

# Program Committee Meeting

*Open to the Public*

Tuesday, March 25, 2025 @ 1:30 pm

1000 College Blvd., Bldg. 26, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Pensacola, FL 32504



## Agenda

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- I. Call to Order**
- II. Approval of Agenda**
- III. Approval of Minutes**
  - **February 25, 2025 Program Committee Meeting**
  - **February 4, 2025, Program Committee Meeting**
  - **January 27, 2025, Program Committee Meeting**
- IV. Public Comment\***
- V. Discussion Items**
  - **Grant Review Committee Recommendations**
  - **Legal Services Year 3 Contract Renewal**
  - **Twin Oaks Change of Scope Request**
- VI. Public Comment\***
- VII. Adjournment**

*\* The Escambia Children's Trust welcomes comments from the public. Those who wish to address the Committee may do so at this time. Those addressing the Committee should complete a Public Comment Form prior to speaking and should state their full name and affiliation for the official record. In the interest of time, we ask that one person be designated to speak on behalf of a constituency and that all comments are limited to three (3) minutes. Thank you.*

# Program Committee Meeting

*Open to the Public*

Monday, January 27, 2025 @ 11am  
1000 College Blvd., Bldg. 26, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
Pensacola, FL 32504



## MINUTES

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### I. Call to Order

*Mr. Williams called the meeting called to order at 11:08 am.*

### II. Approval of Agenda

*Dr. Northup motioned to approve the agenda with the correction to the date and time of meeting. Date should be January 27, 2025 and time should be 11:00 am. Mr. Williams seconded, all in favor Agenda approved with correction.*

### III. Approval of Minutes from the December 3, 2024, Program Committee Meeting

*Dr. Northup motioned to approve Minutes from December 3, 2024 meeting, Ms. White seconded, all in favor, Minutes approved.*

### IV. Public Comment\*

*No public comments*

### V. Discussion Items

- **Review Resolution 2025-01**

*The Program Committee, along with Ms. Cannon, Ms. Abrams, and Ms. Ray, reviewed all programs for Year 3 funding. There were multiple questions regarding the usage of ECT funds related to an event for Lamplighters. The Committee was in agreement to call another meeting to review Lamplighters amendment and budget. Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at 1pm. Mr. Freeman was present and in agreement with the date and time of the meeting.*

*Ms. White motioned to approve all programs listed except Lamplighters; Dr. Northup seconded, all in favor, Resolution 2025-01 approved without Lamplighters.*

- **Follow-up Year 3 Funding**

- Pensacola Little Theatre – *reviewed, discussed and approved*
- City of Pensacola Parks and Recreation– *reviewed, discussed and approved*
- Pensacola MESS Hall– *reviewed, discussed and approved*
- Covenant Care – *Change of Scope to provide*

*services at locations other than Noni's House. Ms. White motioned to approve, Dr. Northup seconded, all in favor, Change of Scope approved.*



- **Budget Amendment Request**

- Lamplighters Academic and Mentoring

*This item moved to February 4, 2025, meeting.*

- **C.A.R.E. Grants Application Review**

*Staff reviewed the C.A.R.E. Grants application and received approval from the Committee to post.*

**VI. Public Comment\***

*No public comments*

**VII. Adjournment**

*With no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:58 pm.*

## Program Committee Meeting

*Open to the Public*

Tuesday, February 4, 2025 @ 1:00 pm  
1000 College Blvd., Bldg. 26, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
Pensacola, FL 32504



## MINUTES

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### I. Call to Order @ 1:04 pm

### II. Approval of Agenda

*Correction to Agenda: In the heading, the date reflects "Monday", February 4, 2025. This should be corrected to "Tuesday". Ms. White motioned to approve with the correction, Ms. Woods seconded, Agenda approved.*

### III. Approval of Minutes from January 27, 2025, Program Committee Meeting

*Approval of Minutes postponed until next meeting.*

### IV. Public Comment\*

*None*

### V. Discussion Items

- **Year 3 Funding – Lamplighters**

*Ms. Cannon shared that all points of concern with regard to Lamplighters Year 3 funding had been addressed and she was comfortable moving forward. This item will be taken before the full Board on February 11, 2025 for a vote.*

- **Budget Amendment Request – Lamplighters**

*Ms. Cannon shared that all points of concern with regard to Lamplighters Year 2 Budget Amendment had been addressed and she was comfortable moving forward. This item will be taken before the full Board on February 11, 2025 for a vote.*

- **C.A.R.E. Grants Application Update and call for Reviewers**

*Ms. Cannon shared that the C.A.R.E. Grant applications launched on January 30<sup>th</sup> and a Q&A Session took place earlier today. All Q&As will be posted to the website by February 21, 2025.*

### VI. Public Comment\*

*Bryan Freeman thanked staff for their patience and time to get YR 3 Funding and YR 2 Budget Amendment worked out.*

### VII. Adjournment @ 1:30 pm

# Finance and Operations Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 25, 2025 – 1:30 PM

Open to the Public

1000 College Blvd. Bldg. 26

Pensacola, FL 32504



**ESCAMBIA**  
**CHILDREN'S TRUST**

Our Children. Our Community. Our Future.

