

July 10, 2024

Ms. Meka Beacham  
Chairperson, Membership and Mission Review Board  
201 S Rosalind Ave.  
Orlando, FL 32802-1393

Dear Ms. Beacham:

This memorandum is in response to your letter dated April 19, 2024, regarding the sunset date and review by the Membership and Mission Review Board of the Citizen's Commission for Children.

Following are the questions listed accompanied by responses.

**1. Please state the purpose and/or mission of the advisory board. Is the advisory board serving the purpose for which it was created?**

**Response:** The Citizens' Commission for Children Advisory Board is dedicated to enhancing the well-being of children, youth, and families in Orange County. The board fulfills its mission by consistently evaluating and improving the planning and delivery of services for these groups, acting as a central hub for information related to children, youth, and families, and providing valuable advice and recommendations to the Citizens' Commission for Children Division on strategies for creating a comprehensive and cohesive service approach for families. This commitment is exemplified through the board's ongoing collaboration with the Division and its endorsement of initiatives such as the thirteen Neighborhood Centers for Families/Family Support Model, the After School Zone program at 32 middle schools, and the Division's support services, all of which have yielded significant accomplishments.

**2. What is the current need(s) of the county being served by the advisory board?**

**Response:** The advisory board is committed to providing vital essential services noted above and supporting the Division's oversight of the Neighborhood Centers for Families. These centers are dedicated to remaining responsive to the needs of their communities and ensuring that provider agencies deliver services accountably and effectively. The need for additional resources is clear, and it is crucial for communities to collaborate with Orange County to effectively address these challenges.

Collaboration between communities and government social services is essential to address complex issues that require a coordinated response. The NCFs provide this response and work with communities to better identify and support individuals or families in need, ensuring resources are allocated efficiently and fairly. This collaboration allows for the sharing of expertise, information, and best practices between government agencies and community organizations, ultimately improving the quality and impact of services provided.

**3. What are the accomplishments of the advisory board?**

**Response:** The achievements of the thirteen Neighborhood Centers for Families are testaments to the success of the Family Support Model. The philosophical move from categorical funding to a collaborative funding structure has empowered communities to request and obtain services

that are both needed and desired. Over 39,000 clients were served during fiscal year 2022-2023. These services, in collaboration with all other services provided within the Neighborhood Center, are accountable to common goals and outcomes. Further, the success of the After School Zone initiative has been demonstrated by provider reports of meeting or exceeding three of their stated outcomes. The Division has moved to Results Based Accountability to assess program's/services influence on student's grades, attendance, and behavior. Since the inception of this program, over 311,111 students have been served and the students have contributed 357,476 hours of community service.

**4. Is there another public or private board that would better serve the function of the advisory board? If so, please list the board and explain why it would better serve the function.**

**Response:** No. The Citizens' Commission for Children Advisory Board is unique in its focus on planning, implementation, and evaluation of community-based services that are the collaborative effort of local government, other governments/municipalities, and public and private providers. The board is citizen-driven, and all members are residents of this community.

**5. Should the resolution creating the advisory board be amended to enable the advisory board to better serve the purpose for which it was created? If so, how should the resolution be modified?**

**Response:** No, the board structure meets the current needs of the Division and the community.

**6. Should the advisory board's membership requirements be modified? If so, how should the requirements be modified?**

**Response:** Advisory board members must reflect the varied and diverse population of Orange County. Given the division's position as a funder in the community, it is essential that board members be screened for potential conflict of interest issues.

**7. What are the direct and indirect costs of maintaining the advisory board?**

**Response:** Direct costs are minimal and indirect costs include only staff time, materials necessary to carry out the request of the board and staffing necessary for board committees.

Sincerely,



Tadar Muhammad  
Chairperson, Citizens' Commission for Children Board

cc. Angela Chestang, Manager, Citizens' Commission for Children Division  
Cheryl J. Gillespie, Supervisor, Agenda Development Office