



Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 2, 2017
The Children's Trust
3150 S.W. 3rd Avenue, 8th Floor
Training Room
10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Board of Directors

Laurie Weiss Nuell
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Esther Jacobo
Tiombe Bisa Kendrick-Dunn, Ph.D.
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Marissa Leichter
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Com. Xavier Suarez
Mark Trowbridge
Karen Weller

David Lawrence Jr.
Founding Chair

James R. Haj
President & CEO

County Attorney's Office
Legal Counsel

AGENDA

10:30 a.m. **Welcome and opening remarks**

Laurie Weiss Nuell
Chair

10:35 a.m. **Public comments**

10:40 a.m. **Resolution**

James R. Haj
President/CEO

Approval Resolution 2017-D: Youth Advisory Committee - Authorization to continue to operate the Children's Trust Youth Advisory Committee, including travel to Tallahassee. The annual budget for the Youth Advisory Committee is approximately \$37,000.00, subject to approval for form and legal sufficiency.
(Pgs. 2-4)

11:00 a.m. **Adjourn**

The public is allowed to comment before presentation of resolutions but must register with the Clerk of the Board prior to being allowed to comment.

The Children's Trust Board Meeting

March 13, 2017

Resolution 2017-D

Strategic Plan Priority Investment Area(s): Youth Development – Youth Enrichment and Community Awareness and Advocacy – Promote Citizen Engagement and Leadership.

Strategic Plan Headline Community Result(s): Students succeeding academically; children behave appropriately in school, homes and communities; and youth successfully transition to adulthood.

Recommended Action: Youth Advisory Committee - Authorization to continue to operate the Children's Trust Youth Advisory Committee, including travel to Tallahassee. The annual budget for the Youth Advisory Committee is approximately \$37,000.00, subject to approval for form and legal sufficiency.

Budget Impact: Funding is allocated for FY 2016-17 and is projected to be available in FY 2017-18.

Description of Services: The Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) is The Children's Trust's very own direct service youth civic engagement and leadership program that was previously authorized by resolution #2005-40 in 2005.

The YAC is open to Miami-Dade County high school students. The program is supported by a curriculum aligned with the school-year calendar that includes regular meetings, trainings, in-town and out-of-town fieldtrips as well as firsthand service-learning experiences. The YAC continuously explores and engages in leadership, advocacy and community service opportunities on behalf of and in assistance to children and families.

The YAC uses the framework provided by the PeaceJam Curriculum, which seeks to inspire new leaders through the efforts of Nobel Peace Prize laureates. The curriculum is geared to enhancing both the academic and socio-emotional skills of participating youth, while fostering essential character traits – responsibility, creativity, optimism and grit, among others – to create positive change in Miami-Dade County.

During the year, the YAC is involved in a number of events, such as the PeaceJam SLAM in November that takes place at the Miami Dade College InterAmerican Campus and a trip to Tallahassee to visit the Florida Capitol during Children's Week of the Florida Legislative Session with other area youth groups. While in Tallahassee, the YAC meets with legislators and has an opportunity to observe the political process firsthand. Additionally, while on the trip to Tallahassee, YAC members attend the PeaceJam Southeast Regional Conference on the Florida State University campus and visit other university campuses along the way. As part of their visit to the state capital, the youth facilitate advocacy training for other youth. With parental consent, which is required for travel to all YAC events, all YAC members are eligible to participate in the trip to Tallahassee. Supervision of the YAC during the Tallahassee trip includes a ratio of one adult to five youth. Adult supervision includes The

Children's Trust staff members, staff from community-based organizations and/or parents of YAC members who have undergone a Level 2 background screening.

Background: In 2005, through resolution #2005-40, the YAC was created to give youth a voice regarding matters heard by The Children's Trust and to encourage civic engagement among youth. The resolution authorizing the YAC approved membership consisting of 11 youth.

The YAC has grown substantially since its inception. Initially, the YAC consisted of one group that held its monthly meetings at The Children's Trust. Due to its increased popularity and effectiveness, and in an effort to ensure member diversity and increase access to the program, two additional groups were added to the YAC. One group meets regularly in the northern region of the county (YAC North), while the other meets in the southern region (YAC South). The initial YAC group that currently meets at the Trust office is now referred to as YAC Central.

During the 2006-07 school year, the YAC was invited to travel to Tallahassee to participate in youth town hall meetings and has traveled to Tallahassee each year since that time. The trip is fully sponsored by the Children's Trust. YAC members frequently express that the trip to Tallahassee was the highlight of their yearlong activities, and describe the life-changing and lasting impression it made on them.

Last year, the group held a 90-minute interactive session focused on civic engagement titled, "Today's Youth, Tomorrow's Leaders," in Tallahassee City Hall with legislators on one side of the panel and youth on the other. In addition, the YAC also commits to implementing an annual service-learning project. For example, the YAC has worked with the Chapman Partnership, a local organization that serves the homeless. As part of the project activities, the group served meals to people who are homeless.

The YAC is a model youth advisory committee that several other YACs have sought to emulate. The program provides unique civic engagement and leadership experiences, which help shape the leadership and advocacy skills of YAC members.

Current Status: The approval of this resolution will provide The Trust with authority to continue the work of the YAC with its related funding requirements and authorize the annual trip to Tallahassee. Such trips will be reported to The Trust insurance agent to offset any liabilities.

Approximately 70 youth currently participate in the YAC. While the groups meet at separate sites, they share a common mission: to nurture the next generation of change-makers committed to positive change in themselves and their communities. The central YAC now has 40 youth and YAC north and south each have 15 youth members. Each YAC group meets monthly. The meetings are facilitated by Trust staff and include guest speakers, team building activities and community service projects. The program is anchored by a graduation ceremony and the annual trip to Tallahassee to participate in Peace Jam and Children's Week at the State Capitol. Children's Week sponsored by United Way Florida is a special annual celebration that brings thousands of children to the State Capitol for an opportunity to meet legislators and participate in numerous child-centered activities. Youth groups travel from across Florida to participate in various activities to heighten awareness of youth issues at the State Capitol. Typically, members of the YAC are invited to participate in a youth town hall debate, press events and meetings with legislators. As part of the bus trip, YAC members also visit major universities in Tallahassee and along the way to tour

campuses and talk to students and faculty. Other groups such as Miami-Dade County's Youth Commission and the Fatherhood Task Force have travelled to Tallahassee with the YAC in the past. The YAC has consistently provided the board with annual reports of its activities and will continue to do so.

Geographic Area: Countywide.

The foregoing recommendation was offered by _____ who moved its approval. The motion was seconded by _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted **this 13th day of March 2017.**

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY _____

SECRETARY

Approved by County Attorney for form and legal sufficiency _____