## MINUTES

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### I. Call to Order

### II. Approval of Agenda

### III. Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes of September 24, 2024, Finance Committee meeting – The committee questioned the date of the most recent Finance Committee and if September was the correct date. Ms. Ellis to confirm and bring back to March meeting.

### IV. Review Financial Statements for month ending January 31, 2025

*Ms. Abrams reviewed the Financial Statements for month ending January 31, 2025. With no unusual transactions or expenditures, the committee agreed to present to the Board at the March meeting.*

### V. Website Quote

*Ms. Cannon presented a quote from Ms. Catrina Burks, a marketing and website consultant, for the re-design of the ECT website. The committee approved for Ms. Cannon to move forward. Ms. Cannon will have Legal review any contractual documents.*

### VI. Audit

*Ms. Abrams advised that the financial audit is complete and the auditors should have everything ready to present at the March Finance Committee meeting.*

### VII. Public Comments - None

### VIII. Adjournment – 2:04 pm

**Contracted Scope of Services – Change Request**  
**RFP # 2022-03**

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**Agency Requesting Change: Twin Oaks Juvenile Development, Inc.**

**Program: Escambia Connects**

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- Proposed **new number** of Escambia County children and youth to be served by the organization during the grant period (Year 1):

***Propose to serve the same number of participants with the ability to fill open slots with referrals from outside targeted geographical areas 32501 and 32505 when there are identified needs for services for children in other areas of Escambia County through partnerships with DJJ, DCF, and local public and private schools. In addition, propose to extend the participant service timeline (dosage) for Tier 2 services from 3-4 months to 6-12, Tier 3 services from 3-4 months to 4-6 months, and Tier 4 services from 3-4 months to 3-6 months for best participant outcomes.***

- Proposed **new participant age range** (Year 1):
- Proposed **new amount and budget** requested Year 1):
- Proposed **new indicators** (Year 1):

**Explanation of change** – describe in detail why this change is being requested.

Escambia Connects would like to thank the Escambia Children’s Trust for the informal mental health support opportunities provided by them to enable us to serve children and families residing in the 32501 and 32505 zip codes of Escambia County. The continued support, communication, and guidance from ECT that we have enjoyed has enabled us to engage in informal mental health support with 208 individual participants across Tiers 2, 3, and 4 levels of care since October of 2023. Our Tier 1 outreach services have resulted in mental health awareness outreach with over 1,900 youth and over 1,300 caregivers in these communities.

Recent satisfaction surveys administered to both Escambia Connects program participants and caregivers indicate 99% of parents feel the program helps citizens to better understand the impact of mental health within the community. Parent responses to survey questions also indicate that 100% of parents would recommend Escambia Connects to a friend. Additionally, 99% of parents/caregivers report participation in Escambia Connects has improved their knowledge and opinion of Escambia Children’s Trust programming to the point they would be willing to participate in other ECT funded programming. Recent review of satisfaction survey data found that 99% of program participants and parents/caregivers were satisfied with the services they received. In addition, requests to provide services to youth outside of 32501 and 32505 zip code have been noted in responses to one open-ended question asking for feedback on how the program can improve future programming.

Under the leadership of our Escambia Connects Mental Health Connects Coordinator, over 140 partner organizations are currently listed in the programs Community Connects database with partnerships established for referral of youth to the program. Fifty of these formal partnerships built are with organizations within the 32501 and 32505 area. Efforts to recruit referrals for services to reach and maintain full utilization of services in Tiers 3 and 4 have included engagement with community agencies both big and small. A referral barrier noted by some of these agencies is the program's inability to accept referrals outside of the targeted zip codes. This has discouraged the ongoing referral of youth in need of informal mental health supports service due to the screening required to address limited geographical areas. Requests for expansion of services have been noted by the Department of Children and Families, Department of Juvenile Justice, and educational programs in addition to participants and caregivers themselves. More frequent opportunities to impact youth through the Escambia Connects Model have been noted. Data collected regarding referral trends indicates 34 referrals for services were rejected due to the child residing out of targeted service area. Of the 34 rejected because of geographical location, the following breakdown was taken from demographic data with the majority of rejected referrals identified for youth residing in the 32506, 32526, and 32514 zip codes although a minimum of 1 program participant was denied services in the remaining zip codes at the rate of 1 or 2 denials in each.

