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# ALACHUA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



Sheriff Sadie Darnell  
Post Office Box 1210 • Gainesville, FL 32602-1210

February 15, 2007

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CITY COMMISSION  
CITY OF GAINESVILLE

Honorable Pegeen Hanrahan, Mayor  
City of Gainesville  
200 East University Ave.  
Gainesville, FL 32601

Dear Mayor Hanrahan:

Your involvement has been important to the planning for the Alachua County Children's Alliance and I'm pleased to invite you to the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, March 16, at the Reichert House, 1734 SE 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, to formally create the Alliance.

The vision of the Alachua County Children's Alliance is to create a community that values all children and families by supporting agencies which provide services that nurture the family environment so that children will grow up to be healthy, productive citizens. The Alliance will serve as an advocate for the needs of children and families. It will not oversee the work of its partner agencies, but it will provide opportunities for agencies to be more effective and efficient. The Alliance also will support formal and informal networks to design and provide services to children and their families.

An important task of the meeting will be adoption of the Alliance Bylaws, in which a representative of the City Commission will be a member of the Alliance Board of Directors. It is vital to the success of the Alliance that the representative is an active participant of the Board in order to ensure success. I recognize how necessary it is to use the time of community leaders wisely and I assure you that Board meetings will be efficient and effective.

The initial activities will include appointing at-large members, creating Alliance workgroups, taking first steps toward incorporation and setting a schedule of quarterly meetings to conduct Alliance business. In addition, the entire Alliance will meet monthly, to act on the Alliance mission, to foster coordination, collaboration and communication on behalf of the children of our community.

If you are unable to attend, I hope you will agree to serve or appoint a representative to serve on the Alliance Board. I have attached a copy of the draft Alliance Bylaws that will be proposed on March 16<sup>th</sup>. If you have questions regarding the Alliance or the Bylaws, please contact Dana Bobb at Partnership for Strong Families, 393-2740 extension 319.

Sincerely,

*Sadie Darnell*  
Sadie Darnell, Sheriff 2/15/07

cc: ccom  
c/mgs. fyi

*Clerk of Commission*

(352) 367-4000

# Alachua County Children's Alliance

## BYLAWS

### ARTICLE I: Title

The name of this body is the Alachua County Children's Alliance, herein and after referred to as the alliance.

### ARTICLE II: Purpose

- A. The purpose of the alliance is to provide a focal point for community participation for children's services in Alachua County. The duties of the alliance shall include, but not necessarily be limited to:
1. Joint planning for resource utilization in the community.
  2. Needs assessment and establishment of community priorities for children's services delivery.
  3. Determining community outcome goals.
  4. Serving as a catalyst for community resource development.
  5. Providing for community education and advocacy on issues related to delivery of children's services.
  6. Promoting prevention and early intervention services.
- B. The alliance shall ensure, to the greatest extent possible, that it builds on the strengths of the existing community human services infrastructure.
- C. Actions taken by a community alliance must be consistent with state and federal laws, rules and regulations.
- D. It is the intent of the alliance to become a not-for-profit corporation, consistent with applicable laws and regulations.

### ARTICLE III: Membership

The alliance shall include stakeholders, community leaders, client representatives and funders of human services, as well as individuals and organizations who represent funding organizations, are community leaders, have knowledge of children's services issues, or otherwise represent perspectives that will enable them to accomplish the purpose and duties of the alliance.

4. The term of board members representing community institutions shall be determined by the appointing authority.
  5. At-large members should have the characteristics described in Article III. The chairperson of the alliance, with approval of the board, shall appoint the at-large members.
  6. When an at-large member has two or more unexcused absences from board meetings within 12 months, the member shall be considered to have resigned from the board.
  7. At-large members' terms are two calendar years.
  8. At large members may succeed themselves for one additional term, but then may not be reappointed to the board until 12 months have passed.
- B. Members of the board are subject to the provisions of Part III of Chapter 112, FS, the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees.
- C. Members of the board shall serve without compensation, but may receive reimbursement for expenses as authorized by the board.

#### ARTICLE V: Officers

The board of directors shall elect a chairperson, vice-chairperson and secretary to serve for a term of one year. Officers may succeed themselves in office. Election of the officers will take place immediately following adoption of these bylaws and thereafter annually at the last meeting of the calendar year for a term commencing in January of each year. Should a vacancy occur, a replacement shall be elected at the next meeting of the board.

- A. Chairperson.
1. The chairperson shall preside at and conduct all meetings of the alliance and of the board; serve as the official spokesperson for the alliance in all activities that the board may deem proper; and report, as necessary, to appropriate appointing authorities and local and state agencies.
  2. The chairperson shall excuse members' meeting absences when requested in advance of scheduled meetings
- B. Vice-Chairperson. The vice-chairperson shall preside in the absence of the chairperson.
- C. Secretary/Treasurer. The secretary/treasurer shall record board minutes with administrative support of staff and maintain necessary financial records. The board shall

The rules contained in *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* shall govern the board and the alliance in all cases where they are applicable, so long as such rules do not conflict with the provisions of these bylaws or state law.

ARTICLE X: Bylaws Amendments

Amendments to these bylaws may be adopted at a duly called meeting of the board following the meeting at which the amendment is proposed. A two-thirds vote of the board members present at a duly called meeting at which a quorum is present shall be required to adopt an amendment. The wording of the proposed changes shall be sent to every board member at least ten days before the date of the meeting at which the amendment will be considered.

I, as alliance chairperson, attest that these bylaws have been adopted by the board on \_\_\_\_\_, 2007.

Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_