Board of Directors Meeting

June 19, 2017
The Children's Trust Board of Directors Meeting was held on Monday, June 19th, 2017, commencing at 4:03 p.m., at 3150 S.W. 3rd Avenue, 8th Floor, Training Room, Miami, Florida 33129. The meeting was called to order by Laurie Nuell, Chair.

Officers/Executive Committee

Laurie W. Nuell, Chair, At-Large Member
Lileana de Moya, Vice Chair, Gubernatorial Appointee

The Board of Directors

Dr. Daniel Bagner, Florida International University
Dr. Miguel Balsera, Gubernatorial Appointee
Rep. Nicholas Duran, Miami-Dade County Delegation
Gilda Ferradaz, Florida Dept. Of Children & Families
Alvin Gainey, PTA/PTSA
Karla Hernandez, Mats, United Teachers of Dade
Nelson Hincapie, Office of the Mayor, Dade County
Pam Hollingsworth, Early Learning Coalition
Esther Jacobo, State Attorney Representative, Miami-Dade
Inson Kim, Office of the Mayor, Miami-Dade County
Marissa Leichter, Gubernatorial Appointee
Frank Manning, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice
Dr. Susan Neimand, Miami-Dade College
Marta Pérez, Miami-Dade County Public Schools
Hon. Orlando Prescott, Juvenile Court Division
Hon. Isaac Salver, League of Cities, Miami-Dade County
Commissioner Xavier Suarez,
Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners
Mark Trowbridge, Coalition of the
Local Chamber of Commerce
Karen Weller, Miami-Dade County Health Department
Shanika Graves, Assistant County Attorney
Leigh Kobrinski, Assistant County Attorney

STAFF:
James Haj, President/Chief Executive Officer
Imran Ali, CEO
Anna Dilernia
Bevone Ritchie
Dalia Garcia
Deborah Robinson
Donovan Lee-Sin
Lisa Pittman
Lori Katherine Hanson
Muriel Jeanty, Clerk of the Board
Rachel Spector
Stephanie Sylvestre, Chief Programs & CIO
Tameeka Grant
Vivianne Bohorques
William Kirtland
Zafreen Jaffery

GUESTS:
Gepsie Metellus, Sant La Haitian Neighborhood Center
Dr. Andrea Wanza, Empowering Youth
Michael Spring, Miami-Dade County Department of
Cultural Affairs

Deborah Margol, Department of Cultural Affairs
Francine Andersen, Department of Cultural Affairs
Beatriz Herrmann, ArtSouth
Nadege Vilsaint, Prosperity Social & Community Development Group
Holly Zwerling, Fatherhood Task Force
YAC participants
MS. NUELL: Hello. Good morning. I would like to call the meeting to order, please.
Muriel, do we have any public comment?
Oh, I'm sorry, Gepsie. I saw you walk in.

MS. METELLUS: Good afternoon, Madam Chair. Good afternoon, Board members. Gepsie Metellus. I serve as executive director of Sant La Haitian Neighborhood Center. I'm here before you this afternoon only because I couldn't sleep for over a month. I couldn't sleep given the embarrassing situation that I was placed under last month at this very Board meeting.
I think that, you know, when you have the kind of duty of care that you—all do, I think that it's absolutely essential that you exercise the greatest caution to not impugn anyone's integrity or to not make remarks or comments that may lead to misinterpretation that may lead to unfortunate circumstances.
And so I think that this is precisely what happened at the very last Board meeting when Sant La was accused of not -- I suppose, I guess to sum it up, would be not living up to contractual obligations or not fulfilling portions of contracts. I don't know
exactly. I don't remember anymore.

I sort of wrestled with the situation the entire month trying to figure out the best way to handle it, and I think, in fact, the very best way is to state unequivocally that I was offended, that anyone in my shoes would have been offended and embarrassed. And that, you know -- there were two scenarios that were playing in my head.

On the one hand, this one scenario was, well, there's an assumption that there are certain organizations who function in a certain way, who function the same way because maybe they all kind of look alike. And on the other, the scenario that kept running through my mind was if this had been an execution, I would have been dead already. You would have assassinated me.

I mean, I don't want to be overly dramatic, but I really do want you to understand, I think, the gravity with which I'm taking this, I'm taking these comments, and I think the harm that may be unfortunately unintentional, probably, but the harm that it caused, because when you sit in front of a number of colleagues and your agency is called out in this manner, comments made in this manner, without, I think, the appropriate level of care to be sure that you're
speaking precisely about something very factual, I think you do almost irreparable harm.

And so I wanted to put this on the record and I wanted to at least be sure that no other organization would suffer this kind of embarrassment or this kind of unfortunate situation. I call it to your attention in the spirit of collaboration, in the spirit of respect, in the spirit of doing the right thing, and the spirit also of holding you up to your duty of care, right? And that duty of care requires you to be careful. I'll just leave it at that. And so thank you for this time. Thank you, Madam Chair. I think I've said what I came to say. Thank you.

MS. NUELL: Thank you. Claudia is not here. So can I -- can I just ask for the approval of the minutes?

COMMISSIONER SUAREZ: So moved.

MS. NUELL: All right. Do I have a motion? You have to say your name when you make a motion.

MS. NUELL: Commissioner Suarez moved.

MS. NUELL: Thank you.

DR. PEREZ: Second.

MS. NUELL: Are there any comments or changes?
(NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)

MS. NUELL: All in favor?

(WHEREUPON, the Board members all responded with "aye.")

MS. NUELL: Any opposed?

(NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)

MS. NUELL: And the motion carries.

Thank you. Jim.

MR. HAJ: We have two appreciations for outstanding service to Children's Trust. Commissioner Cava is running a little bit late. But who I would like to thank is somebody who -- I've been in the job a little over a year and work very closely with Lily de Moya. And Lily is -- will be stepping down as program chair. She will still serve as vice president -- vice chair, but she will be stepping down. And I do want to thank her for her service, her leadership, our conversations, pushing me to be the best that I can be, our honest conversations.

And, Lily, you've been a friend and a colleague and I appreciate all the service you do for the Trust and everything else you do with children in this community. Thank you.

MS. DE MOYA: Thank you.

(Applause.)
MS. NUELL: Okay.

MR. HAJ: We have a --

MS. DE MOYA: Oh, my. Thank you very much. I would just like to say thank you. It's been an honor and a privilege to serve as the chair of the committee. It's been over four, almost five years.

And I just wanted to let everybody know on the Board that the only reason I was stepping down is because I believe that you lead by example, and I think that it's time for someone else to have the opportunity that I've had. It's been a great experience to be able to work with Jim and my buddy over here, Imran, who I harass quite a bit. And as you can see, I don't get Diet Coke anymore. I didn't know that that's what it was going to cost me.

But I'm still here. You didn't get rid of me yet. I will still serve as vice chair, and I know that Pam is going to do a great job as chair and I welcome new eyes, you know, and I think that that's important in an organization, to bring in new ideas, new blood, new thoughts, and a change of leadership. And so that's really, you know, why I did it. So thank you—all very much.

(Appplause.)

MR. HAJ: Madam Chair, I don't see
Commissioner Cava, so if we could wait until she arrives? We can move on.