32502: 1  
32503: 2  
32504: 1  
32506: 10  
32507: 2  
32514: 6  
32526: 8  
32533: 1  
32534: 2  
32535: 1

Provider referrals for youth across all areas of Escambia County were identified as one of many limitations and barriers to engagement of services as anticipated. Examples of situations where services outside of targeted geographical area have prevented participants from completing the program are below.

- Referrals for Tier 4 services originally accepted due to DCF address listed in 32501. Placement in a foster home outside of 32501 and 32505 have been identified which are currently outside of the programs geographical service area. This will require closure from the program.
- Referrals for Tier 3 services from Department of Juvenile Justice/Juvenile Court for youth with identified need for informal mental health support services such as transportation, timely connection to formal mental health referral sources and other services specific to employment and educational goal have been noted.
- Referrals for Tier 2 as part of partnerships developed with private and public schools for service delivery on campus outside of curriculum instruction hours. Services requested are Informal Mental Health Support through individual and/or group mentoring and delivery of psychoeducation curriculum for identified groups of students. For example, the Boost program at Warrington Academy referred a group of students with the intention for the group to complete psychoeducation curriculum together over the course of a semester. While the majority of youth were confirmed to reside within 32501 or 32505 zip codes there were 6 of 20

youth referred with a confirmed home address in close proximity of the targeted zip areas being .5 to 2 miles outside of 32501 or 32505. While the youth were allowed to participate in the group, they were not able to be accepted for inclusion in the programs individualized service delivery and were only provided outreach services.

- Situations where youth and families relocate after starting program services to other areas of Escambia County have also presented barriers in receiving the full benefit of program completion.
- Tier 1 services include outreach and awareness campaigns within 32501 and 32505 community to increase awareness of mental health and reduce the stigma associated with seeking help from formal sources when in distress. Tier 1 includes barber mentor services and free haircuts for youth in 32501 and 32505 zip codes. Free haircuts aren't available for youth outside of 32501 and 32505 resulting in barber mentors having to turn youth away when approached.
- Referrals for services for siblings that do not live in the same home have been difficult to navigate when presented, especially if one of the siblings aren't allowed to participate with the others due to residing with a different caregiver.
- Referrals from homeless shelter within targeted zip codes when referred and services are initiated but secure housing outside of the targeted zip codes and are unable to complete the program

Youth are observed to feel excluded or rejected when they are told they can't participate in the program but observe family members, neighbors, friends, or classmates accepted for program participation. Escambia Connects does not want to reject any child in need referred to the program that may benefit if participant slots are open. In addition, having to release a youth prior to program completion when they are engaged in services is not preferred either. Escambia Connects has been able to meet anticipated program capacity for referrals and full utilization of program slots during the first year of program implementation. However, there have been unfilled slots in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year that could have been offered to potential participants if inclusion to other zip codes was permitted through approval of this scope of services change request. This can be done within the program's existing budget while also supporting full utilization of services program wide to allow the maximum benefit of Escambia Children's Trust funding dedicated to youth and families across Escambia County.

Data collected by the program supports the need for this change of scope in multiple other areas of Escambia County. The need has been identified, and Escambia Connects would like the opportunity to reduce barriers to participation by offering services in other geographical locations, when the need is presented. This request has been supported through continued referrals and inquiries from common referral sources such as DCF, DJJ, and schools. All youth would be screened to determine appropriate tier placement for case assignment when referrals from providers are identified.

In addition to service delivery for youth referred outside of 32501 and 32505, Escambia Connects has identified the need to extend the length of the program for Tier 2 participants to allow more time to build relationships and fully support the youth's understanding of the importance of mental health. Participant and caregiver satisfaction surveys along with empirical evidence by staff themselves consistently indicate the need to extend services outside of the current 3-4 month timeline for all tiers initially identified. Research (<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8198211/>) recommends weekly contact in mentoring relationships of 6-12 months with most citing 12 months as the needed length of time to navigate the mentor relationship, curriculum instruction, and transition from the relationship. This would allow for a stronger mentoring connection to form with informal mental health supports through facilitation of psychoeducation and resiliency skill building curriculum activities. This extension

of the length of time youth can participate is needed to establish permanent prosocial connections to increase the youth's engagement in prosocial community activities that reduce the likelihood of negative risk behavior development.

