



CHILDREN'S TRUST
OF ALACHUA COUNTY

December 16, 2019

Robert "Hutch" Hutchinson, Chair
Alachua County Board of County Commissioners
12 SE 1st Street, 2nd Floor
Gainesville, FL 32601

Re: Children's Trust of Alachua County Annual Report

Dear Commissioner ^{'Hutch'} Hutchinson,

In accordance with 125.901 Florida Statute, the Children's Trust of Alachua County is pleased to submit the attached Annual Report for your consideration. During its inaugural year much of the focus has been on getting the Trust organized and ready to deploy its resources to benefit the children of Alachua County. As we just now enter our second fiscal year, the Trust has begun receiving property tax transmittals, is nearing completion of hiring its first Executive Director, and is accepting applications for its first ever Request for Applications entitled, "Capacity Increases and Infrastructure Improvements for Programs Serving Youth."

In the coming months, the Trust will receive a report from the Florida Children's Council on its recent retreat to establish a clear Vision, Mission, and Guiding Principles. A recently established Technical Advisory Subcommittee is reviewing many of the recently completed Alachua County children's needs assessments. This subcommittee will report back to the Trust board on how best to proceed with establishing strategic priorities.

Sincerely,

Ken Cornell, Interim Chair

Cc. All Alachua County Commissioners
Michele Lieberman, County Manager
Carl Smart, Assistant County Manager

Ken Cornell, County Commissioner, Interim Chair
Honorable Susanne Wilson-Bullard, Circuit Judge, Interim Vice-Chair
Tina Certain, Alachua County School Board Member, Interim Treasurer
Karen Clarke, Alachua County School Superintendent
Cheryl Twombly, DCF Community Development Administrator



**Children's Trust of Alachua County
Annual Report FY2019 Pursuant to 125.901 Florida Statute**

The Children's Trust of Alachua County has been established pursuant to Section 125.901 Florida Statute and Alachua County Ordinance 18-08, as approved by the voters in November 2018 and its purpose is set forth by statute and ordinance. Over 61% of the Alachua County voters approved the creation of the Trust. The purpose of the Children's Trust of Alachua County is to provide children's services throughout Alachua County.

The powers and authority of the Children's Trust of Alachua County includes:

1. To provide and maintain within the County such preventive, developmental, treatment, and rehabilitative services for children as the council determines are needed for the general welfare of the County.
2. To provide such other services for all children as the council determines are needed for the general welfare of the County.
3. To allocate and provide funds for other agencies in the County which are operated for the benefit of children, provided they are not under the exclusive jurisdiction of the public school system.
4. To collect information and statistical data which will be helpful to the council in deciding the needs of children in the County.
5. To consult with other agencies dedicated to the welfare of children to the end that the overlapping of services will be prevented.
6. To lease or buy such real estate, equipment, and personal property and to construct such buildings as are needed to execute the foregoing powers and functions, provided that no such purchases shall be made or building done except for cash with funds on hand or secured by funds deposited in financial institutions.
7. To employ and pay, on a part-time or full-time basis, personnel needed to execute the foregoing powers and functions.
8. To enter into agreements with government agencies to provide administrative services.
9. All powers, functions, and duties specified in Section 125.901, Florida Statutes.

Designated members:

| MEMBER CATEGORY | REPRESENTATIVE |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Superintendent of Schools | Karen Clarke |
| Alachua County School Board Member (selected by the School Board) | Member Tina Certain |
| District Administrator for District 3 of the Department of Children & Families or Senior Leadership designee | Cheryl Twombly |
| Alachua County Board of County Commissioner (selected by the Board of County Commissioners) | Commissioner Ken Cornell |
| Judge assigned to juvenile cases | Circuit Judge Susanne Wilson Bullard |

The remaining five members will be appointed by the Governor’s Office from a list of names submitted by the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners as nominated on December 11, 2018.

| <u>Group 1</u> 4 year term | <u>Group 2</u> 1 year term | <u>Group 3</u> 4 year term | <u>Group 4</u> 2 year term | <u>Group 5</u> 3 year term |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Patricia Snyder | Thomas Logan | Maggie Labarta | Gerald Duncan | Chandra Hardy |
| Maureen Conroy | Cinton Alford | Bruce Ferris | Karen Cole-Smith | Lee Pinkoson |
| Herman Knopf | Nancy Hardt | Elizabeth Patton | Tarcha Rentz | Ross Ambrose |

The Children’s Trust of Alachua County held their inaugural meeting on March 11, 2019. During the fiscal year, they held thirteen meetings that were well-attended by nominees and public alike.

Trust Members and Nominees have been informed of ethics requirements and Sunshine Laws, approved by-laws and appointed interim officers pending appointment of the remaining members by the Governor. Commissioner Ken Cornell serves as the Interim Chair, Judge Susanne Wilson-Bullard as the Interim Vice-Chair and Member Tina Certain as the Interim Treasurer. The Trust designated the Alachua County Attorney as the Registered Agent and Registered Office with Tom Tonkavich as their Records Custodian. The Trust was provided with the Gap Analysis created by the Children’s Services Advisory Board to identify needs of youth along with the initial needs assessment on the prenatal to age five population. They also received preliminary research information on a System-Wide Care for Alachua County Youth. With this is a basis to proceed, the Trust included funding for a comprehensive needs assessment in their first year budget.

The Trust members also invited directors from other like-size Children’s Services Councils to present to them on staffing, administration and related organizational matters. They approved joining the Florida Children’s Council and benefited from significant information shared in response to questions throughout the year.

The Trust approved their FY2020 budget totaling \$6,802,594 and millage of 0.50 and submitted this to the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners on June 17, 2019. As part of this budget, the Trust approved an Interlocal agreement for administrative services with the Clerk of the Court for the Eighth Judicial Circuit and the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners. The Trust also approved funding for three contracts with providers of services for the prenatal to five population and developed a Request for Proposals for services to those aged 6 to 18 and to address capital needs. The Trust has begun a search for an Executive Director with a goal of hiring by January 2020.

The Trust held two Public Hearings – September 10, 2019 and September 16, 2019 to present and adopt their budget.

Information on the effectiveness of activities, services, and programs offered by the Children’s Trust of Alachua County along with a description of the goals, objectives, procedures, performance outcomes will be addressed in future annual reports. This past year was spent forming the Trust and preparing for service implementation. No funding was available to initiate services during this reporting time period.