

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 7(A)

TO: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: December 2, 2025

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Ordinance relating to The
Children's Trust; amending
chapter 2, article CIII of the
Code; revising membership of
the governing board and term
limits to conform to amendments
to section 125.901, Florida
Statutes

Ordinance No. 25-112

This item was amended at the 11-10-25 Recreation and Tourism Committee to include an aspirational request that members appointed by reason of their position be residents of Miami-Dade County.

The accompanying ordinance was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Senator René García.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/uw

Memorandum



Date: December 2, 2025

To: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Daniella Levine Cava *Daniella Levine Cava*
Mayor

Subject: Fiscal Impact Statement for Ordinance Relating to The Children's Trust – Revising Membership

The approval of this Ordinance will not have a fiscal impact to Miami-Dade County.

A blue ink signature of James Reyes, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke.

James Reyes
Chief Public Safety Officer

Date: December 2, 2025

To: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Daniella Levine Cava 
Mayor

Subject: Ordinance relating to the Children's Trust; amending chapter 2, article CIII of the Code; revising membership of the governing board and term limits to conform to amendments to section 125.901, Florida Statutes

The proposed ordinance seeks to amend Section 2-1522 of the Code of Miami-Dade County (the "Code") pertaining to the governing board of The Children's Trust. The legislation will revise the membership of the governing board and term limits to conform to amendments to Section 125.901, Florida Statutes.

The proposed amendment eliminates the seat designated for a representative from a local alliance or coalition engaged in cross-system health and social service planning and expands the number of at-large members elected from sitting members of The Children's Trust from four (4) to five (5) and extends their term from two-year terms to three-year terms. This change strengthens the board's capacity for leadership and allows for additional viewpoints.

The amendment also extends the Mayor's authority to serve on the governing board or to appoint a designee to serve on their behalf.

Overall, this amendment enhances the board's equity framework by ensuring decisions are informed by those with direct experience in education, community leadership, and governance. This ordinance is not anticipated to have a specific social equity benefit or burden as described under Ordinance No. 15-83.



James Reyes
Chief Public Safety Officer



MEMORANDUM (Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: December 2, 2025

FROM: 
Glen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 7(A)

Please note any items checked.

- _____ **"3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised**
- _____ **6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing**
- _____ **4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing**
- _____ **Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget**
- _____ **Budget required**
- _____ **Statement of fiscal impact required**
- _____ **Statement of social equity required**
- _____ **Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing**
- _____ **No committee review**
- _____ **Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's present ____, 2/3 membership ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____, majority plus one ____, CDMP 7 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 2/3 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3) (h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 9 vote requirement per 2-116.1(4)(c) (2) ____) to approve**
- _____ **Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required**

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 7(A)
12-2-25

ORDINANCE NO. 25-112

ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE CHILDREN’S TRUST;
AMENDING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE CIII OF THE CODE OF
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA; REVISING
MEMBERSHIP OF THE GOVERNING BOARD AND TERM
LIMITS TO CONFORM TO AMENDMENTS TO SECTION
125.901, FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY,
INCLUSION IN THE CODE, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, in 1988, the voters of Miami-Dade County (the “County”) approved the creation of a juvenile welfare board, which, by voter approval on September 10, 2002, was renamed The Children’s Trust; and

WHEREAS, by approving The Children’s Trust and in recognition of the great needs of children in our community, the County electorate also authorized the levy of an ad valorem tax to supplement current County expenditures for children’s services on September 10, 2002; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 125.901, Florida Statutes, on December 3, 2002, the County adopted Ordinance No. 02-247, which authorized the creation of The Children’s Trust; and

WHEREAS, on August 26, 2008, the voters approved an extension of The Children’s Trust’s ad valorem tax levy; and

WHEREAS, among other things, section 125.901, Florida Statutes, specifies the membership of the governing board, powers, duties, responsibilities of The Children’s Trust; and

WHEREAS, during the 2025 legislative session, the Florida Legislature, through House Bill 1255, made certain changes to section 125.901, Florida Statutes, concerning the membership

of the governing boards of children's services councils, like The Children's Trust, and the term limits of its at-large governing board members; and

WHEREAS, the County's Code expressly adopts the provisions of section 125.901, Florida Statutes, as it relates to membership requirements and term limits of its governing board members; and

WHEREAS, as such, this Board desires to conform the County Code with changes made to section 125.901, Florida Statutes, during the 2025 legislative session,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA:

Section 1. Chapter 2, Article CIII of the Code of Miami-Dade County, Florida, is hereby amended to read as follows:¹

ARTICLE CIII – THE CHILDREN'S TRUST

* * *

Sec. 2-1522. Governing Board.

