

Ashley Brown

From: forms@forms.ircgov.com
Sent: Sunday, August 27, 2023 10:34 AM
To: Joseph E. Flescher
Subject: Contact Form - August 29 meeting, agenda item 14 E

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The following was sent from the contact form on ircgov.com:

Name Logan Geeslin
Email Logan@mygeeslin.com
Address 907 Seagrape Lane
Phone 7724923331
Subject August 29 meeting, agenda item 14 E

Message

Re: August 29 meeting, Agenda Item 14E

In perusing the proposed agenda of the August 29, 2023 County Commissioners meeting I noted Laura Moss's request to re-evaluate the priorities of the Children's Services Advisory Committee. (Weren't these priorities covered in Ordinance No. 2022-07?)

Why would such an important topic, and annual budgetary consideration, be relegated to the end of a meeting that begins at 9am, and after public comments?

I am not able to attend the entire meeting, but I wanted to voice my thoughts.

More Info:

Form Submission Time 8/27/2023 10:33:42 EDT(-0400 GMT)
Visitors IP 73.49.47.204
Unique ID 0e4591e40cf4e0ed100e8dd617380c8e

staff = dist2

Ashley Brown

From: Hope Woodhouse <hope.woodhouse@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 28, 2023 1:31 PM
To: Joseph E. Flescher
Subject: August 29 - Agenda Item E 14 E1 - CSAC

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Commissioner Flescher,

I do not understand why Commissioner Moss has put anything related to CSAC on the Commissioner's agenda given we have a new CSAC Director (Cindy Emerson) who has only been in the role 3 weeks. For the record, in those 3 weeks, Cindy has asked excellent questions and come up with outstanding suggestions re CSAC. It has been a breath of fresh air working with Cindy on the Children's Needs Assessment.

Additionally, I do not think that Commissioner Moss should be the liaison for CSAC. Since she became the liaison, she has undermined the process rather than improve it. CSAC needs a liaison who will listen to explanations, seek to understand what is shared with them and be constructive.

Thanks.

Hope Woodhouse
hope.woodhouse@gmail.com
Cell: 772-205-5631

Ashley Brown

From: PATRICIA THOMPSON <mrsthompson2@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, August 28, 2023 5:42 PM
To: Joseph E. Flescher
Subject: Commission Agenda - TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2023 - 9:00 AM

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Dear Commissioner Flescher,

I am writing to ask that you remove discussion of CSAC from your meeting tomorrow.

Given that the new CSAC Director, Cindy Emerson, has been in place for only 3 weeks, it seems a bit premature, not to mention thoughtless, for the Commissioners to interfere in CSAC decision making at this point.

Evaluating our community's needs and assessing the necessary funding is the job of the CSAC sub-committee members. Please do not intervene before they've had a chance to complete their work and make recommendations to you.

Unfortunately, no representative of Children's Services can be at your meeting tomorrow. Staff members will be at a statewide event and unable to present or defend their work.

Please give them the courtesy they deserve and remove CSAC from your agenda tomorrow. Thank you so much.

Sincerely yours,

Patricia Thompson
Former President
John's Island Community Service League

251 Island Creek Drive
Vero Beach FL 32963
203 912 6839

PATRICIA THOMPSON
mrsthompson2@icloud.com

Ashley Brown

From: Helen Johnson <hboehm705@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 28, 2023 5:56 PM
To: Joseph E. Flescher
Subject: CSAC Agenda Item

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Dear Commissioner Flescher,

I am writing to you as a pediatrician, as a member of the board of directors for Child Care Resources of Indian River County, and as a resident of this community. I read with great concern the suggestion to revisit CSAC funding in tomorrow's meeting. I will not rehash all of the issues that have likely been raised to you regarding this topic appearing on tomorrow's agenda, but I would like to make several points:

- 1) I believe **it is unfair to have this discussion without the Children's Services staff present** to contribute to the discussion. As you know, they are away at a statewide event.
- 2) The **CSAC subcommittee should be allowed to address these issues as originally tasked**. To bypass their efforts before they have completed their own evaluations undermines their work and sows distrust.
- 3) **Diversified funding is critical to a non-profit's fiscal health**. It allows them to weather unexpected challenges, both cultural and financial. This stability reflects a stable and trustworthy operation to stakeholders and donors which is crucial for sustained giving.
- 4) **Early childhood education is not just babysitting or daycare. It is an investment in a community's economic, physical, cultural, and societal health. Quality early childhood education is linked to higher rates of higher education and professional success among its recipients. It is also associated with lower rates of crime--including recidivism, mental illness, and chronic disease among its recipients. That is just the tip of the iceberg and doesn't address the support that early childhood education centers like CCR provide to parents, assisting them in their efforts to go back to school to obtain degrees, find stable employment, and find solutions for challenges ranging from domestic abuse to disease.**

In other words, investing in programs that provide quality early childhood education is an investment in a future generation of students, a future workforce, and a future cohort of leaders. It is an investment in healthcare, mitigating against the rapidly growing burden of mental and physical disease that this community struggles to bear. As a physician and researcher, I place tremendous value on robust evidence, and there are few subjects for which the evidence is as robust as it is for quality early childhood education.

