



Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, September 22, 2026
3250 S.W. 3rd Avenue (Coral Way)
United Way – Ryder Room
4:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

AGENDA

Board of Directors

Kenneth C. Hoffman
Chair

Pamela Hollingsworth
Vice-Chair

Hon. Norman S. Gerstein (Ret.)
Treasurer

Luis E. Suarez, J.D.
Secretary

Laura Adams
Islamiyat Nancy Adebisi
Lisette M. Alves
Daniel Armstrong, Ph.D.
Matthew Arsenault
Alex Auguste
Daniel Bagner, Ph.D.
Hon. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Ph.D.
Hon. Scott Bernstein
Cathy Burgos
Silvia Castellanos
Norie del Valle
Gilda Ferradaz
Hon. Norman S. Gerstein (Ret.)
Lourdes P. Gimenez
Jackie Gonzalez-Cuba
Valrose Graham
Mindy Grimes-Festge
Hon. Keon Hardemon
Malou C. Harrison, Ph.D.
Layla Jaime
Ilia Molina, Ed.D.
Laurie Weiss Nuell
Benjamin Nussbaum
Clara Lora Ospina, Psy.D.
Hon. Alex Rizo
Hon. Isaac Salver
Alfred Sanchez
Miriam Soler Ramos, J.D.

David Lawrence Jr.
Founding Chair

James R. Haj
President & CEO

County Attorney's Office
Legal Counsel

4:45 p.m. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Kenneth C. Hoffman
Chair

4:47 p.m. **Public Comments**

Kenneth C. Hoffman
Chair

4:50 p.m. **Approval of June 15, 2026 Board of Directors minutes summary**

(Additional Items Packet) (Pgs. 2-4)

Kenneth C. Hoffman
Chair

4:52 p.m. **Welcome New Board Member**

Kenneth C. Hoffman
Chair

- *Lisette M. Alves Miami-Dade County Public Schools Superintendent Designee*

4:53 p.m. **Appreciation for Outstanding Service to The Children's Trust**

Kenneth C. Hoffman
Chair

- *Gilda P. Ferradaz, Florida Department of Children & Families*
- *Matthew Arsenault, At-Large Board Member*

4:55 p.m. **Nominating Committee Report**

- *Approval of New At-Large Board Member*

Dr. Daniel Bagner
Committee Chair

4:58 p.m. **CEO Report**

James R. Haj
President & CEO

- *Site Visit
Family & Children Faith Coalition,
DBA Hope for Miami
October 14, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
West Flagler Park/Hope for Miami Headquarters
5911 W Flagler St, Miami, FL 33126*

5:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

Reminder:

Next Board Meeting: *Monday, October 19, 2026

The public is allowed to comment on a specific agenda item but must register with the Clerk of the Board prior to being allowed to comment.



**Board of Directors Meeting
Summary of Actions Taken
June 15, 2026
8:30 a.m.**

These actions were taken by the Board of Directors of The Children's Trust meeting held on June 15, 2026:

Please note that the number of board members fluctuate based on arrival and departure of some of them throughout the meeting.

Board Members in attendance: Kenneth C. Hoffman, Chair, Pamela Hollingsworth, Vice Chair, Hon. Norman S. Gerstein, Treasurer, Secretary Luis E. Suarez, Dr. Daniel Armstrong, Matthew Arsenault, Dr. Daniel Bagner, Islamiyat Nancy Adebisi, Norie Del Valle, Gilda Ferradaz, Lourdes P. Gimenez, Judge Orlando Prescott, Layla Jaime, Jackie Gonzalez-Cuba, Dr. Clara L. Ospina, Miriam Soler Ramos, Laurie W. Nuell, Dr. Ilia Molina, and Benjamin Nussbaum.

Legal Counsel in attendance: Leigh C. Kobrinski

Public Comments

1. Jairo Ontiveros, *Executive Producer & Dorothea Green Endowed Chair of Education & Community Engagement Adrienne Arsht Center*
Conducted an Innovation Success Story Presentation
2. Ire Diaz, CCDH Inc dba Advocacy Network on Disabilities – thanked board members and the Children's Trust for commitment to all children.

Motion to approve the May 18, 2026, Board of Directors meeting minutes was made by Hon. Norman Gerstein and seconded by Pamela Hollingsworth. Motion passed unanimously, 19-0.

Presentations & Discussion Items:

The preliminary budget and millage of 0.4638 for FY 2026-2027 was presented and discussed among board members.

Finance & Operations Committee Report

Motion to approve the recommendation of the Finance committee to set the FY 2026-27 proposed millage at a roll back rate of 0.4638 mills, was made by Laurie W. Nuell and seconded by Luis Suarez. Motion passed unanimously, 18-0. Recusal by Judge Orlando Prescott per statute.

