

**Queen Anne's County**  
**Community Partnerships for Children and Families (LMB)**  
**Minutes**  
**February 17, 2021**  
Virtual Meeting

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

**Members Present:**

Karla Altamirano, Community Member  
Joan Brooks, QAC Recreation  
Susan Coppage, Department of Social Services  
Jessica Denny, Community Member  
Kathryn Dilley, Mid Shore Behavioral Health  
Matt Evans, Board of Education  
Scott Evans, Community Member  
Bobbi Graef, QAC Department of Health  
Stephanie Hines, Community Member  
Michelle Johnson, Community Member

Sgt. John Meyers, QAC Sheriff's Department  
Maynard Nash, County Ride  
Vince Radosta, Community Member  
Laura Roth, Community Member  
Lauren Searce, 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  
Rebecca Rombro, Resource Development Specialist  
Jennifer Stansbury, Operation Specialist and Office Coordinator II

**Member Regrets:**

Reverend Elmer Davis, Community Member  
Alana Ellis, Student Member (QACHS)  
Margie Houck, County Commissioners

Jason Mullen, Chesapeake College (proxy to Chairman)

**Guests:**

Amy Cummins, Out of School Time Committee  
Kelly Huber, Character Counts!  
John Plaskon, Corsica River

- 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 January 2021 for approval.

**\*\*Action:**

Colleen Thomas moved to approve the January 20, 2021 minutes as written. Lauren Kay Weber 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 Report for January 2021.

**\*\*Action:**

Vince Radosta made a motion to accept the January 2021 Treasurer's Report as written. Jessica Denny provided a second. All present voted in favor to accept the January 2021 Treasurer's Report with no abstentions and the motion was carried.

**d. Director's Report**

- The Director's Report is included with the Board packet.
- The County now has a Covid Call Center. The call center is comprised of volunteers from various departments from the County to field general calls regarding the Covid vaccination.
- Sen. Hershey is offering high schools seniors college scholarships.
- Most Maryland delegates offer higher education scholarships.
- The County budget requires we submit their budget prior to the CPA. Staff is currently working on that.
- There are no budget cuts to the CPA, the same amount that we are budgeted for currently. However, the budget cuts for FY21 have not been restored.

**e. Committee Updates:**

**Back Pack Committee – Vince Radosta:**

- The Back Pack Committee is still going strong.
- Over 2,000 bags were distributed in January, over 500 bags a week. Up from Christmas.
- The food distribution schedule has been disrupted or cancelled since the new hybrid schedule has started.
- The Back Pack coordinators are reaching out to school counselors for in-school Back Packs and the committee is estimating 200-300 back packs per week. That will flex by how many families have returned their kids to the classroom v. virtual instruction at home.

- Continue to be in good shape with funds. \$37,675 from the Commissioners' funds (use by June 30<sup>th</sup>) \$18,000 from donation money.
- Numbers will change as kids get back into the classroom.
- Currently the committee has no needs.
- The committee is distributed food in conjunction with Board of Education. It would be difficult to move the distribution off-site, but not impossible. We have delivered directly to people.
- Seven days' worth of food is given out, 5 days from BOE and 2 from the Back Pack Committee.
- Adjustment will be made to accommodate school schedules.

**Safety Net Committee- Matt Evans:**

- The Safety Net Committee continues to meet monthly.
- Currently the BOE is writing a grant for funds offered by CIGNA to train staff in Social Emotional Learning, Zones of Regulations.
- The committee is planning an outdoor spring event, Rapping About Prevention, anti-vaping and tobacco awareness. In addition to the outdoor community event, all students 6-7th grade will be offered this event during school time virtually.
- The outdoor event is scheduled for May 15th at Matapeake Clubhouse in the morning and Sudlersville Park in the afternoon.
- Waiting on a quote and contract from vendor.

**QAC Equity Committee- Matt Evans:**

- The Education Subcommittee had an event on February 4<sup>th</sup>, a virtual panel, Navigating Living Your Dream as a Black Person.
- This event was very well received with 103 participants.
- The event was two full hours. A lot of great questions were asked.
- Facilitators did a great job.
- Looking to plan future paneled events.
- Next event geared to Spanish population.

