

**Queen Anne's County**  
**Community Partnerships for Children and Families (LMB)**  
**Minutes**  
**October 21, 2020**  
Virtual Meeting

*Those present for the Community Partnerships for Children and Families Board meeting*

**Members Present:**

Karla Altamirano, Community Member  
Joan Brooks, QAC Recreation  
Jessica Denny, Community Member  
Kathryn Dilley, Mid Shore Behavioral Health  
Matt Evans, Board of Education  
Scott Evans, Community Member  
Stephanie Hines, Community Member  
Michelle Johnson, Community Member  
Jason Mullen, Chesapeake College

Vince Radosta, Community Member  
Lauren Scarce, Department of Juvenile  
Services  
Jone Taylor, Children's Council  
Colleen Thomas, Community Member  
Mary Ann Thompson, Community Member  
Lauren Kay Weber, Community Member

**Administrative Staff:**

Michael Clark, Director  
Lisa Michaels, Administrative Assistant  
Jennifer Stansbury, Operation Specialist and  
Office Coordinator II

**Member Regrets:**

Susan Coppage, Department of Social  
Services  
Reverend Elmer Davis, Community Member  
Alana Ellis, Student Member (QACHS)  
Bobbi Graef, QAC Department of Health  
Margie Houck, County Commissioners  
Lt. Mark Meil, QAC Sheriff's Office  
Maynard Nash, County Ride

Laura Roth, Community Member – proxy to  
chairman

**Guests:**

Kelly Huber, Character Counts!  
Nicole Chase-Powell, Healthy Families  
Jamie Jenkins, Healthy Families  
Sandra Yetkin, Family Navigation  
Carolyn Blades, Family Navigation

Patricia Hackleman, CommUNITY  
Mentoring  
Kia Reed, Achievement Mentoring

**I. Welcome:**

Mary Ann Thompson called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

**II. LMB Updates & Reports:**

**a. Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee met at the beginning of the month and approved the agenda for today's Board meeting. No official decisions were made that need to be ratified by the Board.

**b. Secretary**

Vince Radosta, Vice President and Secretary, presented the meeting minutes from September 2020 for approval.

**\*\*Action:**

Jone Taylor moved to approve the September 16, 2020 minutes as written. Michelle Johnson provided a second. All present voted in favor with no abstentions and the motion was carried.

**c. Treasurer**

Kathryn Dilley, Board Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Reports for September 2020.

**\*\*Action:**

Vince Radosta made a motion to accept the September 2020 Treasurer's Report as written. Michelle Johnson a second. All present voted in favor to accept the September 2020 Treasurer's Report with no abstentions and the motion was carried.

**d. Director's Report**

- Thank you for completing the survey asking if you felt comfortable attending an in-person Board retreat.
- The Board retreat is scheduled for November 19, 2020 at the Chesapeake Bay Beach Club. Invitations will be sent out soon.
- This year's theme is "Now, New, Next".
- The facilitator is Rob Levitt.

**e. Committee Updates:**

**Back Pack Committee – Vince Radosta:**

- The Back Pack Committee continues to supply weekend food at the five sites: Bayside Elementary, Grasonville Elementary, Church Hill Elementary, Queen Anne's County High School, and Sudlersville Middle School.
- Also supply food for students who are in school: 30 Sudlersville Middle, 30 Sudlersville Elementary, 14 Kent Island Elementary, 10 Church Hill Elementary, 7 Grasonville Elementary and 10 Kennard Elementary. Supply weekend food to them also.
- Plan to continue supplying food through December.
- Total distribution is just under 400, roughly what was provided prior to COVID.
- Student ID needs to be presented to receive food.
- The committee has not used the \$37,000 grant from QAC Commissioners, still have \$140,000 from CARES grant. Only spent

\$13,000 out of that money which needs to be spent down by the end of the year, December 31, 2020.

- The committee will meet and decide what to do with the balance of the CARES money.
- Is requiring student ID number restricting access? How can students without student IDs be provided food? Home Schooled children would not have access. Matt Evans to look into BOE requirements to produce student ID in order to get food.

