



CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL (CSC)
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026
9:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.
2016 CLASSIQUE LANE
TAVARES, FLORIDA 32778

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lori Gravitt	District 1
Evelisse Bookhout	District 1
Juana Delacruz	District 2
Captain John Herrell	District 3
B. E. Thompson, Chair	District 4
Sara McClain	District 3
Angela Scullion	District 4
Kristin McCall	Lake County Schools

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Diana (Gillian) Violette	District 2 - Absent
Courtney Domingue	At-Large - Excused
Anthony Sabatini	County Commissioner, Liaison

STAFF PRESENT:

Maria AbdoulKarim	H & CS, Director
Amy Elliott	H&CS, Associate Director
Cari Christian	Assistant County Manager

ATTENDEES:

Teressa Parrish	ELCLC
Aldrea Nicholson	Better Together, Inc.
Donald Lowery	Florida Dept. of Health – Lake
Tameka Mays	ELCLC
Debi Weinert	Triangle Community Alliance
Suzanne Caporina	Easter Seals Camp Challenge
Kim Johnson	ECS4Kids

Kimberly Corcoran
Marilyn Kreitzinger
Ana Carter
Gary Wilcox
Kristen Foss
Savanna Hodges
LaVera Marshall
Felicia Bell
Cathy Carter

ECS4Kids
Be Free Lake
Cornerstone
Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida
Cornerstone
E3 Family Solutions
ECS4Kids
LifeStream Behavioral Center
CAC for Kids

CALL TO ORDER:

Council Chair B.E. Thompson called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. He began the meeting with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS:

Council, Staff and Attendees introduced themselves. The following upcoming events were mentioned by the council, staff and attendees representing the events:

- Evelisse Bookhout – 5k Run – Lake Louisa State Park
- John Pokorney – Be Free Lake – Mental Health First Aid Classes
- Ana Carter – Cornerstone Hospice – Camp Braveheart – Grief Support Camp
- Tameka Mays – Early Learning Coalition of Lake County – 2026 Uniting for Children’s Conference – Lake Sumter State College
- Maria AbdoulKarim – Lake County Housing & Community Services – State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) open and upcoming programs - Foreclosure Prevention, Home Rehab/Replace, AC Repair, Handicap Ramps, and the Veterans Expo – May 20th at Eustis Community Center.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Evelisse Bookhout to approve February 18, 2026, meeting minutes as presented. Lori Gravitt provided a second. The motion was passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Johnny Dubose, Lake County Veterans Services Coordinator, introduced himself and relayed to attendees the services provided by the Lake County Veterans Services Office located at 2000 Classique Lane, Tavares.

EDUCATION:

Teressa Parrish and Tameka Mays from the Early Learning Coalition of Lake County provided a presentation to the group on the School Readiness Assistance Program. This program provides financial assistance for working families with low income and those with children at risk of abuse, neglect, or future school failure. The program supports families in accessing and affording quality childcare, helping them to become economically self-sufficient. As a result of this important program, parents are provided with information on child development and family well-being and children are prepared to enter kindergarten ready to learn, which builds a foundation for success in life.

OLD BUSINESS:

Council members volunteered for and were assigned as a liaison to each organization who received a FY25-26 grant award. The liaisons will perform site visits and complete an agency observation form for each organization to return to the Housing office.

Discussion took place on creating a survey to determine how the committee can make more of an impact in the community. Items of discussion were what type of survey, electronic or paper should be used and who the target audience would be. Evelisse Bookhout suggested the target audience should be agencies who are serving diverse populations. Ms. Bookhout also recommended researching existing surveys such as needs assessments surveys already in use elsewhere to use as examples when building this committee's survey.

NEW BUSINESS:

The group discussed the process for the committee members to participate in community events. Items reviewed were as follows:

- the budget for giveaways such as pens, pencils, flyers, etc., and putting together a list of these types of items so that a request could be made if necessary to increase the annual budget
- organizations with community events should place their events on the Lake County events calendar. Housing staff can walk through this process at the next meeting.
- Chairman Thompson reiterated to the council that Housing staff work for the County and not the council and are not required to attend community events. Council members will be expected to provide support at any events that the council chooses to attend.
- Housing staff will provide name tags for council members

REPORTS/UPDATES:

CSC Chair Report – no report given.

BCC Liaison Report – no report given.

LCSB Representative – no report given but Ms. McCall mentioned that the Salvation Army Annual Resource Expo would be a great event for the committee and any other interested organizations to attend.

Juana Delacruz informed the group that the Give A Day Foundation, Inc. will be holding the second annual Non-Profit Showcase on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at the Bella Collina Ballroom located at 15920 County Road 455, Montverde. Any non-profits wishing to learn more can contact sandra@giveadayfoundation.org.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to discuss, Evelisse Bookhout presented a motion to adjourn the meeting. Juana Delacruz provided the second. Chairman Thompson adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Prepared By:



April 15, 2026

Amy Elliott
Associate Director

Date