MS. NUHELL: Thank you, Lily. You know, once again, you’re -- you know, lead by example and I think, you know, we’re all much better for it. Thank you.

Donovan? We have a recognition of the Youth Advisory Committee.

MR. LEE-SIN: Good afternoon, everyone. In the spirit of recognizing service and wanting to acknowledge our Youth Advisory Committee, many of those members are here today. This year we moved to expand the reach of our YAC. And in a second Felix is going to play for us a slideshow.

(Music playing.)

MR. LEE-SIN: Felix, if you could, lower it just a little bit, then I’ll talk over the sound. But traditionally we -- since inception the Youth Advisory Committee -- we have one group of about 35 to 40 kids that met here at the Trust once a month and they combined to have a interest in community leadership and to do a service project. And we took them to Tallahassee to understand and engage in Children's Week and understand the legislative process.

And this year we had three groups
actually: One that continued to meet here, one in the
south end of the county, and one in the north end of the
county.

As the screen moves here you'll see the
names of the kids who participated in this year's Youth
Advisory Committee. There were 60 kids in all who were
brave, scared, excited, and committed all to service.
And they're sitting over here to my left. If you-all
would stand up, those of you who are attending today.

(Applause.)

MR. LEE-SIN: And, you know, I just
wanted to take this time to recognize them. And, Felix,
you can go ahead and pull up the volume and then at the
very end of the slideshow -- I'm not going to take up
much time. During this slideshow we're going to show
you a little bit about their experience in Tallahassee
and just wanted to recognize their leadership. Thank
you.

(Slideshow presentation was played.)

MR. LEE-SIN: That's it. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MS. NUELL: I want to say I had the great
fortune to be in Tallahassee the same time as the YAC
trip for a day and a half. And it was really a pleasure
to -- and a privilege to be there and meet the kids and
see them. And we went, you know, to certain offices in
the capital and on the capitol steps. It was Dade Day
and Kids' Week and it was very exciting and they handled
themselves well. And we were at a big dinner the night
before.

And we really -- you know, I think it was
very enjoyable and, plus, having so many more students
this year. They really, you know, I think melded well
together and could learn from each other. Not to put
you on the spot, but is there anyone who would like to
say something about their experience? If you don't want
to, it's okay. But if someone's, like, brave enough,
since you didn't prepare. We would love to hear
something from you.

(Speaking off mic.)

MS. NUELL: You have to come up to the --
sorry.

(Applause.)

T. WITCHEN: My name is Timiey Witchen
(phonetic) with -- T-I-M-I-E-Y. But it was a very
fun -- I had fun, like, very much fun. I don't know if
they had fun. But, you know, I met some people, though,
some people I didn't know about really and I, you
know -- very appreciative of you guys. Thank you.

(Applause.)
MS. NUELL: Thank you. So we look
forward to next year. All right. Well -- oh, yes.
Hello, we have a special guest today. Nice to see you.
COMMISSIONER CAVA: It's wonderful to be
here. I miss you.

MS. NUELL: Miss you.

MR. HAJ: It's my pleasure to give an
appreciation for outstanding service to Children's Trust
to Commissioner Levine Cava. Commissioner, thank you
for serving on the Trust. You were a leader on the
Trust, but more than that, you've been a leader in the
community for decades. And we appreciate what you've
done in your fight for children services for children
and families in this town. So we appreciate all that
you do, all that you will continue to do.

And I am in the commissioner's district
and I see her everywhere out and about. Congratulations
and thank you. We have a recognition for you.

COMMISSIONER CAVA: Oh, thank you.

MS. NUELL: We don't think these work.

COMMISSIONER CAVA: I know the young
people that were on the trip just left, but I mean, it's
such a joy for me. Advocacy is my first name.
Collaboration is my middle name. So to see these young
people and their excitement and going to Tallahassee and
knowing this beautiful program that Diana has developed over the years and done such a great job, it's a great -- it's how you get started. That is how you get started in making a difference.

So thank you. It was a joy to serve for the two years that I did. I've passed on to my wonderful successor who actually precedes me in most things in life.

MR. HAJ: Including age.

COMMISSIONER CAVA: I wasn't going there.

But he sets such a great example and he's been an advocate, as well, for so, so long. And so, you know, you're still my friends. I'm still here for you. Anything I can do, especially on the legislative agenda, but also on the program development, we're here for you. Thank you.

(Applause.)

COMMISSIONER CAVA: This is beautiful.

(Applause.)

COMMISSIONER CAVA: I knew him when he was a baby.

MS. NUELL: Well, I would like to pass the finance report off to Isaac. So Isaac is back.

HON. SALVER: I don't know for how long but -- yeah. I just wanted to mention -- unfortunately
the kids had already left, but as a parent of a former
YAC member, that program is second to none regarding
experience for the children that go through the program.

I know that my son had it on his résumé
and for college applications. And it went a long way.
Plus, experience that he got just team building and
advocacy and just awareness of children's issues helps a
young -- you know, a young person that's going into
college formulate a very strong foundation for advocacy
for children and children's programs.

So, just I would just like to say that
since we did recognize the YAC program. It looks like
Donovan really brought it to a new level with 60
children involved. I think when my son was involved a
few years ago, there might have been 20 or 30 kids
involved. And it's great to see them growing.

All right. Finance Committee meeting
report. On this agenda we are presenting to the Board a
preliminary budget and I don't think we're actually
going to need to take official action, but I'd like to
make a couple of introductory remarks in reference to
the particular budget that you have in front of you.
And it's on the tab that says preliminary budget on your
iPad.

This budget, the preliminary budget that
you have, was passed unanimously by the Finance Committee on June 8. And it's not that remarkable of a budget in that this budget represents year three of a three-year funding cycle.

And, you know, after speaking to the CFO, it's going to be next year's budget -- not the one that you have in front of you, but a year from now, which -- in which the Trust will actually push the reset button and institute some of the longer-term strategic plan that we develop along the way.

So the good news is that the County has indicated to the Trust that our funding should increase by about ten million dollars in the coming year and that -- I'm sure several of you would like to hear what I'm about to say about where the ten million dollars will be allocated. The ten million dollars will be allocated to only direct services which include three primary buckets of spending: Early childhood development, parenting, and youth development.

And it's fairly even amongst the three; although, early childhood development has an extra several hundred thousand dollars.

Another highlight that I would like to bring out is that for the second year in a row, management expenses have decreased from the prior year
and this is a -- you know these types of positive trends we continue to look forward to. And at this point I would like to introduce the CFO -- I'm sorry -- our CEO, James Haj, who will continue a little bit further explanation of the budget.

MR. HAJ: Thank you, Isaac. I think you touched on most of it. On the tab, on the preliminary budget tab, it wasn't populated fully. That's why they just distributed a hard copy. You only have two slides. So you have the full -- the full packet right in front of you, a hard copy.

You have four pages. One is the PowerPoint, which I'll briefly go over, which Isaac touched upon most of it. The second page, budget summary. And there's a third page of fund balance and a fourth page, of course, strategies, where is the money placed. And we'll review those shortly.