#### **Out of School Time Committee – Vince Radosta:**

- The Out of School Time Committee received \$100,000 grant for out of school time activities.
- Four applicants applied.
- Due to COVID, the applications were sent back asking for additional information as to how they would handle the COVID requirements if they were able to hold a program.
- Two of the programs, AlphaBEST and the Edge are providing a day care program. We agreed that would qualify.
- To be equitable to the all the applicants, we agreed to give each applicant \$25,000, to be reimbursed only for in-person care, not virtual.
- AlphaBEST has 17 participants, and the Edge has 27 participants. The Edge is the only applicant who asked for 25% advance to pay for supplies.
- The Committee will meet and reevaluate.
- More committee members are needed for the Back Pack Committee and Out of School Time Committee.
- Stephanie Hines would like to join Out of School Time Committee.

#### **\*\* Action:**

Matt Evans made a motion for the Board to support the Out of School Time Committee awarding the four applicants \$25,000 each out of the \$100,000 grant. Colleen Thomas provided a second. All present voted in favor with one abstention from Joan Brooks, Department of Recreation.

#### **Safety Net Committee- Matt Evans:**

- The school system has rolled out Social and Emotional Initiative and are utilizing Zones of Regulation which a representative from each school was trained and being rolled out to staff right now and ultimately rolled out to students.
- The Clifton Foundation funded a grant for Changing Perspectives (elementary schools as pilot schools).
- Suicide Prevention – BOE is required to train all certified staff yearly. Moving forward, we want to push out the training to the school community as a whole. Each school district should have a comprehensive suicide prevention program.
- Handle with Care – Four agencies support the Handle with Care Program: DSS, Sheriff's office, Emergency Services, state police. These agencies will notify schools with student's name and to "handle with care". That is notice to the school that the child experienced trauma and may need support.

- Linda Austin has formed “Christmas Angels” for students grades 3-12 who are not covered under the Adopt-A-Bear Program.
- Challenge Day was cancelled this year due to COVID.
- The committee meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday every month at 10:00. Please email Matt if you would like to join.

#### **QAC Equity Committee- Matt Evans:**

- This committee meets 4:00 p.m. the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month.
- Five subcommittees on the Equity Committee:
  - Sunday Supper – one event has already been held and another one scheduled for November 8<sup>th</sup>;
  - Educational Equity Subcommittee – November 17<sup>th</sup> will be a panel of people of color who have gone through QACPS system and/or college and in the work world to answer questions and give information about different obstacles, barriers. Open to all 7-12 grade students, it will be virtual. Hoping to expand going forward.
- The State is asking school systems to do a Root Cause Analysis of disproportionate discipline. There will be a survey. Once the survey is finalized, it will be distributed. The Education subcommittee will evaluate the surveys once completed.

#### **Strategic Planning Committee- Mike Clark:**

- The Strategic Planning Committee is working on the dashboard which measures our goals that we established at the last retreat and help layout details in regards with our agreements with our program providers.
- Also working on performance measures regarding how we’re doing with the strategies we have chosen both through our programs and otherwise.
- The next step is to prioritize the strategies that the LMB decided upon over the past year from the retreat. We will put together a survey of all the strategies and ask survey taker to put them in the order of importance from their perspective.
- This survey will be sent out to LMB board and committees. That survey will be sent out soon.
- The Strategic Planning Committee will review the results.
- The Strategic Planning Committee meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 10:00 – more committee members needed.

#### **Character Counts!- Kelly Huber:**

- This year celebrates the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Character Counts!
- Character Counts! continues to be part of the students’ virtual school day.
- Thank you to the amazing coaches for doing virtual lessons, recorded lessons.
- We have coaches at various schools.
- Partnered with QACTV and did a first episode of The Character Counts Super Show by QAC.
- All students can view monthly Character Counts! lessons.
- Hoping to partner with the libraries.
- Character Counts! lessons available on YouTube.

