

**12. DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS****A. Community Development****B. Emergency Services****C. General Services****1. Human Services****2. Sandridge Golf Club****3. Recreation****D. Human Resources****E. Office of Management and Budget****12.E.1 17-0268 Children's Services Funding Allocation for Fiscal Year 2017/2018**

**Recommended Action:** Staff recommends that the Board of Commissioners approve funding for Children's Services agencies in the amount of \$1,117,397 for fiscal year 2017/2018, which is an increase of 6.22% or \$65,432 from the current year base funding level. This recommendation is based on efforts to avoid a General Fund millage increase in the upcoming fiscal year.

**Attachments:** Staff Report

Management and Budget Director Michael Smykowski gave a PowerPoint Presentation regarding the history of the County's funding of Children's Services, from Fiscal Year 1997-1998 to the current Fiscal Year of 2016-2017. He explained that the funding has historically been based upon the prior year's allocation and the change in the taxroll for the prior year. Director Smykowski reported that based upon the previous fiscal year's tax roll change of 6.22%, staff recommended a funding allocation of \$1,117,397 for Fiscal Year 2017-2018, or an increase of \$65,432 from the current year base funding level. He noted that the recommendation was based on efforts to avoid a General Fund millage increase in the upcoming fiscal year.

Hope Woodhouse, 199 Island Creek Drive, spoke about an agreement made in 1999 by the Commissioners to fund Children's Services at the millage rate of 0.1250. She also provided and reviewed a document showing a cumulative funding deficit for Children's Services from 1999.

The following speakers, many of whom advocated a return to the 0.1250 millage cap designated in the 1999 Agreement, presented arguments in support of increased funding for Children's Services:

- Wanda Lincoln, 511 Shores Drive
- Dan Somers, 290 Sea Oak Drive, Co-Chairman, Boys and Girls Club of Indian River County
- Michael Kint, 6255 59th Court, and CEO of United Way of Indian River County
- Tiffany Justice, School Board Member
- Bob Savage, Vice Chairman of the Healthy Start Coalition
- Katy Faires, 5200 17th Street SW, Board Chair of Childcare Resources
- Jimmy Lloyd, County resident and parent
- Fellsmere Chief of Police Keith Touchberry
- Fran Adams, 1651 Indian River Drive, Member of the Moonshot Community Action Network
- Barbara Hammond, 4638 Pebble Bay Circle
- Freddie Woolfork, 4590 57th Avenue
- Antoine Jennings, Founder of Crossover Mission
- Catherine De Schouwer, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Crossover Mission
- Marilyn Scully

An extensive discussion/debate followed, with input from County Administrator Jason Brown and Director Smykowski, about the County's overall budget, the various services/expenditures the County must finance, and the most fiscally responsible way to increase funding for Children's Services, without creating a tax burden on all citizens.

County Administrator Jason Brown suggested that if the Board wished to restore the funding to the 0.1250 mills, it would be best to phase in the change over a period of three to five years.

Discussion followed as individual Board Members expressed support to increase funding as quickly as possible.

Vice Chairman O'Bryan, Board Liaison to the Children's Services Advisory Committee, presented a proposal to phase in the millage increase over a five-year period, and to provide an additional non-advalorem contribution of \$250,000 for this fiscal year, which would come from the sale of the 16th Street Ball Fields (see Item 11A for details).

A motion was made by Vice Chairman O'Bryan to: (1) increase funding for Children's Services for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 to the .085 millage cap, and provide an incremental increase in the millage rate of 0.0100 per year to reach the millage cap of 0.1250 in five years; and (2) to add an additional contribution of \$250,000 in non-ad-valorem revenue from the sale of the 16th Street Ballfields. The MOTION DIED for lack of a second.

Chairman Flescher stated that the proceeds from the sale of the 16th Street Ballfield should be kept in the recreational arena. He said he would like to have a shorter phase-in period to reach the 0.1250 millage cap.

Administrator Brown advocated for the increase to be made over a three-year period.

A motion was made by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Chairman Flescher, to phase in increased funding for Children's Services to the 0.1250 millage cap over a 3-year period.

Discussion ensued about the possibility of phasing in the 0.1250 millage cap in two years; however, staff cautioned that doing so would place a strain on the County's General Fund budget.

Commissioner Zorc stated that he would prefer phasing in the increased funding over two years. However, if it would create a burden, he proposed "front-loading" funding for Fiscal Years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019, and then leveling out the funding in Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

Discussion ensued about whether to add to Fiscal Year 2017-2018's funding the revenue from the sale of the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Ballfield. The Board agreed to allocate an additional \$250,000 of non-ad valorem funds as long as it was not the revenue from the Ballfield sale.

Discussion followed, with input from Administrator Brown, on the specific funding allocations for each of the next three fiscal years.

**MOTION WAS AMENDED BY Commissioner Adams, seconded by Chairman Flescher, to approve increased funding for Children's Services to the 0.1250 millage cap over a 3-year period, (1) for Fiscal Year 2017-2018, an increase of \$306,000, plus additional funding of non-ad valorem revenue in the amount of \$250,000, for a total increase of \$556,000, and a total allocation of \$1,607,965; (2) for Fiscal Year 2018-2019, an increase of \$56,000, for a total funding allocation of \$1,663,965; and (3) for Fiscal Year 2019-2020, an increase of \$306,000 (rounded off), for a total funding allocation of \$1,970,091. The motion carried by the following vote:**

Aye: 4 - Chairman Flescher, Vice Chairman O'Bryan, Commissioner Adams, and Commissioner Zorc

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Solari

F. Public Works

G. Utilities Services

13. COUNTY ATTORNEY MATTERS

14. COMMISSIONERS MATTERS

A. Commissioner Joseph E. Flescher, Chairman

B. Commissioner Peter D. O'Bryan, Vice Chairman

C. Commissioner Susan Adams

D. Commissioner Bob Solari

E. Commissioner Tim Zorc

15. SPECIAL DISTRICTS AND BOARDS

A. Emergency Services District

B. Solid Waste Disposal District

C. Environmental Control Board

16. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.