- (a) The governing board of The Children's Trust shall ~~[[consist]]~~ >>be composed<< of the following thirty-three (33) members:
- (1) Superintendent of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, or his or her designee;
 - (2) One (1) member who is a representative of Florida International University as appointed by the university president;
 - (3) One (1) member who is a representative of Miami-

¹ Words stricken through and/or [[double bracketed]] shall be deleted. Words underscored and/or >>double arrowed<< constitute the amendment proposed. Remaining provisions are now in effect and remain unchanged.

Dade Community College as appointed by the college president;

- (4) Miami-Dade County Mayor>>, or his or her designee<<;
- (5) District XI Administrator, State of Florida Department of Children and Family Services or designee who is a member of the Senior Management Service or the Selected Exempt Service;
- (6) Director of Miami-Dade County Public Health Department or designee;
- (7) State Attorney for Miami-Dade County or designee;
- (8) Chief Judge of Juvenile Division of the Eleventh Circuit, or another juvenile judge designated by the Chief Judge, who shall sit as a voting member of the board on all matters except for the setting of ad valorem taxes;
- (9) One (1) member selected by the Board of the United Way of Miami-Dade County;
- (10) One member who is a member of and is selected by a locally recognized faith-based coalition;
- (11) One (1) member who is a member of and is selected by a coalition of the local chambers of commerce;
- (12) One (1) member is a member of and is selected by the Miami-Dade County Early Learning Coalition;
- (13) One (1) member who is a representative of the United Teachers of Dade;

~~[[(14) One (1) member who is a member of and is selected by a local alliance or coalition engaged in cross-system planning for health and social service delivery in the county;]]~~

>>(14)<< ~~[[(15)]]~~ One (1) member who is a member of and is selected by the Miami-Dade Council of Parent-Teacher

Association/Parent-Teacher-Student Association;

>>(15)<<[[~~(16)~~]] One (1) member who is a youth selected by the Miami-Dade County Student Government Association;

>>(16)<<[[~~(17)~~]] One (1) member who is a member of the School Board of Miami-Dade County as appointed by the Chair of the School Board;

>>(17)<< [[~~(18)~~]] Mayor of Miami-Dade County or designee;

>>(18)<< [[~~(19)~~]] One (1) member who is a member of the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners, as appointed by the Commission Chair;

>>(19)<< [[~~(20)~~]] One (1) member who is a member of the State of Florida Legislature who represents residents of Miami-Dade County, as appointed by the chair of the Miami-Dade legislative delegation;

>>(20)<< [[~~(21)~~]] One (1) elected official representing the residents of a municipality located within Miami-Dade County, as appointed by the League of Cities;

>>(21)<< [[~~(22)~~]] Circuit Manager, State of Florida Department of Juvenile Justice or designee;

>>(22)<< [[~~(23)~~]] ~~Four (4)~~ >>Five (5)<< members-at-large, as appointed by a majority of the sitting members of The Children's Trust;

>>(23)<< [[~~(24)~~]] Seven (7) members appointed by the Governor of the State of Florida in accordance with the provisions set forth below.

(b) Members Appointed by Governor.

- (1) *Criteria.* Members who are appointed by the Governor: a) must have resided within Miami-Dade County during the previous twenty-four (24) months; and b) must be representative of the geographic and demographic ~~[[diversity]]~~ >>makeup<< of the population of Miami-Dade County, to the extent reasonably possible.

* * *

>>(c) Members Appointed by Reason of Their Position. The Children's Trust, when soliciting appointments from the entities set forth in Section 2-1522 (a)(1) through (21), as appropriate, shall request that the entity consider appointing a resident of Miami-Dade County. This shall serve as an aspirational request only, not a legal requirement.<<²

Sec. 2-1523. Terms, Reappointment and Reimbursement.

- (a) Members who are appointed to The Trust by reason of their position are not subject to the length of terms and limits on consecutive terms.
- (b) Members appointed by the governor shall serve four-year terms.
- (c) The youth representative member and the State of Florida legislative delegate member shall serve one-year terms.
- (d) All other members shall serve ~~[[two-year]]~~ >>three-year<< terms.

* * *

Section 2. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or provision of this ordinance is held invalid, the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected by such invalidity.

Section 3. It is the intention of the Board of County Commissioners, and it is hereby ordained that the provisions of this ordinance, including any sunset provision, shall become and

² Committee amendments are indicated as follows: Words double stricken through and/or [[double bracketed]] are deleted, words double underlined and/or >>double arrowed<< are added.

be made a part of the Code of Miami-Dade County, Florida. The sections of this ordinance may be renumbered or relettered to accomplish such intention, and the word "ordinance" may be changed to "section," "article," or other appropriate word.

Section 4. This ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of enactment unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

PASSED AND ADOPTED:

December 2, 2025

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency:

MBV for
LCK

Prepared by:

Leigh C. Kobrinski

Prime Sponsor: Senator René García