I ask you to please defer this discussion until the CSAC staff is present and the CSAC subcommittee has completed their work.

Sincerely,

Helen Boehm Johnson, M.D.
1321 Sea Hawk Lane
Vero Beach, FL 32963

Ashley Brown

From: Mary Brown <marysb56@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 28, 2023 7:27 PM
To: Joseph E. Flescher
Subject: Board agenda

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Dear Mr. Flescher,

I request that the discussion of CSAC funding be postponed until the newly appointed director, Cindy Emerson, can be present. Funds from multiple sources is the best way for nonprofit organizations to maintain their financial security. I am in full support of CSAC efforts and goals.

Thank you,

Mary Sue Brown
Board member of Childcare Resources
970 Sandfly Lane
Vero Beach, Fl. 32963

Fwd: Children's Services Funding on tomorrow's County Commission agenda.

To Commissioner Flescher <j.flescher@comcast.net>

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Graham Cox <grahamleonardcox@gmail.com>
Date: August 28, 2023 at 8:07:44 PM EDT
To: Susan Adams <sadams@ircgov.com>, Joseph E. Flescher, Joe Earman <jearman@ircgov.com>, Laura Moss <lmoss@ircgov.com>, Deryl Loar <dloar@ircgov.com>
Subject: Children's Services Funding on tomorrow's County Commission agenda.

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Commissioners,

Pelican Island Audubon Society has enjoyed the support of the CSAC and the United Way, as well as the support from private foundations based in Indian River County. We have appreciated the support from the county and the CSAC for the last eight years for our Audubon Advocates and our older youth camp programs. We also enjoy the support of the Homeless Children's Foundation.

Our Advocates program has graduated more than 800 5th grade students in our after-school lagoon science program. We have also graduated about 200 older students in our camp programs which are held over many weeks and weekends in fall, winter, spring and summer.

The objective of both programs is to get students outdoors to explore the trails and shoreline of our county. It is aimed at counteracting nature deficit disorder, a mental health challenge for all our students and our schools as children on average only get about 15 minutes a day outside and often that is simply waiting for a school bus.

Our Advocates program gets students outside for three hours a day, after school, and our week long and weekend programs for older students gets them exploring the Lagoon and the conservation lands and parks of Indian River County.

It is a mental health issue for all our students and incidentally helps raise their academic STEAM scores in their respective schools. We are active in four south county schools, as well as in Vero Beach and Pelican Island elementary schools. Our students learn about the natural environment, they learn how to journal and photograph what they see and, most importantly, we aim our programs at

underserved girls and minority students as we introduce them to FMEL scientists and to county professionals who manage our parks, our conservation areas, our stormwater and waste treatment facilities. We encourage all our students to think about being a scientist and they come away after a 14-week semester with a new perspective on what scientists and county employees do. We encourage them to consider science and public service as future career paths.

We are forever grateful for the financial support from CSAC and from county employees who lead us in understanding how things work.

We are also mindful that we must continuously seek other diverse sources of income, which we do. About one quarter of our Audubon Advocates and camp program funding does come through CSAC. The rest, three quarters of our children's program funds, comes from county charities such as Johns island Community Service League, the JI Foundation, United Way, the Indian River club and the Heads, Hearts, and Hands program. We are also grateful to our generous Pelican Island Audubon Society members and contributors for their continued support.

We would be delighted to welcome you to Audubon House on Oslo Road, adjacent to the Oslo Road Conservation Area, when the 5th grade classes are in session, 3:15 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and when the classes for the older students are active throughout the year. Please contact our executive director, Donna Halleran, to arrange a visit.

Sincerely, Graham Cox, Ph.D on behalf of our staff, board members and our many student Advocates.

Ashley Brown

From: Bob Schlitt, Jr. <bobjr@schlittservices.com>
Sent: Monday, August 28, 2023 9:43 PM
To: Joseph E. Flescher
Subject: 8/29 BOCC Meeting - Children's Services

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Commissioner Flescher,

I just became aware of Commissioner Moss' memo regarding a potential review of CSAC processes, procedures and some concern on recent grants. While I would like to be at the meeting tomorrow in person, I am unable to attend.