But going through the one-page PowerPoint, The Children's Trust continues to emphasize putting money into direct services on streets that take care of children and families of Miami-Dade County. Again, the property appraiser assessed a tax roll of 274.2 billion, which equates to approximately 130.3 million in ad valorem tax revenue and essentially is ten million dollars for us or 8.25 percent increase to the
Trust revenues from the prior year.

We'll offer an additional ten million in services in alignment with the strategic plan, which the Board went through the last two months. We had two meetings to give us direction. And there we placed as allocated. Early childhood development gets four million dollars; youth development, three million dollars; and parenting, three million dollars.

As Isaac said we're very proud that we're doing less -- we're doing more with less. We've downsized staff to -- from 93 budgeted positions in 13 months down to 74. Almost 20 positions. We've been able to -- we will not renew a lease with the United Way. Of course we have 20 offices here. We have a whole floor with a conference room and other areas, which we will not renew next month. We will be moving people over. So we'll have savings on the lease side, as well as -- you know, it's the first time since the Trust history a hundred percent of the contracts are executed on time. So there have been efficiencies.

We're utilizing -- we're looking forward to our Technology Way Forward. It will be crazy for ten months, but after that it will be much easier.

So, again, the emphasis has always been to put as much money into service as possible, and we'll
continue to do so. We budgeted a merit increase of 4.44 percent. I just wanted to give you a little historic background.

Three years ago the employees received zero percent increase. Last -- two years ago it was at 3 percent and last year it was at 2 percent. But for seven years, ending in 2015, they also had a 2 -- they had a furlough. There was a week of furlough that was in effect that was a negative 2 percent impact on their paycheck.

So I think we should recognize the employees for the work that they have done. They've been responsive to me. They've been responsive to the Board's needs and we've saved a significant amount of money by downsizing.

And, again, for the first time in nine years The Children's Trust has reduced the management expense to 7.5 percent of its total expense.

And I think that's it for me but Mr. --

Bill, anything I missed?

MR. WILLIAM: Thank you, Isaac and Jim, you made my job very easy. So I just get to smile and wave, right? Well, right, the finer points were made in the details of what the changes are from last year's budget to this year's budget. I just wanted to take a
moment to remind everyone that essentially this is our first preliminary budget. We do expect some information to come out between now and the next committee and Board meeting next month so that we can make some refinements to the budget.

However, we don't typically or historically expect any substantial changes that may even be noticed in the budget schedules as we've already outlined them. So there is another opportunity in case we learn of any changes or any number that we need to report that we can come back to the committees and Board in July and present those changes, and then we'll subsequently move on to the TRIM process.

HON. SALVER: Okay. Great. Thank you so much.

MS. NUELL: Can I interrupt for one second?

HON. SALVER: Absolutely.

MS. NUELL: Thanks. I'm not sure if he said all of this, but I just was looking around the room and thinking I think we have some new Board members that maybe weren't here last year. So typically our process, just in case it is, we bring the preliminary budget to the Board this month, June. And July we come back and we vote on the budget and the millage rate. And then in
September we have the two TRIM hearings.

The TRIM hearings, we need everyone's attendance because you have to have three-quarters of the Board vote and that -- the TRIM hearing is where we vote to get our money.

And we have to -- the first meeting, it's the same process. We vote -- we have a preliminary vote on the budget and millage rate, and ten days later you come back and then you have the vote on the budget and millage rate. And I don't think those dates are set in stone yet, are they?

MS. JEANTY: No, but -- the 13th and the 19th.

MS. NUHELL: The 13th and the 19th at the moment. And we'll get a lot of information. So, anyway, this budget is before you. I don't know if you're going to talk about it a little bit more, but then -- and then we'll come back in July for approval and acceptance of the budget.

HON. SALVER: Well, if anybody has any questions on the information that has been presented to you, either James, William, or myself would be happy to answer any questions that you have.

The procedure is that we're not taking any formal action, but it was determined a few years ago
at the Budget Committee level that the Board should have, prior to approving the final budget, that they -- you know, the Board should be invited to be involved in the creation of the budget in general. So in order to facilitate that, we have this process of presenting the preliminary budget.

So this is really -- you know, although it's a rough draft that might accurately reflect what the final budget will be, it is still open for discussion if anybody has any questions or comments.

And one of the things that I actually mentioned at the committee is the Trust's investment in program and professional development, which I personally as the treasurer supported for many, many years, and I know there are -- there is dialogue that takes place that, you know, that might lead one to believe that every single dollar needs to be spent on direct services.

But my personal opinion, in order to do that appropriately, we need to invest in, you know, making sure our programs are working and program development. So, you know, this budget does account for that, and I think it's -- you know, staff presented an appropriate amount for -- analysis for training.

So I just -- that wasn't amongst my comments to make, and I just wanted to make sure that
comment was made. So if there's no other -- staff
doesn't have any comment on the budget or the Board
doesn't have any other comment on the budget, we'll just
move the process forward until, I guess, we approach the
TRIM hearing, which just like Laurie, our chair, said,
it's very important that every -- you know, every one of
you is involved with the process of the TRIM hearing
because we do have a very high watermark for a quorum
for that meeting. Okay. So we'll move on to the
resolutions at this point.

MR. BAGNER: Just a comment just to echo
what you said actually. You know, I do think that --
I'm noticing that program evaluation, community research
a million dollars of our budget, which is quite small
relative to how much our budget is. And we constantly
come up with: Is this program working? Is that program
working? I don't think we have a lot of money going
toward research.

So to second what you're saying, I do
think that direct services are important, certainly, but
to make sure that the direct services we're providing
are actually making the impact that we're trying to
make. I think that's a critical piece. So I'm
surprised not to see any sort of increase in that area.

HON. SALVER: First resolution,
Resolution 2017-96: Authorization to negotiate and execute a contract with Alberni Caballero & Fierman, LLP -- which is our CPA firm -- in a total amount not to exceed $25,500.00, for a term of up to 12 months commencing August 1, 2017, and ending July 31, 2018.

Do I hear a motion and a second?

COMMISSIONER SUAREZ: Motion; Suarez.

MR. GAINEY: Second; Gainey.

HON. SALVER: Okay. It's been moved and seconded. Are there any recusals?

(NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)

HON. SALVER: Okay. Are there any questions or comments about the auditor's contract?

(NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)

HON. SALVER: Hearing none, all those in favor, say "aye."

(WHEREUPON, the Board members all responded with "aye.")

HON. SALVER: Anybody opposed?

(NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)

HON. SALVER: It passes unanimously.

Resolution 2017-97: Authorization to negotiate and execute a contract with Tribridge, for a term of 16 months commencing June 20, 2017, and ending September 30, 2018, to provide Infrastructure as a
Service (IaaS) for The Children's Trust in a total
amount not to exceed $215,000.00.

Do I hear a motion and a second for
discussion?

MR. GAINEY: So moved; Gainey.

HON. SALVER: Okay. There's a motion.

Is there a second?

HON. PRESCOTT: Prescott; second.

HON. SALVER: Okay. It's been moved and
seconded. Stephanie, would you like to just give us a
couple of sentences of explanation?

MS. SYLVESTRE: Sure. So this is -- this
is part of our continuous Technology Way Forward. We've
been bringing resolutions and talking about a number of
different solutions. This is -- this and next
resolution are the last ones in terms of the big
paradigm shift in how we're doing IT.

