

Resolution 2021-03

WHEREAS, the community has taken action to formally recommend to the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners the establishment of a special dependent district to be known as the Children's Trust and to hold a referendum on the creation of a dedicated millage; and

WHEREAS, investing in developmental and educational resources for children and families will provide measurable returns for our community; and

WHEREAS, Indian River County's children need enhanced services; and

WHEREAS, 14.5% of babies born in Indian River County each year are considered low birth weight or preterm and 50% of babies born in Indian River County each year are born into poverty; and

WHEREAS, over half of the children in Indian River County are not prepared to enter kindergarten; and

WHEREAS, as many as 50% of children with developmental delays or disorders are not diagnosed or properly treated before they start school; and

WHEREAS, over 60% of students are eligible for free & reduced lunch; and

WHEREAS, in Indian River County only 51% of children in 3rd grade read on grade level and only 51% of 7th graders are proficient in 7th grade math; and

WHEREAS, every year in Indian River County over 1,500 reports of suspected child abuse are received by the Department of Children and Families; and

WHEREAS, over 10% of middle school age children report using alcohol in the past 30 days; and

WHEREAS, 18% of Indian River County students are chronically absent; and

WHEREAS, 64.7% of Florida's youth with major depression did not receive any mental health treatment in 2021; and

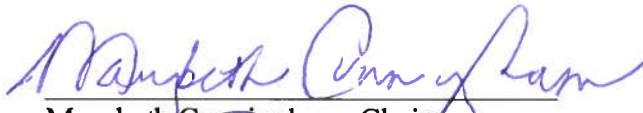
WHEREAS, quality programs addressing these needs pay for themselves many times over and the cost of inaction is a tragic loss of human and economic potential that we cannot afford; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners determines that it is in the best interests of the health and well-being of our children and broader community to place a referendum establishing the Children's Trust within Indian River County before the qualified Indian River County voters on the November 8, 2022 general election ballot.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Board of Trustees of the **INDIAN RIVER COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT** that:

The Board of Trustees, on its own behalf and on behalf of the citizens of Indian River County, and particularly those who are served by the **DISTRICT**, support the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners decision to dedicate, each year an ad valorem tax of 0.250 of a mill from 2023-2024 to 2026-2027 and 0.375 of a mill from 2027-2028 to 2034-2035 in order to promote and improve children's health and well-being, and to fund quality programs and services for children residing in Indian River County.

The undersigned members of the Board of Trustees of the **INDIAN RIVER COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT**, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution duly adopted by said Board at a meeting of said Board held on the 20th day of May, 2021


Marybeth Cunningham, Chairman

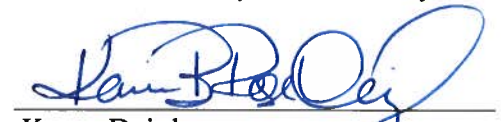

Allen Jones, Treasurer


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Ann Marie McCrystal, Secretary


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