



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Children's Board of Hillsborough County

## Children's Board of Hillsborough County Releases Statement Regarding Recent Town Hall Meeting on Healthcare Reform

**TAMPA, FL** – Since our inception more than two decades ago, the Children's Board of Hillsborough County has proudly offered meeting areas in our facility for county residents to assemble, voice their opinions, and make positive changes in our community.

Yesterday evening, a group utilized the Children's Board's facility to conduct a Town Hall meeting on Healthcare Reform. Unfortunately, a series of unforeseen events led to a larger-than-expected crowd which became animated to the point where the safety of others in attendance became an issue. The meeting space was at full capacity, and the Fire Marshall deemed that no one else – citizens or members of the media – would be allowed to enter the facility.

As done for years, the Children's Board provided those organizing the meeting with a space to conduct the Town Hall gathering. While the events that took place were unfortunate, we'd like to commend the many citizens, public safety and emergency personnel that helped restore order.

"Obviously, we're upset about last night's series of events," said Dr. Luanne Panacek, C.E.O. of the Children's Board. "At the same time though, it's great to know that so many people care so strongly about an issue and that the Children's Board can provide a forum for citizens to voice their concerns."

*The Children's Board serves as the leading voice and advocate for children and families in our community. The board is the only organization of its kind in Hillsborough County that generates revenue to help children and families. The Children's Board is recognized nationally for its contributions to best practices in policies and programs aiding children and families. Citizens may visit [www.childrensboard.org](http://www.childrensboard.org) to learn more about the board's programs.*

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