And as we move forward with this partner
with Tribridge, our goal is to simplify our footprint to
the point where our staff can be anywhere in the world
and access all the resources necessary to do their work.

So we're basically moving from about 96
servers, which are more than people -- we have more
servers than we have staff -- to about five servers.

We're moving from about 87 different images endpoints to
about five endpoints. And we're pretty much moving
everything to the cloud and we're hoping that as we
partner with Tribridge, we will have business solutions
that will allow us to have six URLs to access everything
that we need at the Children's Trust.

Just an example of the level of
simplification that we want to bring to our staff, which
would result in higher efficiency and have our staff be
able to partner with our providers better because they
will be able to be in the field and still be productive.

HON. SALVER: Thank you so much. Are
there any questions?

(NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)

HON. SALVER: Are there any recusals?

(NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)

HON. SALVER: Okay. Hearing none, all
those in favor say "aye."

(WHEREUPON, Board members responded with
"aye.")

HON. SALVER: Anybody opposed?

COMMISSIONER SUAREZ: Suarez votes no.

HON. SALVER: Well, it's almost
unanimous.

Well, that concludes the Finance
Committee report. I'm handing the gavel back to you,
Madam Chair.

MS. NUELL: Thank you very much. I am going to ask Pam now to come give the Program Services & Childhood Health Committee report.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good afternoon. The Program Services --

MS. NUELL: Oh, technically -- I'm sorry. We were -- he said had I introduced. I said technically I did not introduce or announce that. I've asked Pam to step up to become the chairman of the Program Services Committee. She's been serving as the vice chair for the last bit of time, and we really appreciate your willingness to step up to the job and look forward to working. So I apologize for interrupting you, but I think someone else said it before me. So, anyway, thank you.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: The Program Services & Childhood Health Committee met on Thursday June 8. We were provided with a great presentation from Deborah Margol from the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs that touched on the many benefits of our education for children of all ages. We also heard from several of the recipients of the capacity building grants and learned of some of the great work that's been happening with them over the past year. We also
considered and approved three resolutions that are coming to the full Board today.

So with that, I think we will move on to a presentation by the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, Michael Spring, director, Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs.

MR. SPRING: Thank you very much for the opportunity to give you a quick update on how our partnership is proceeding. With me this afternoon is Deborah Margol, the deputy director of the Department of Cultural Affairs, and Francine Andersen, who's chief of arts and education for our department, as well. And they're here to help with any questions you might have that I may not be able to answer. But we thought that what we would do is give you a quick overview of the progress that we've made in our partnership with The Children's Trust.

So, you know, we believe, as I know that you do, that the arts are essential to a complete and well-rounded education. And that national research confirms unequivocally that the arts positively affects student motivation, attendance, and attitude. So there's lots of statistics on this, but the studies demonstrate that low income students that are engaged in the arts have a five-time lower dropout rate than their
peers. And simply put, kids who are excited about
school stay in school.

So after now ten years of historical
data, this data demonstrates that students with an
education that's rich in arts education earn higher
grades and score an average of a hundred points higher
on SAT than students without arts education. And, in
fact, this holds true regardless of socioeconomic
status, which means that the arts help close the
achievement gap for kids, as well.

So in addition to helping kids in school,
the arts also help kids become successful in life. So
kids are -- with an arts education are twice as likely
to graduate from college. And in surveys that have been
done both locally and nationally about businesses,
business leaders say that creativity is the number-one
skill they're seeking when hiring.

So together our partnership with The
Children's Trust continues to leverage significant
support from the community. And it's important to point
out to you that every dollar that we invest jointly
generates nearly an additional four dollars by our arts
providers. And when you put together the money that we
directly match for the programs that are jointly
-sponsored by the department and The Children's Trust and
the matching funds that occur for each and every one of
the projects or programs that are funded, we generate
nearly $13 million in matching funds for the roughly one
and a quarter million investment that The Children's
Trust is making in these joint programs.

So this is -- it's also important to note
that not a dollar of The Children's Trust money is used
for administration. A hundred percent of the money that
we receive from The Children's Trust goes directly into
programs that serve kids.

And based on the documentation that we've
done regarding the projects that are jointly funded by
our work, these programs benefit more than 290,000
children and youth, including 29,000 kids with
disabilities.

I think it's also important to note for
you that our department's hallmark is not only
addressing large cultural organizations, but working
very closely with small grassroots and medium-sized
cultural organizations.

So more than half of the nonprofit arts
groups that are funded through our partnership have
annual cash budgets below $500,000. And over a third of
the organization funded have annual budgets below
$300,000. And it's amazing to see the mileage that
these groups make out of small grants in terms of affecting the lives of kids.

Now, that's not to say that the large organizations aren't important -- because those large organizations open exciting new opportunities for kids, as well -- but the small grassroots organizations address children and families closer to where these kids and their families live and where they go to school.

So we've documented that the programs that are funded through our partnership are in 60 ZIP codes throughout the county in more than 250 locations that stretch from the far south end of the county to the north and from east to west.

In addition, you know, we do the rigorous reporting on outcomes that you would expect that we would do, and on that screen behind me should be the summary of the -- our track record of success with our programs. So I'm proud to say that since our partnership began in 2006, we've exceeded our targeted outcomes year after year for every single measure.

Now, I particularly want to thank you because in the year that we're in right now, you approved an additional $250,000 for our programs based on our being able to demonstrate that there was clear unmet need out in the community. And this unmet need
has been demonstrated by the successful use of this additional funding.

So as an example, just one of many examples that I could offer, we have a program under way now that's called the Summer Arts and Sciences Camp for Kids program. And this program provides scholarships to children that wouldn't normally be able to go to a summer arts and science camp.

So the attendance and the reach of this program with our partnership funding went from 599 last year to 906 kids this year that are benefitting by summer arts and science camps. And this, by the way, exceeded our target by 95 kids.

So I also think it's important to say that as we talk about all of these numbers, it's not just about numbers, but it's about the effect that the arts have on changing kids' lives. And over and over again, we have examples where children's exposure to the arts open up new windows for them on life and on opportunities that they can foresee ahead of them. And this is particularly important for kids that can't afford -- typically couldn't afford engagement in the arts.

So one of the examples that we love to talk about is: There is a 14-year-old student, Janasia
Johnson, who attended Alvin Ailey Camp. This is a program of the Adrienne Arsht Center that we help fund. And this young lady has had a tough life. In fact, her mom is in prison and this program with Alvin Ailey Camp helped her to sort of envision a new future.

But she was chosen to travel to Washington D.C. in November of last year to represent the Arsht Center and Ailey Camp Miami, where she accepted the 2016 National Arts and Humanities Program Award. And you see on the screen the hug that this young lady got from Michelle Obama, then-First Lady Michelle Obama.

Now, she had never flown on an airplane before, never traveled outside of Florida. And for her and for her -- the kids that were in this program, this is a dream come true. And interestingly enough, her mom was able to watch the ceremony from prison as it was live streamed from the White House.

And this is just one of hundreds of stories of kids whose lives have been changed by the arts and who are envisioning a different future for themselves.