- Still have the support of local business, groups and organizations.
- Boy Scouts did this month's proclamation.
- Fundraising continues.
- 2020 Shore Strong Anchor Award: Character Counts won as an Organization that Makes our Community a Better Place and a Favorite Community Activity.
- Mike Clark also wanted to recognize Kelly Huber who was voted Favorite Community Volunteer with the Biggest Heart. Congratulations, Kelly.

CPA Program Presentations:

- **Healthy Families – Nicole Chase-Powell and Jamie Jenkins**
  - Healthy Families is an evidence-based home visiting plan.
  - This year marks the 20-year anniversary. Planning a celebration, but COVID caused cancellation.
  - The program is voluntary and provides services to new parents, expecting parents.
  - May enroll prenatally or up until the child is 3 months old.
  - Family Support Specialist (FSS) models parenting skills, child development skills and does parent/child activities with the family with Growing Great Kids curriculum.
  - The curriculum has been through some upgrades preparing children to preschool.
  - Target populations: new or expecting parents in QAC, who are eligible for MD children health program, who have medical assistance or who are uninsured.
  - Servicing 37 families with 38 children, and currently outreaching 6 families.
  - First quarter: 161 visits.
  - One of the key performance measures is making sure that our families are receiving and using resources to establish self-sufficiency. This is tracked through a HFPI screening and Life Progression Screening.
  - Healthy Families also tracks child abuse or neglect cases or if any child has been removed.
  - To date, no reports.
  - Another key performance measure is tracking to see if our families work.
  - What is different this year is we're having to do virtual visits – no face-to-face visits. Some clients have WIFI issues and so then a phone call is placed instead.
  - Also having issues with our Spanish speaking families. The State gives only certain platforms to use. WhatsApp has been removed, which that population uses a lot.
  - Activity bags are dropped off at the door for the families in the program.
  - Also planning to do Christmas baskets for each family this year.
  - Only a small number of families are not fully engaged due to virtual visits, but for the most part, the families are able to stay engaged.
  - Goals for this year to maintain our families and provide resources.
  - Staff only work in person one day a week, the rest of the week is teleworking.
  - Thank you to the Board and Jennifer Stansbury for being supportive.
- **Family Navigation – Carolyn Blades and Sandra Yetkin** (See attached).

- **CommUNITY Mentoring – Patricia Hackleman**

- The mentoring program has seen tremendous changes this year.
- Initially there were difficulties identifying mentees.
- Our program focuses on the At-Risk Youth (grades 8-12), and Disconnected Youth (16-24) who are not in school and not working.
- Mentoring opened a resource center at Fisher Manor and the program grew to 30 mentees and 19 mentors.
- The health pandemic has caused mentoring to slow down at the resource center because the center cannot accommodate mentoring while social distancing.
- The program is able to utilize the Resource Center for lunch distributions on Mondays.
- The program's greater need now is tutoring our At-Risk youth population.
- Currently the program has 19 mentees and 6 mentors.
- The program is considering utilizing Peer Mentors to tutor At-Risk Youth.
- 19 referrals are pending until new mentors are recruited.
- One-on-one mentoring has been difficult.
- DJS has given several referrals.
- Please spread the word that CommUNITY Mentoring is seeking mentors.
- Grasonville Community Center will be utilized for tutoring At-Risk Youth and also mentoring for Disconnected Youth.
- A mentor needs to 18 years old age.
- 6-hour on-line training class – which is challenging to some potential mentors.
- Commit to the program for at least one year.

**Achievement Mentoring:** - Kia Reed (See attached).

**Local Care Team:** Lisa Michaels (See Attached).

**Transportation Voucher Program** – Mike Clark (See Attached)

### **Adjournment and Announcements:**

Reminder – the FY21 LMB Board of Directors Retreat is scheduled for Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-3:00 p.m. at the Chesapeake Bay Beach Club. Please RSVP.

A motion was made by Vince Radosta to end the meeting. A second was provided by Colleen Thomas. All present voted in favor and the meeting was ended.