As someone who has been involved in children's issues and having served on CSAC for a number of years, I would like to propose that the board give the brand new full-time management of CSAC at least a year to figure out how they want to tackle the issues brought up in Commissioner Moss' memo and then the commissioners can discuss with knowledgeable staff input.

Thank you for your consideration.

Robert Schlitt, Jr., CFP, CIC
President

Schlitt Insurance Services, Inc.

1717 Indian River Boulevard, Suite 300

Vero Beach, Florida 32960

Phone: 772-567-1188 x118

Fax: 772-778-1416

Email: bobjr@schlittservices.com

Website: www.schlittservices.com

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Ashley Brown

From: forms@forms.ircgov.com
Sent: Tuesday, August 29, 2023 11:49 AM
To: Joseph E. Flescher
Subject: Contact Form - Thank you!

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The following was sent from the contact form on ircgov.com:

Name Judi Miller

Email judibbbs@gmail.com

Address 3225 S. Lakeview Circle, #206, Fort Pierce, FL 34949

Phone 772-528-4545

Subject Thank you!

Message Just wanted to say a huge thank you for your comments regarding the CSAC agenda item this morning!

More Info:

Form Submission Time 8/29/2023 11:49:18 EDT(-0400 GMT)

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Unique ID 7955f7e2c5e5374da791e06f1c6dfa72

staff = dist2

Ashley Brown

From: forms@forms.ircgov.com
Sent: Tuesday, August 29, 2023 12:23 PM
To: Joseph E. Flescher
Subject: Contact Form - Elegant Solution to Agenda Item 14E

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The following was sent from the contact form on ircgov.com:

Name Logan Geeslin

Email Logan@mygeeslin.com

Address 907 Seagrape Lane

Phone 7724923331

Subject Elegant Solution to Agenda Item 14E

Message What an elegant solution to Laura Moss' ill-timed proposed discussion of CSAC. One woman said it was worth getting dressed to come to the meeting! Thank you!

More Info:

Form Submission Time 8/29/2023 12:23:22 EDT(-0400 GMT)

Visitors IP 73.49.47.204

Unique ID 5a49164a808110dd116d2b969782f074

staff = dist2

Ashley Brown

From: Barbie Horton <barbiehorton1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 29, 2023 1:46 PM
To: Joseph E. Flescher
Subject: Csac

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It is incredibly frustrating that after all our work to advocate for children and a dedicated funding stream for CSAC, the investment in children's programming is questioned and the process still comes under attack.

The notion that there should be specified "funding lanes" has long been proposed after suggestions of programs "double dipping" their funding. An analysis of program budgets and reports clarifies this is not the case. Backing programs into one of these funding lanes would be dangerous to their stability. Organizations should maximize all funding opportunities available to them and not rely on one singular source. School District and Hospital tax authority only goes so far, and their funding has very specified parameters. Those entities have their own boards and priorities which should absolutely be conferred with to open communication and collaboration, but many of the programs CSAC funds are out of their purview.

Diversified funding is a key strategy for nonprofit organizations to maintain financial stability, flexibility, and long-term sustainability. It helps navigate uncertainties, capitalize on opportunities, and continue making a positive impact on the children and communities served. Various streams of support signal to stakeholders that the nonprofit has a strong and reliable financial base. This enhances credibility and builds trust with donors, partners, and the community. Relying on a single source of funding, such as a grant, a major donor, or public dollars can be risky. A mix of funding sources, such as grants, donations, earned income, and fundraising events, allows the nonprofit to better weather changes in the economic and cultural climate.

The prioritization of CSAC investment priorities and evaluation of the community's needs is the job of the CSAC sub-committee members. They should be empowered to do the work they have been tasked with and not be circumvented before the recommendations are complete. There is, for the first time, full-time dedicated staff facilitating this process and unfortunately, these agenda items were submitted during a meeting where Children's Services staff will be at a statewide event learning from other counties on this topic. They will be unable to give an update on the progress or defend what is proposed.

If you have time, please attend tomorrow, or send a note to ALL of the commissioners about how these topics would impact your work and organization.

Sincerely,
Barbara Horton
Development Chairman
Board of Childcare Resources

Sent from my iPhone

Ashley Brown

From: Bob Schlitt, Jr. <bobjr@schlittservices.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 30, 2023 7:50 AM
To: Joseph E. Flescher
Subject: CSAC

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Commissioner Flescher,

I want to personally thank you for giving CSAC the opportunity to move forward with the plan to become more accountable to the citizens of IRC. With your help, the new full-time staffing and the time to get the job done, I believe that CSAC will do a much better job of accountability and transparency. And with this we will be given the opportunity to financially support the needs of our county even better.

Thank you for all you do!

Robert Schlitt, Jr., CFP, CIC
President

Schlitt Insurance Services, Inc.

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