I also want to highlight for you that one of the programs that our partnership funds is our All Kids Included - Accessible Arts Program [sic] for Kids
program, which we launched in the very first year of our partnership with The Children's Trust. And through this program we do inclusive arts and cultural programs so that kids and families of all abilities can participate in the arts.

And this is a core value of our department, that the arts should be and need to be accessible to all people regardless of their socioeconomic status or their abilities. And, you know, we're proud to say -- and putting humility aside -- that our All Kids Included program has not just raised the bar for excellence in programming for kids of abilities -- with and without disabilities, but we've achieved regional and national recognition for how innovative these programs have been here in Miami and across Florida.

And I would say to you that these programs range from a family arts festival that we do at the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center to guides that we produced for making sure that kids with autism can go to the theater and go to museums and have a great experience to the programs that we do in conjunction with our parks department on weekends that help teach kids everything from dance to the visual arts in parks throughout the county.
So we're proud of the work that we've done together. And I'm here to thank you and to let you know that we're looking forward to another year of serving kids throughout our community with great arts programs. So I'm happy to answer any questions you may have or to turn this over to people who have even more answers than I do on my staff. Thank you very much.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Mr. Spring.

(Applause.)

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there any questions?

(NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)

MR. SPRING: Thanks.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Mr. Spring.

Resolution 2017-98: Authorization to negotiate and execute a one-year contract with Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, for a local funding match for cultural arts programs. The contract shall extend for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2017, and ending September 30, 2018, in a total amount not to exceed $1,245,328.00. May I have a motion and a second?

HON. SALVER: I'll move; Salver.
MR. BAGNER: Second; Bagner.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there any recusals?

COMMISSIONER SUAREZ: Recusal by Suarez and, Madam Chair, I would like to say something after the vote.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you.

Discussion?

HON. SALVER: Yeah, I just -- you know, since I moved it, I would just like to say that typically my experience with Children's Trust has -- I mean, you know, the presentation illustrates, you know, how important the program that you guys do is to the county, and that's, you know, one of our core principles here at the Trust is to do exactly what you guys are doing, bringing cultural -- you know, culture, arts, and other programming like that to, you know, kids all over the city, not just, you know, particular parts of it, but, you know, underserved communities, handicapped communities, and I think it's really wonderful.

And I know that, you know, as part of the Budget Committee, we've always emphasized placing our -- leveraging our dollars, and this is such a great program that you guys have offering, you know, pretty much four times the amount of investment that we have, that we
need to make, to make that much more of an impact. And that's exactly what the purpose of the Trust is, and I really appreciate what you guys are doing and I encourage everybody to vote for this.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. Further discussion?

(NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: All those in favor.

(WHEREUPON, the Board members all responded with "aye.")

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Opposed?

(NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: The motion carries.

Before moving on to the next two resolutions --

COMMISSIONER SUAREZ: Madam Chair, I just wanted to add something.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER SUAREZ: Counsel tells me that I can't do it during the vote or before the vote, but I can do it after the vote. And I want to echo Isaac's comments. These programs as shown in the recent performance evaluations at Frances Tucker Elementary have an incredible impact. And, Madam Vice Chair Perez, if you haven't seen them, I posted them as to the dance program that, it turns out, was being funded in great
part by our Children's Trust. It was a Thomas Armour
Foundation.

And if I remember the evaluations
correctly, for the students in the dance program after
just one semester, maybe it was a whole academic year,
they were performing -- well, the attendance was almost
a hundred percent and the overall performance increased
by 87 percent for the kids who participated in that. So
that really goes to show how important it is.

And that particular school is now also
going to be the recipient of a program run by Music
Hall. So it becomes almost like a magnet school for
music with the school system not having to add any
funds. It will come from a variety of other sources.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you.

As we move on to the next two
resolutions, we have four speakers from the year two
cohort for the CBOs, which are different from the three
we heard from at the program committee. Dr. Andrea
Wanza, Empowering Youth, please.

DR. WANZA: Good afternoon. My name is
Dr. Andrea Wanza and I'm the executive director at
Empowering Youth, Inc. Empowering Youth, Inc., provides
programs for at-risk children and their families and we
focus on emotional, social, and intellectual development
in Miami Gardens and the immediate surrounding areas.

Being a part of the small CBO Capacity Building Institute has enabled our agency to improve productivity and effectiveness in terms of organizational and financial stability, program quality and growth. Specifically our agency has increased our sustainability and continuous improvement strategies.

We've also strengthened our ability to fulfill our mission, thereby enhancing our ability to have a positive impact on our clients and the community. Funding from the CBO initiative has also assisted us with operational expenses, technology upgrades, and marketing and advertising. The small CBO institute offers a variety of professional development, opportunity, including workshops that we attend to improve the effectiveness of small CBOs and individualized coaching opportunities for financial management, marketing, and fund development. We also have worked on program evaluation with our coaches.

As a result of participating in the professional development opportunities, we have increased our funding. So we've secured additional funding from other sources. We have also secured additional resources. We have expanded our services. We've had a greater impact in the community and better
results with the clients that we serve. Thank you.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. Next we have Beatriz Herrmann, ArtSouth.

MS. HERRMANN: Good afternoon, everybody. My name is Beatriz Herrmann and I'm the secretary of the work for ArtSouth. ArtSouth is an organization that we provide free art classes for children that cannot afford it. Originally we were in Homestead for about 12 years. Unfortunately, the owner and founder of ArtSouth died and we had to move to South Miami where we're very, very happy. We are providing our services to not only South Miami, but we also provide our services to Homestead in the Chapman charity place for people -- for homeless. We also go to the community center in South Miami and to areas there.

Thanks to the CBO capacity building, we have improved our Web page. Thanks to Felix that suggested several things to us. We changed our logo and we have received numerous -- we did a lot of networking among the people that go to this training that the previous speaker expressed to you and we have expand our views.

Also, our coaches do a fantastic job. We have a coach for fundraising that we are improving a lot. The finances, how to get -- how to get the
finances done. Thanks to the Miami-Dade Cultural Affairs we have several grants that we have never ever got a red mark in our reports.

We are very proud of what we do for the community and we're very thankful to The Children's Trust for the opportunity that they gave us to get this grant and continue to service all the children that we can. Thank you.

Oh, I forgot to tell you one thing very important. South Miami has a SOMI Magazine. And we just did a mural in the community and they wrote a beautiful article about us. I gave several magazines to the secretary, if you want to look at it. It's very nice. That's what we're trying to do, to improve our service not only in South Miami, but around the whole community in Miami. Thank you.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. Nadege Vilsaint, Prosperity Social & Community Development.

MS. VILSAINT: Good evening. My name is Nadege Vilsaint. I'm the executive director for Prosperity Social & Community Development Group. Prosperity is the nonprofit agency that service young -- homeless young girls and their babies and their family. We provide after school programs for students with English as a second language and homeless young girls
that have nowhere to go. We work closely with Camillus House by referring them to Camillus House.

And currently because I've been a part of the capacity building, small CBO initiative has impacted the -- our agency to the point where we have secured funding now with the State to open our own maternity shelter.

And the capacity building have been a tremendous impact for my agency, improving us with secure funding, performance improvement -- I'm nervous -- but we had -- spending time with our coaches establishing better fundraising activities. We're able to put together events that have increased our funding.

