times, if you vote for in favor of this plan, it goes up four times.

Updates on Strategic Initiatives:

P3s: Ms. Mai noted that after they last met with staff, there was a final scope and RFP published on October 4, and that there will be a selection panel on November 19. Following this there will be contract negotiations mid-December, and an award in January 2019. She noted that at the November 19 meeting they will determine her role going forward.

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Fiscal Sustainability: This group has not met since the last CAC meeting. Staff will reach out for an update.

Customer Service and Satisfaction: Ms. Porter noted that she had attended several meetings and the work was completed. She noted duplication in services.

Client Self Sufficiency: Mr. Anderson provided the update that the group had met and the USF students were now involved in the project. They are expected to complete their study in December.

Transforming the Service Model: This group has not met since the last CAC meeting. Staff will reach out for an update.

Other Business: Mr. Anderson noted that he looked into the possibility of the 6th cent tax and found that it was authorized, and that it has not yet been approved by BOCC. He met with Bonnie Wise, Hillsborough County Chief Financial Administrator, and discussed the first five cents and its various allocations. Mr. Anderson noted the availability of a local option fuel tax, which several counties have utilized. This would be 1-5 cents per gallon, whereby each penny could total 5 million dollars.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.