

RESOLUTION NO. 23-33

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA; RE-ESTABLISHING THE SOCIAL ACTION FUNDING ADVISORY BOARD; PROVIDING FOR THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD AND TERM OF OFFICE FOR BOARD MEMBERS; PROVIDING FOR THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES; PROVIDING FOR COUNTYWIDE APPLICATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County, Florida allocates a sum certain each year for use by social service agencies which benefit the citizens of Pinellas County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners previously created the Social Action and Mental Health Funding Advisory Board to represent the Board of County Commissioners as to mental health service and social service funding; and

WHEREAS, the Social Action and Mental Health Funding Advisory Board was later renamed to the Social Action Funding Advisory Board and was responsible for reviewing applications for distribution of social services funding received from the County on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, due to an economic downturn in 2011, the amount of funding available for distribution to local social service agencies was drastically reduced and the Social Action Funding Advisory Board was dissolved; and

WHEREAS, Pinellas County has continued to allocate money to social service agencies through the efforts of the Human Services Department; and

WHEREAS, the ever-increasing needs in our community have caused a steady rise in the number of applications submitted by various social service agencies; and

WHEREAS, because of the increased number of applications and the need for non-biased reviews of agencies, the allocation of these funds will be more effectively dispensed through a technical review board established by the Board of County Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the Human Services staff will assist in evaluation of applications by providing expertise and background information as well as evaluate disbursements made to the various social service agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Social Action Funding Advisory Board will once again review social service agency applications for funding from the Board of County Commissioners.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County, Florida, that:

Section 1. It is the intent of the Board of County Commissioners to allocate for social service agencies, which agencies provide services to citizens of Pinellas County, through the Social Action Funding Advisory Board. The Social Action Funding Advisory Board, with the assistance and support of the Department of Human Services, shall serve as the screening body for consideration of social service grant applications and submit its recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners for review and approval. Final decisions of the Board of County Commissioners are not contingent upon the recommendations of the Social Action Funding Advisory Board.

Section 2. The membership of the Social Action Funding Advisory Board shall consist of the following members who shall serve without compensations:

- a. The Social Action Funding Advisory Board shall consist of ten (10) members. Each member shall represent a separate entity that is active in the social services realm within Pinellas County and shall be nominated by their organization and approved by the Director of Human Services. The ten (10) members shall be chosen from the following organizations:
 - i. Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County
 - ii. Florida Department of Health, Pinellas County Health Department
 - iii. Central Florida Behavioral Health Network
 - iv. Pinellas County Sheriff's Office or local law enforcement agency
 - v. Florida Department of Children and Families
 - vi. Office of the State Attorney, Sixth Judicial Circuit
 - vii. Office of the Public Defender, Sixth Judicial Circuit
 - viii. Guardian ad Litem of the Sixth Judicial Circuit
 - ix. Pinellas County School Board
 - x. Local municipal representatives
 - xi. Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg or other non-profit equity-focused funder
 - xii. Other qualified candidates as approved by the Director of Human Services

- b. All members shall serve two-year terms, without limitation on the number of terms they may serve. Any vacancy in membership for an unexpired portion of a term shall be filled for the remainder of the term in the same manner as appointment for a full term.
- c. The Social Action Funding Advisory Board shall annually elect a chair at the first meeting of the calendar year.

Section 3. The Social Action Funding Advisory Board shall meet on a biannual basis or as otherwise directed by the chairman. Six (6) members of the Social Action Funding Advisory Board shall form a quorum.

Section 4. The Department of Human Services shall make rules as it deems necessary to implement the provisions of this Resolution including, but not limited to, the following:

- a. The program of service described by the recipient agency must be available to residents living in Pinellas County, Florida.
- b. The program must be organized to enhance health, economic or social well-being.
- c. The Department of Human Services shall set priority areas annually based upon identified needs in the community and programs must support those priority areas.
- d. Programs must be available on a non-discriminatory basis.
- e. Recipient agencies and their respective programs shall be non-profit in nature. Such non-profit status shall be determined by either proof of 501(c)(3) federal tax-exempt status proof that an application for 501(c)(3) federal tax-exempt status has been applied for, or proof of non-profit status with the State of Florida.

Section 5. The Department of Human Services shall provide administrative support to the Social Action Funding Advisory Board and shall be responsible for:

- a. Verifying information supplied by agencies requesting and receiving financial assistance from the County.
- b. Verifying compliance with Social Action Funding Advisory Board's rules by agencies receiving financial assistance from the County.

- c. Ensuring compliance with Chapter 119, et. Seq., Florida Statutes, Chapter 286, et. Seq., Florida Statutes, and other applicable Government-In-The-Sunshine Laws.

Section 6. The Social Action Funding Advisory Board serves the residents of both unincorporated County and its municipalities. Therefore, this Resolution shall have countywide effect to the extent consistent with the County Charter and municipal law.

Section 7. This Resolution shall become effective as provided by law.

In a regular meeting duly assembled on the 9th day of May, 2023, Commissioner Flowers offered the foregoing Resolution and moved its adoption, which was seconded by Commissioner Peters, and upon roll call, the vote was:

AYES: Long, Peters, Eggers, Flowers, Latvala, and Scott.

NAYS:

ABSENT AND NOT VOTING: Justice

APPROVED AS TO FORM
By: Cody J. Ward
Office of the County Attorney