We've built a partnership with not just Camillus House; Chapman's house, and other agencies that are now understanding our reports. And we're able to run great reports now and they have reached to us to build a partnership and we're going to expand growth tremendously.

So I am so thankful to be a part and have been a part of the capacity building initiative and look forward to an outstanding second year. Thank you.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you.

(Applause.)

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: So we heard from
three CBO recipients, we heard from three others at our
Programs Committee meeting earlier this month. I think
this program has proved to be successful beyond what we
could have imagined. As of this month, the small CBO
agencies have raised an additional $925,828 collectively
since the beginning of this two-year capacity building
cohort. So good job all around.

Resolution 2017-99: Authorization to
negotiate and execute a second and final contract with
Catalyst Miami, Inc., to manage the small Community
Based Organizations (CBO) capacity building initiative.
Contract renewal to be for a term of 13 months,
commencing July 1, 2017, and ending July 31, 2018, in a
total amount not to exceed $200,000.00.

May I have a motion and a second.

MR. GAINNEY: So moved; Gainey.

COMMISSIONER SUAREZ: Second; Suarez.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Any recusals?

(NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Discussion?

DR. PEREZ: Madam Chair.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Yes.

DR. PEREZ: I agree with you that these
programs have been very good and I agree that -- you
know, I've seen some of the Websites that have been
transformed and some of the other things that have been absolutely beautiful.

So it is not -- my vote is going to be in the opposition, not because I don't think that the program is worthy and that it helps some of our organizations. It's because they are not funded for children.

And I think that what we should do is get other organizations, such as the Chamber of Commerce, the Better Business Association, the County and the State to fund, to help these organizations. So whereas I agree that they've been successful in helping them, I don't think that is part of our charge.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Dr. Perez.

Any other discussion?

(NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: All those in favor.

(WHEREUPON, Board members responded with "aye.")

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Opposed?

DR. PEREZ: Opposed.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: The motion carries.

Resolution 2017-100: Authorization to negotiate and execute a second and final contract with 21 small Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to
continue participation in a two-year capacity building initiative. Each small CBO receives an award to support an individualized capacity-building plan. Amounts awarded will range from $20,000.00 to $50,000.00. Contract renewals will be for a term of up to 12 months, commencing August 1, 2017, and ending July 31, 2018, in a total amount not to exceed $585,000.00.

May I have a motion and a second?

MR. GAINEY: So moved; Gainey.

MS. DE MOYA: Second; de Moya.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. Any recusals?

(NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Discussion or comments?

MR. HAJ: Madam Chair, if I may?

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Yes.

MR. HAJ: Dr. Perez, just to your point, I know we had this discussion last year when I came in. Just to remind everybody. A million and a half was budgeted for this initiative, but we did go out to look for partners. And we brought it down -- if you see the total is about 750,000. It's about half and we're doing it better and I think more efficiently and more effectively. And we will continue to do so. We're
looking for partners, we're meeting with chambers, foundations, the County, other agencies to see how we can do this as a county to do capacity building. So you have our commitment to continue doing this and just driving down the cost of seeing -- you know, do it cost effectively and having a larger impact.

DR. PEREZ: Thank you very much for that. And I know that you do. And the work is great. It's just the funding is that I'm -- I have absolutely no doubt about your statement.

COMMISSIONER SUAREZ: I assumed in both of those cases that they're programs for children. Are they not?

(THEREUPON, responses were made by some members in the affirmative.)

COMMISSIONER SUAREZ: So the concern is that they're not just traditional Children's Trust-type programs, Madam Vice Chair, or that -- because she made it sound like they're not for children, and that worries me.

DR. PEREZ: If we could get an explanation, I could give you my -- you know, from staff. I think it would be very -- on point but it's my understanding that it helps the organizations. It's not
a -- it's not directly -- it's not direct services to
the students -- to the children.

MS. SYLVESTRE: Yeah, so all programs do
have a component that serve children and families. That
was one of the requirements. However, as we structure
this program and understanding the size of the grant,
which is raised from 20,000 to, 50,000, we also knew
that if we mandated that they have programmatic
components, it would then send a mixed message because
$50,000 is not enough money to do programmatic work and
do capacity building.

So the money is designated only to
support and build the infrastructure of the organization
to ensure that they can then continue providing the
services that they -- their mission calls for.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Esther?

MS. JACOBO: So it might be helpful
because I think that what's happened is that, you know,
some of us have been here for a little bit longer and a
couple of years, maybe even last year, there was an
enormous community outcry for this capacity building.
There were a number of small CBOs in our communities and
families and children came in distraught, really, as I
can describe it, because the CBOs that they had counted
on for so many years, especially in some of our lowest
income communities, were not able to get Trust funding because they required some things in this capacity building is now providing for them.

And so I just -- I mean, I'm not sure if somebody can give some more explanation about this, but I think that, you know, for some of our newer members, what you didn't see was the distress in the community that this was meant to address, right? Am I --

(THEREUPON, responses were made by some members in the affirmative.)

MS. SYLVESTRE: Right. This program -- this program is designed to respond to a complaint that maybe some organizations needed a little bit extra help to be able to compete with other organizations from Children's Trust funding.

And one of the things that Empowering Youth neglected to mention is that they were successful in getting the summer youth -- family strengthening awards. So programs we -- not only are we working with the programs to help build our capacity so they can get funding from other entities, they're also -- we're also building their capacity so they can competitively solicit when we have grant opportunities. And we're hoping that a number of them will apply when we release our solicitation in the fall.
HON. SALVER: I just wanted to add just
to kind of -- just kind of -- just filling in a little
bit of coloring in between the lines here. We had -- we
as the Budget Committee had a daunting task of
eliminating programs that didn't qualify or didn't meet
the standards that we had set up for some reason or
another.

And we found that there were programs
that -- that were not recording their statistics
properly or, you know, there were certain shortfalls in
their -- you know, in their -- in the manner in which
they reported the results of their programming.

And between the staff, the Budget
Committee, you know, we decided that there were some
very, very good programs that were worthy of being
helped regarding their capacity or their organization or
their bookkeeping or some element of the children's
program that needed -- you know, needed this type of
help, this type of support.

And rather than just saying, "Well, you
know, your score on your application this year was 67,
therefore, we're not funding you," we -- there was a
population of programs that staff and the committee and
actually the Board at large, you know, felt worthy of
being funded by the Trust but needed help in different
And we found -- we've seen over the past several years that we have had these capacity building initiatives that programs come back and they actually recover, they rebound, they -- you know, they learn how to report. They learn better governance, and this is really a way of The Children's Trust being able to say yes to organizations that might not have really -- or they've had impediments in front of them. And typically the organizations that are -- that take most advantage of these programs are in the most underserved neighborhoods.

MS. JACOBO: I think -- let me just add one thing, because I know that we talk about our Finance Committee and also, you know, with the staff. But I don't want to, you know, underplay the people that were being served by these programs were really some of the people that we listen to the most. Right? Because at the end of the day, we had, you know -- you know, a roomful of folks that were -- that these programs -- these children, you know, counted on these programs and we and others couldn't fund them for just these reasons. So I don't want it to seem like it was just we thought they were -- we did think they were worthy, but we also heard, as I think is our charge,
from our community, our taxpayers, and people that, you
know, matter to this Trust, that this is what they
wanted us to do.