**Strategic Planning Committee- Mike Clark:**

- CPA Application Update
  - Reminder – 1. The Board voted to approve the current funding for the strategies as for FY21 to FY22. We'll be putting forth an application very similar in budget and strategies as in the current years.
  - Also voted to approve Strategic Planning Committee in partnership with the Executive Committee's recommendations to finalize the application.
  - The LMB has sent an email to our current program providers asking if there were any changes. A lot of the programs' input will be used to put into the application.
  - Becky and Jennifer are reviewing application and the budget.
- Strategic Plan Updates.

- Strategic Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for next week to discuss how far we've gotten on the application and to determine the strategies apart from the CPA that we would like to work on.

### **III. Presentation from “Non-CPA Funded Programs”**

#### **1. Out of School Time Activities – Amy Cummins and Joan Brooks**

- Amy Cummins position is now funded through the Board of Education.

#### **AlphaBEST**

- AlphaBEST is a one-year program of day care but it is enriched with academics.
- Looking forward to another 2-year extension in our contract.
- Pre-COVID AlphaBEST's slogan was “when school is out, we're on”.
- Committed to fostering and supporting the successes for each individual child in partnership with family and school.
- The program includes technology, arts, sports/fitness and entertainment.
- It is an extension of the school day.
- A typical day would start 4 blocks 1. Attendance/snack recreation 2. Homework 3. STEM and 4. Clubs/service learning. And there are rotations.
- Considering offering a summer school program but must have 25 children to meet enrollment.
- Most of enrollment is at Bayside Elementary School.
- Every summer is designed differently and is offered at Kent Island Elementary School only.
- Scholarships are provided and Punch Passes.
- The program just started the hybrid program – a starter program back in October at Kent Island Elementary School with 25 kids to help parents who are working.
- Considered to offer the program at Centreville Elementary School, but there is a staffing concern there.
- Looking forward to moving forward.

#### **The Edge Academy**

- The Edge Academy has been working to support the children of the community through their program.

#### **Partnering for Youth (PFY)**

- Partnering for Youth had a short program and will be moving to more programming starting soon as we move forward in the hybrid schedule.
- Moving slowly into this new normal.
- The grant money has been incredible and appreciated by all the outside groups.

#### **Parks & Recreation**

- Parks and Recreation programs have been outside. In the fall we had successful outdoor activities collaborating with the school system to offer programs to the high school students.
- Parks and Recreation relies on school buildings to hold their activities.
- Parks and Recreation do not have access to school buildings, but are still paying rent.
- Parks and Recreation is moving forward with spring programs.
- Outdoor activities are highly successful.
- QAC County Commissioners are backing Parks & Recreation having access to school buildings.
- A lot of fall activities scheduled.
- Working with Karla and the County Commissioners are advocating for Parks & Recreation have access to the school buildings.
- The Out of School Time Committee awarded AlphaBEST, The Edge Academy, QAC Parks & Recreation, and Partnering for Youth \$25,000 each. To date, The Edge Academy has drawn from their account. QAC Parks & Recreation plans to invoice soon.

## 2. Character Counts! – Kelly Huber

- Kelly has been the Coach Specialist now for 4 years.
- The Character Counts! program began from Columbine tragedy and 20 years ago QAC people came together and encouraged a program like Character Counts!
- Character Counts! vision is to create a community where people of all ages practice the 6 pillars of character.
- Recruiting, training and supporting Character Counts! coaches is very important, but it is easy to recruit for something I'm passionate about.
- Pre-Covid, the program typically would have over 100 coaches.
- Students become attached to their coaches.
- Coaches are volunteers from the community, business owners, county employees, neighbors, police, etc.
- Last year we piloted a student coach program (junior and seniors. from high school).
- Always looking for additional coaches.
- Coaches are role models – someone kids can look up to.
- Amazing feeling being a coach.
- Character Counts is still going strong with coaches doing virtual lessons.
- The program has been collaborating with QACTV for lessons.
- Most schools are sharing link with their classes.
- Lessons go to school as a reminder of Character Counts.
- 9 coaches have been with Character Counts for over 10 years.
- Teen of Character Scholarship is being offered again this year.
- Appreciation dinner hopefully this year where we can honor coaches and school personnel.
- Character Counts continues to be a big part of the community.
- Each monthly proclamation is read by the County Commissioners.

- IV.** Mental Health in Queen Anne's County.
1. Overview of Queen Anne's County (&Mid Shore) – Katie Dilley (See Attached).
  2. "First" Mental Health Clinic in Queen Anne's County – John Plaskon (See Attached).

**Adjournment and Announcements:**

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