Tier 3 services focus on employability, education, mentoring, transportation, resiliency skills, family and sibling relationships with priority focus on DJJ referred youth and siblings. In Escambia Connects, Tier 3 services are based on the Child and Adolescent Functioning Assessment Scale (CAFAS) with the CAFAS Treatment Plan at the center of programming with individualized goals specific to the youth's identified risk and protective factors. While a mentoring relationship is part of the service delivery, there is also a strong case management component with family support services embedded in the programming through Family Restorative Circles and focus on sibling relationships within the home. Adjustments in dosage are also supported with research as being most beneficial with 4-6 months of program engagement vice the current 3-4 months. Because Escambia Connects is a voluntary program engaging youth and families in case management services, 6 months can be very difficult dosage for some youth and families which is why some gain maximum benefit earlier than others. Tier 3 oversight is provided by a Lead Connects Case Manager with experience and training in our Project Connect model which is the inspiration to meet service needs for youth in this population.

Due to the need for more acute informal mental health support services provided in Tier 4, staff have identified the need for some participants to remain in the program up to 6 months in order to allow children to complete the individualized goals identified in the Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS) survey. Currently, staff have noted that some children need more time to meet the goals of the assessment and ensure their success is more permanent. Tier 4 services focus on timely connection to formal services, resiliency skill building, and individualized service planning for youth most in need of formal mental health services. Program services are also centered around the CAFAS assessment and established CAFAS treatment plan. Participants in this tier level are often involved in or connected to other formal services to such as dependency and foster care placements. More intensive focus on resiliency skill building curriculum and coordination with multiple service providers are needed. While this requires a shorter time to make these connections due to the programs extensive number of partnerships and advanced case management skills of Tier 4 staff, the youth and caregivers report satisfaction with the services with requests for longer time to benefit from the resiliency skills curriculum activities and activities coordinated by the Mental Health Connects Coordinator. Participants are excited to attend sessions and have reported retention of information through the detailed planning of curriculum delivery.

**Impact statement** – describe the impact or result this change will have on your ability to execute the goals, outcomes and performance measures included in your contract.

The ability to serve youth referred from areas outside of the 32501 and 32505 zip codes will provide opportunities for organizations to refer program participants identified by partner agencies with fewer limitations in reaching youth over a larger geographical area. The ability to accept program referrals from DJJ or DCF will expand the connection to those most in need of services. Triangulation of data from multiple sources to include participant and family satisfaction surveys, interviews with stakeholders, and trends in referral data supports this scope of services change request. The organizations with the largest population of youth that may benefit from this proposed change are the Department of Children and Families, Department of Juvenile Justice, and the Escambia County school system. Referrals rejected from January through March of 2025 due to the referral being out of the current service area often

originated from these three sources. In addition, mental health awareness efforts through Tier 1 outreach services including awareness events, barber mentor haircuts, outreach directly with the participant population, and recruitment for Tier 2 Informal Mental Health Support mentoring and psychoeducation services have made strong connections within several schools who have students outside of the 32501 or 32505 zip codes. The ability to accept referrals from DCF and DJJ for timely connection to services will benefit a large number of youth in need of more formal mental health services across Escambia County. The ability to accept youth from private and public schools for group outreach and psychoeducation delivery will also benefit youth across Escambia County. In addition, youth involved in the program that relocate while participating in the program will be allowed to complete the program as long as they remain in Escambia County. Most importantly, children who are identified as in need of informal mental health support services, who live in Escambia County, will not be unnecessarily turned away from connection to those services. As noted above, to date this FY, 34 additional children could have been positively and effectively impacted with these services.

Lastly, modifying or extending service dosage times for Tier 2, Tier 3 and Tier 4 services will have a significant impact on the efficiency and effectiveness of overall programming as supported by research, participant/parent/caregiver feedback and empirical knowledge. It will impact the ability of participants to fully complete the curricula assigned at an appropriate and individualized pace. For Tier 2 participants, they will be able to build more impactful mentoring relationships that lead to self-sufficient and self-confident behaviors that then lead to resiliency and efficacy and increase the likelihood of pro-social interactions that develop benevolent relationships. This is a stated concern for parents who continuously request that their children be extended in program service due to their observation of the positive results in their homes. The positive impact on the community for this population of children will be significant and long-lasting. The impact on Tier 3 services will be felt most in successful program completion as youth and families will have a broadened opportunity to complete the assigned curricula, participate in mentoring services and build family resiliency as needs are identified by the CAFAS and managed by the case management services. The impact for Tier 4 participants, the population with the most acute needs, will be seen in the lowering of more formal mental health system referrals for the participant population because the informal mental health intervention at this level will preclude their need for going deeper into the mental health system of care.