

I. Lunch & Networking	Renea Teaster, Facilitator, greeted everyone and asked George Schmalstig of Filter Youth to pray over the food before it was served. She encouraged everyone to network during the lunch.
II. Welcome	Renea welcomed everyone back to an in-person meeting, and to the new luncheon style format. She additionally reminded anyone not signed in to do so and take an agenda.
III. Agency Introductions	Members and attendees of the meeting went around and introduced themselves stating their name and what agency or organization they represented.
IV. Minutes Approval	Submitted for approval were the minutes from May 2021. Renea asked everyone to review. There was a correction requested for the Early Learning Coalition phone number from Sandra Woodard. Kristy Jocelyn made a motion to accept the minutes as approved with the correction, and Edith Ramlow seconded the motion. With all in favor, the minutes from May (pending the correction) were submitted.
V. Meeting Format	Renea indicated to everyone that it is very important to have in-person meetings, and that we wanted to go back to this format because of the disconnect among members. In 2000 the Alliances were created by Florida statute to support the work of DCF in the community, and if we are not meeting regularly in person, that this mission may not be achieved to its maximum potential. This is due somewhat to people turning the camera off and hitting the mute button and not participating. She stated that we tried back in the Spring to do this but were unsuccessful possibly due to the popularity of the time to Zoom. We want to be able to offer in-person meetings but be safe and respectful at the same time. She asked for discussion, and after some comments were made about protocols from different organizations and guidelines, it was recommended to her that if we continue the in-person meetings, we must offer an online format also. Renea also indicated that if we do in-person meetings, then we do have to tackle lunch options. She suggested that agencies who can help with the lunch and sponsoring a portion, and/or we could have everyone attending pay a \$5-7 fee for lunch. She asked those attending if they would be agreeable to the option of paying for lunch. With the majority of hands raised, this option to pay for lunch was accepted by the members and will be available in the future.
V. Special Presentation	Renea introduced Gene McGee, local Lobbyist for Citrus County and Mental Health Advocate. Gene is the President/CEO of GMA, Inc. and consults, advises, and helps to lobby for the interests and needs of Citrus County in Tallahassee. Gene began his conversation by letting everyone know that he wants to help non-profits and other organizations here in Citrus County. He shared how he came to Citrus in 1987 after getting out of the Army, due to having family in the area. He worked some with the Clerk of Courts and started engaging in politics and ran several local campaigns. Soon after that he began working in Tallahassee as a policy analyst, where he was able to learn at the state level about legislation. He shared a personal story of how his brother completed suicide in 1993 and it left him with many questions. Friends and others in the community encouraged him to enter the Mental Health realm to learn more and work alongside of those who could provide insight around 1998. After diving in, he was able to assist in getting many projects for Kids Central, The Centers, and other agencies. Eventually he went back to growing his other businesses, but about four years ago he re-entered the picture at the request of others here in the community. Since then, he has helped Citrus County by working with the new provider, Lifestream in lobbying for funding to get a new Baker Act Facility for Citrus County and continue to address the need for wrap-around services. He indicated that many of the issues with the workforce in Citrus County is due to substance use issues, and if we can address these items with solid access to care, then we can help our residents here. It is his desire to continue serving Citrus County by working with local non-profits. Gene answered questions regarding the recruitment of a child psychiatrist. Additional comments concerning needs that Gene may assist with were made by United Way, Lifestream, Citrus County Sheriff's Office, Ecclesia, and others. Gene also mentioned the Prosperity Initiative that involves many agencies in the county that is working on trying to help those in the community overcome generational poverty. Gene McGee may be reached at gene@gmalobby.com (850) 661-7110.
VI. Agency Announcements	Member Announcements ---Friends of Nature Coast---will be having an event the end of this month, Saturday, August 28th and are open for registration. They have scholarships available for children who have had a loss, and they do not turn anyone away. Frances Gladeck announced that Family Resource Center in Hernando are working now on Christmas, and sponsorships for children are available. They will need other volunteers to assist with wrapping and other duties. Mike Isley from the Inverness Lions Clubs and they provide eye exams, glasses, glaucoma, and cataracts surgery, etc. They set up appointments and other needs. Karen Mango from Community Legal Services stated they are still offering classes for Divorce settlements, child visitation rights, etc. They can contact them at (800) 405-1417. Kristy Jocelyn from Mid-Florida Homeless Coalition reminded everyone they have grants for individuals to pay back rent, relocate, homeless into housing, and are currently inundated to assist those that are in hotels, on the verge of eviction. Please contact them at (352) 860-2308. Cindi Fein from NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness) stated this is a new endeavor for her, but she has business cards available. NAMI is going back to in-person meetings this Thursday, and they can assist people living with a condition as well as support groups for family members at the 1 st Christian Church in Inverness. Please contact them at 844-687-6264. (352)462-8505. Taylor Keeran from Citrus County Libraries announced they have relaunched the website showcasing services from infants to adult education. They also

have a grant that allowed them to expand their WIFI services. There are designated parking areas that will allow people to access the signals. Also, they reminded everyone to take advantage and get a library card. Angela Briggs of Ecclesia commented that Ecclesia and The Centers merged with SMA Healthcare recently as of July 1st and they are still providing services. They are no longer on the Lecanto campus, but they still maintain the Court Alternatives programs. They do have state funding, but they partner with Family & Pregnancy Life Center, and they can take clients through that program at no cost and can usually get someone in within a week. Renea announced that the Rural Substance Abuse Mental Health Summit is on Thursday, September 16th in Gainesville and being put on by LSF Health Systems. The event is free to attend and CEUs are available. The Community Foundation of Tampa Bay will have an open grant application beginning October 31st. There will be a training on September 28th in Citrus County for those that are interested in learning more.

**VIII.
Adjournment**

In closing, Renea asked that anyone interested in volunteering to assist with the luncheons (serving/cleaning) please contact her. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.