So I just want to make sure that it's
clear that this is not something that we took on
necessarily out of our own initiative but, rather, from
hearing from the community that we serve here every day.

MS. NUELL: I mean, it was in response to
that and, you know, we looked at it and worked with
those communities for at least a year or a year and a
half before we got to where we are.

I myself am just thrilled -- even though
the majority of the report is coming through the
resolutions, but to hear the one-year report. It was a
two-year initiative. And like Jim said, even from the
very beginning try to reach out to find other entities.
I think a bank came in and helped right off the bat and
then continued to develop these collaborations as we
were trying to do and to work together to support
especially these organizations that were never -- were
not able to get funding from The Children's Trust and
then to be able to go beyond.

So to hear that, you know, this cohort
has been able to raise almost another million dollars in
funding because of the structures that have been put
into place is just for us, I think, like an amazing outcome, which wasn't necessarily specifically the intent. It was so that they would be in a place to be able to apply.

One of the issues is that you have to have an audit. So, many of these organizations don't have an audit, so it's like what can we do to help you get your financials in place, get an audit, and then, you know, I think -- we always hear people saying, "If we can get funding from The Children's Trust, then we know we can get funding from other resources."

And so it's been -- and there's a long history. So if, you know, if anyone new wants to hear more about the history of this program, then I'm sure staff would be happy to fill you in on the very long process that took place.

DR. WANZA: I wanted to say from the Empowering Youth, Inc. -- sorry. I apologize that I did not specifically talk about the funding that we had received from The Children's Trust, because we are one of those agencies that have applied in the past but didn't meet the criteria at that particular time.

So we're very appreciative that after getting all of the training and coaching that we did over the last year, we applied this year and were
finally successful after five years. So it has helped us tremendously.

And although we're not a Trust provider -- funded provider when we applied, we do still work in the community and we do the same services that the Trust-provided agencies do. So now we have the infrastructure, we have the tools and the resources that we need to be successful in providing those services to our community, which is a very needy community.

So I'm very grateful because we did try to apply in the past a number of times and we just didn't meet the cut. So just with working with coaches and going to the trainings and doing all of the things that we were assigned to do -- and networking -- we were able to finally to be funded. So I'm very grateful for that.

MS. NUELL: Thank you.

HON. SALVER: Dr. Wanza -- hi, it's me. On a scale from one to ten -- in your experience from the years that you've made an application and were denied funding, on a scale from one to ten, how complicated was the application process for you?

DR. WANZA: Okay. So the application -- going to application meetings, the application itself wasn't so complicated, it's making sure that you answer
the questions in a way in which historically the answers
have been given. So with us starting in 2008, you --
the applications looked for a record of success. So the
way in which we were putting our record of success on
paper was not effective. It didn't tell our true story.

So in the CBO Institute, we have an
individual grant writer who's assigned to work with us.
So the first thing she did is say, "Let me just see what
you have." And, "Well, you're doing all of these great
things, but you're just not putting it on paper
correctly where you're telling a -- painting a story of
what you're doing."

So that person actually went through it
with us, we made some adjustments, and we were able to
show the things that we have been doing for a while. We
just didn't do it correctly the first time. So the
application itself wasn't very difficult. It's just
answering it in a way in which we can show that we do
have that experience and that we can be successful in
providing the services in which the way The Children's
Trust has put out there for us to do it.

HON. SALVER: So you can't give me a
number on a scale from one to ten?

DR. WANZA: I would say six or seven. I
would say six or seven.
HON. SALVER: When did you begin, you know, receiving this -- you know, the funding for your infrastructure -- for your support funding? When did you start getting the capacity building funding?

DR. WANZA: August 1st.

HON. SALVER: Of --


HON. SALVER: Have you witnessed -- or let me rephrase the question. Have you -- you know, what is the impact that you have seen on your organization as a result of that funding?

DR. WANZA: Okay. So we have secured additional funding. We have created a funding development plan. So that calls for fundraising. So now we have our Board members who are donating funds to our organization. We have registered with the Florida Department of Agriculture so now we can technically submit -- we've updated our Website. We provide several services to youth so -- in our evaluation plan -- we have an evaluation plan for -- out of the four services that we have, we had an evaluation plan for three. So now we have it for all four. These are some of the things that we have done as a result. And we've secured very small grants, as well.

HON. SALVER: What percentage of your
overall funding comes from The Children's Trust?

DR. WANZA: I would say about 25 percent, 25 -- with the new grant, it will be about 30 to 40 percent.

HON. SALVER: All right. How many children does your program affect throughout the entire year?

DR. WANZA: About 250 students.

HON. SALVER: Great. Thanks so much.

DR. WANZA: Thank you.

MS. ZWERLING: May I say something?

MR. HAJ: Madam Chair, as she's walking up, the CBOs listed on the resolution, together they serve 10,726 students altogether.

COMMISSIONER SUAREZ: While she's going up there, Madam Chair, I just wanted to add that in dealing with CBOs -- and we had this problem at the County -- we had $13 million to divvy up. One issue that keeps up is we're creating work for them to do with these audits and, you know, then we want to subsidize those audits, et cetera. It seem like the left hand doesn't really cooperate with the right hand as much as it should.

But the other factor is that many of them have enormous multiplier effects -- and you mentioned
one of them, Madam Chair -- that impacts through other
funding or through volunteers or et cetera, just impacts
the community enormously. And was stated before, you
almost wish you knew each one of them individually.

But I have to defer to other Board
members that are more familiar with them, but that's the
quandary that we have. And in the county, 13 million
this year was not enough. And so --

MS. ZWERLING: Hello. Holly Zwerling,
Fatherhood Task Force, a CBO, President. I want to just
say thank you very much for the Board for the
opportunity to be able to receive additional funds for
our work. But I do want to point out that Dr. Perez has
a point. And I'd like to support why she does.

We used some of the funding we had to
build capacity and collaboration by writing a book
called Neighborhood Dads. And it's all about fathers in
eight schools that we serviced across Miami-Dade County,
mostly in lower-income communities.

This is a book that I think the Chamber
of Commerce, the speaking council, and so many others
would be interested in knowing about this book because
it makes Miami look good. And it makes The Children's
Trust look good because they are the supporters of our
program, both the Fathers in Education program and
Fatherhood Reading Squad program, and also the CBO grant.

So I think it's important to recognize that the work that we do not only affects the children -- and this does affect the children, Dr. Perez, we work with the children within the schools over a period of four years -- but it also is something that the Chamber of Commerce, speaking council need to know about so that they can become partners of The Children's Trust and be able to provide and support of the work that we do. So thank you, Dr. Perez, for bringing it up.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Ms. Zwerling.

Judge, you had a comment?

HON. PRESCOTT: I yield.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. Any further discussion? So regarding Resolution 2017-100 all in favor?

(WHEREUPON, Board members responded with "aye.")

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Opposed?

DR. PEREZ: One opposed; Perez.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: The motion carries.

And that concludes the Program Services business.
MS. NUELL: Thank you very much. And thank you to those CBOs that came and presented to us today. We're thrilled to hear from you and wish you luck this year.