Motion to approve the recommendation of the Staff for the FY 2026-27 budget, was made by Norie Del Valle and seconded by Dr. Daniel Armstrong. Motion passed unanimously, 19-0.

Resolution 2026-53: Motion to approve the resolution was made by Laurie W. Nuell and seconded by Miriam Soler Ramos. Authorization for The Children's Trust to pursue the acquisition of real property, enhanced with a facility, to serve as The Children's Trust office space, and to delegate authority to the President/CEO to undertake all necessary activities and due diligence, including obtaining brokerage services and negotiating agreements for such services, and, subject to satisfactory

results of such due diligence, to negotiate a purchase agreement for final approval by the Board or Executive Committee, if needed. A portion of the fund balance will be designated for this purpose, not to exceed \$20,000,000.00, to support the acquisition of a facility when the funding is needed. **Motion passed unanimously, 19-0.**

Resolution 2026-45: [2/3 Vote] Motion to approve the resolution was made by Laurie W. Nuell and seconded by Dr. Daniel Armstrong. Authorization to renew services and execute related agreements with multiple IT vendors, and to waive (in part) the formal competitive procurement process [2/3 vote] in a total amount not to exceed \$1,615,967.00, inclusive of \$50,000.00 contingency for IT budgeted enhancements projects, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2026, and ending September 30, 2027. **Motion passed unanimously, 19-0.**

Program Services Committee Report

[Consent Agenda]

Consent Agenda included Resolutions 2026-46, 2026-47, 2026-49, and 2026-51, which passed on a single vote. Motion to approve the resolutions was made by Pamela Hollingsworth and seconded by Luis Suarez. Motion passed, 18-0. Dr. Daniel Armstrong (due to UM is receiving funding).

Resolution 2026-46: Authorization to negotiate and execute a match contract with Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, for cultural arts programs in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2026, and ending September 30, 2027.

Resolution 2026-47: Authorization to negotiate and execute contract renewals with eight providers, identified herein, for Trust Academy quality supports, in a total amount not to exceed \$4,249,893.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2026, and ending September 30, 2027, with no remaining contract renewal.

Resolution 2026-49: Authorization to negotiate and execute a single source contract with Jewish Community Services of South Florida (JCS) to operate the 211 Miami Helpline, in a total amount not to exceed \$1,511,594.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2026, and ending September 30, 2027.

Resolution 2026-51: Authorization to negotiate and execute a contract with Breakthrough Miami, Inc. to operate The Children's Trust Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) program, in a total amount not to exceed \$260,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, with four possible contract renewals, subject to annual funding appropriations.

[Non-Consent Agenda]

Resolution 2026-48: Motion to approve the resolution was made by Lourdes Gimenez and seconded by Norie Del Valle. Authorization to negotiate and execute a contract with the Public Health Trust of Miami-Dade County, d/b/a Jackson Health System, in partnership with the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, to implement Miami's Injury Free Coalition for Kids, in a total amount not to exceed \$445,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2026, and ending September 30, 2027. **Motion passed, 17-0. Recusals (2) by Dr. Daniel Armstrong (due to UM is partner), Dr. Clara L. Ospina (due to your program receiving funding).**

Resolution 2026-50: Motion to approve the resolution was made by Hon. Norman Gerstein and seconded by Miriam Soler Ramos. Authorization to negotiate and execute contracts with 24 providers, identified herein, and selected following a competitive solicitation for innovative services to pilot or test new ideas or methods that have the potential to advance The Children's Trust's mission, in a total amount not to exceed \$1,706,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2026, and ending September 30, 2027, with the option for a no-cost extension for a period up to six months. **Motion passed, 18-0. Recusal by Dr. Daniel Armstrong (due to UM receiving funding).**

Resolution 2026-52: [2/3 Vote] Motion to approve the resolution was made by Pamela Hollinsworth and seconded by Luis Suarez. Authorization to negotiate and execute agreements with five vendors, identified herein, for program evaluation and community research services, in a total amount not to exceed \$1,538,067.00, to externally evaluate Trust-funded initiatives and community impact, for terms as noted herein, with up to four annual 12-month contract renewals. Authorization to waive the formal competitive procurement process [2/3 vote] for the portion of \$300,000.00 to the University of Miami for the support of the Miami IDEAS Consortium for Children. Authorization to apply for and accept additional funding for these services from other sources through partnership agreements, grant applications, and other mechanisms of fund development. **Motion passed, 17-0. Recusals (2) by Dr. Daniel Armstrong (due to having 85 faculty across schools, colleges, and departments of UM who are members of the Mailman Center), Hon. Norman Gerstein (son works for stability).**

The meeting adjourned at 9:11 a.m.