I have a brief Executive Committee meeting report. The Executive Committee met prior actually to the Board meeting with a resolution that was not ready to come before the Finance Committee meeting. So we met beforehand to review, approve, and forward to the Board.

So it's Resolution 2017-101: The authorization to negotiate and execute a contract, for a term of 16 months commencing June 20, 2017, and ending September 30, 2018, with Merge IT, Inc., to update Great Plains, the existing financial accounting system used by The Children's Trust, in a total amount not to exceed $200,000.00.

Stephanie can talk about it a little bit more to you, but one of the reasons we pushed it through Executive to come here was we wanted the approval so that this can get in place before the end of our fiscal year so that when the fiscal year begins October 1, this is in place. Changing your financial system IT midyear makes, you know, cause for a lot of problems and errors. So that's why we pushed it forward. So I don't know if...
Stephanie has anything she wants to say?

MR. HAJ: I'm going to turn it over to Stephanie. I think we had RFQ go out. It was quite high. We asked Stephanie to look at it to see what we can do to bring down the cost. And, Stephanie, do you want to go through the process of why we're here today?

MS. SYLVESTRE: Absolutely. So, again, this is an example of us streamlining our IT landscape, but also not just simply streamline it, but you know, in a cost-effective manner. We put out a request for qualification and we got back responses that were -- with price tags that were way above what we had budgeted.

And so we had a publicly-noticed meeting with both of the vendors that responded and determined that there was a slight misunderstanding in the use of a term and we rebidded the solicitation. And those two vendors were the only two vendors that responded with a much more reasonable price tag and with a solution that we believe is a little bit more robust and streamlined than the initial proposal.

And so as we are moving forward with our Technology Way Forward, we're making sure that it is the most cost-effective solution and constantly work with our vendors to come up with solutions that are maybe a
little bit cheaper than maybe the first time out the bat

having lots of conversations to come up with a solution

that -- that's going to be long lasting, forward

thinking, but also cost effective.

MS. NUHELL: Any -- oh, I don't have a

motion. I did that at the other meeting.

HON. SALVER: I'm going to move it. And

I just want to make a comment, if I can.

MS. NUHELL: Well, you have to wait. I

guess we should have a second first.

MS. DE MOYA: Second.

HON. SALVER: Okay. It's been moved and

seconded.

MS. NUHELL: There you go.

HON. SALVER: We just -- remember when we

discussed on the committee level that you're going to

make a formal presentation about the IT here, you know,
to the Board so that we could understand, because one of
the questions that we had at the committee level was,
you know, how come this is kind of coming piecemeal?
Two hundred thousand here, two hundred thousand here.
Before you turn around, you spend, you know, a couple of
million bucks in IT and you don't even really realize
it.

But I think, you know, Stephanie has a
lot of good ideas. She shared with us at the committee level some of the results that we had from streamlining the IT and I think it would benefit everybody on the Board, especially the newer folks, to see graphically the changes that we're implementing that more than justify the costs that, you know, that are being underwritten both for hardware and software.

And I think once you see a full presentation of where we're going, you know, with our IT department, it would be -- it will be easier, more -- you know, I guess, easier to make these types of decisions.

MS. NUELL: Yeah. And I've already requested Stephanie make that presentation -- she may not know that yet -- so that we can see the entirety of the IT piece.

I actually think it's better to wait until at this point that, I think, is the last resolution for the time being. So that we see it's all done and then we see where we were, all the things that we've done. So where we are, and then where we're going forward.

So I've asked her -- you obviously put a lot of work into that presentation that you made. So, yeah, I would ask to share that with everyone. Any
other -- yes, Judge.

HON. PRESCOTT: Then I would ask this. Notwithstanding the fact that we'll have an umbrella look later on, what does the umbrella look like in dollars and cents if we're, you know, two hundred thousand here, two hundred thousand there? The big umbrella is what?

MS. SYLVESTRE: Our IT budget currently is $800,000 and we're working to ensure that as we streamline, that it becomes a little less than 800,000. So I don't have an exact number right now.

HON. PRESCOTT: But we know what the ceiling is and we want to come in under the ceiling?

MS. SYLVESTRE: Absolutely. So, we're doing a number of build-outs this year. We'll do some more build-outs next year. And then we should stabilize to the point where we're in support and maintenance mode, which means that we might have increment -- we'll have incremental enhancements just to stay current and to refine our business process.

As we're doing this, we're also refining how we work as an organization, and the end goal is to have our staff do less paperwork, automate more of the routine tasks, and allow them to have more time to do the more high-value, high-touch-point, expensive
interactions that will really and truly move the needle in the community.

HON. SALVER: And I just want to add one other thing. The $800 price tag is not just $800 --

HON. PRESCOTT: Oh, I'll take your $800 over her 800,000. I'll take your 800.

HON. SALVER: The $800,000 price tag is not just $800,000. It's actually less than that because, Stephanie, you didn't mention the fact that the IT department kind of shrunk over the past year or so. You went from how many people to how many people?

MS. SYLVESTRE: When I started here we had seven staff and now we're down to three staff.

So --

HON. SALVER: Right. That's a significant impact on another part of the budget.

HON. PRESCOTT: Oh, understood. The ceiling right now is eight hundred. You'd like to come under that. But incrementally it might go up, but we'll be saving in other areas. So it will offset. We understand.

MS. SYLVESTRE: Exactly.

MS. NUell: Any other questions?

Comments?

(NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)
MS. NUELL: All in favor?

(WHEREUPON, Board members responded with "aye.")

MS. NUELL: Any opposed?

COMMISSIONER SUAREZ: Suarez opposed.

MS. NUELL: Motion carries.

Jim?

MR. HAJ: Just quickly in the media report, we tried to get information to the Board of all the — I think one of my charges when I became the CEO was to get out there and begin meeting down in the community. So we're trying to illustrate that through the media report. So we're packaging it so it gets onto the agenda once a month. So you should see that in front of you, as well as a hard copy.

Board attendance has been phenomenal. And I can't stress the importance of TRIM in September. We'll get you those dates. We've just got to work around the County and the school system. They set their dates first for TRIM, and then we will have our dates. And the financial disclosure forms are due July 1st, 2017. Just a reminder. Thank you, everybody. And a belated Happy Father's Day to all the fathers in the room.

MS. NUELL: Before we adjourn -- Jim,
when is the move from this side to that side going to occur?

MR. HAJ: June twenty -- the move is going to be June 27 that we're moving over. July 1st everybody will be over in one building. So we will not occupy the 5th floor of the United Way anymore.

MS. NUELL: Yeah. And so maybe we'll invite everyone over to see the new setup and that sort of thing. So, all right. Thank you very much and the meeting is adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 5:30 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.)
STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF MIAMI-DADE

I, Daisy L. Amador, Reporter and Notary Public for the State of Florida at Large, do hereby certify, that I was authorized to and did report said meeting; and that the foregoing pages, numbered from 1 to 66, inclusive, are a true and complete transcription of my notes of said hearing.

I further certify that said meeting was taken at the time and place hereinabove set forth and that the taking of said hearing was commenced and completed as hereinabove set out.

I further certify that I am not an attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I financially interested in the action.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 10th day of July, 2017.

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Daisy L. Amador
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