

**Queen Anne's County**  
**Community Partnerships for Children and Families (LMB)**  
**Minutes**  
**May 19, 2021**  
Virtual Meeting

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

**Members Present:**

Joan Brooks, QAC Recreation  
Kathryn Dilley, Mid Shore Behavioral Health  
Matt Evans, Board of Education  
Scott Evans, Community Member  
Michelle Johnson, Community Member  
Lt. Mark Meil, QAC Sheriff's Department  
Jason Mullen, Chesapeake College  
Vince Radosta, Community Member

Laura Roth, Community Member  
Lauren Scarce, Department of Juvenile  
Services  
Colleen Thomas, Community Member  
Mary Ann Thompson, Community Member  
Lauren Kay Weber, Community Member

**Administrative Staff:**

Michael Clark, Director  
Jennifer Stansbury, Office Coordinator III

**Member Regrets:**

Karla Altamirano, Community Member  
Susan Coppage, Department of Social  
Services  
Jessica Denny, Community Member  
Reverend Elmer Davis, Community Member  
Alana Ellis, Student Member (QACHS)  
Bobbi Graef, Department of Health

Stephanie Hines, Community Member  
Margie Houck, County Commissioners  
Maynard Nash, Transit Department  
Jone Taylor, Children's Council

**I. Welcome:**

Mary Ann Thompson called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m.

**II. LMB Updates & Reports:**

**a. Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee met on May 10, 2021, and approved today's agenda.

No decisions were made by the Executive Committee that needs to be ratified by the Board.

**b. Secretary**

Vince Radosta, Vice President and Secretary presented the meeting minutes from April 2021 for approval.

**\*\*Action:**

Lauren Kay Weber moved to approve the April 21, 2021 minutes as written. Colleen Thomas 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 April 2021.

**\*\*Action:**

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

**d. Committee Updates:**

**Membership Committee – Mary Ann Thompson**

- Tabled for next meeting in June 2021.

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

- Committee met on May 18, 2021.
- Board of Education received two applications to provide before and after school childcare.
- Based on points graded for each application, the Out of School Time (OOST) Committee recommends that the Board of Education select AlphaBest Education as the funding award recipient.

**\*\*Action:**

LMB endorses the results of the OOST Committee's review of the RFP applications and recommends that the QABOE approves the OOST Committee's recommendation to award the contract to AlphaBest Education. Laura Roth made a motion to accept the OOST's recommendation to the Board of Education. Lauren Searce provided a second. All present voted in favor with no abstentions and the motion was carried.

**III. Retreat – Rob Levit – Now Next New**

Mike Clark introduced Rob Levit, our consultant for the Board Retreat. Mr. Levit began the retreat by having the board members in attendance introduce themselves, how long they've been with the County and what role they play, plus an interesting fact about them that was not known to the others.

**Activity I – Opening Reflection:**

- Where were we successful?
  - Adopting number of programs (i.e. transportation voucher program) to fit with COVID restrictions

- Committees/sub-committees continued to come together and provide services
  - Continuity of services was a huge benefit
  - In some cases, attendance increased with virtual platforms
  - Leadership by LMB Leaders (Board President, LMB Director, Executive Committee)
- ◆ Where did we struggle?
    - LMB funding was cut by the State
    - Became deficit-oriented during the switch from Governor's Office for Children to Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention and aligning with Governor's priorities
    - Making adjustments
    - With virtual meetings when used to meeting in-person
    - Non-profits, faith-based, volunteers – funding drying up, personnel and volunteers burning out
- ◆ What did we learn?
    - Was too much emphasis placed on Continuity of services? – are we in an echo chamber? Have we gone stale?
    - All of the different service agencies pulling together their resources and manpower as one unit to provide whatever was needed by the community
    - Importance of children's needs – childcare, tutoring, nutrition, mental health
    - Rate of need has grown, while ability to pay for services has dropped
    - Resiliency of people to make things work regardless of obstacles due to pandemic.
    - Not giving enough credit to everyone for their hard work.
    - Telehealth – had both pros and cons
      - Occurring in the home may not have given it the level of confidentiality that is warranted
      - More clients were able to keep their appointments as they were working from home, didn't need childcare, didn't need transportation
- ◆ What is the opportunity (for the LMB to learn, grow, expand)?
    - Innovation – not be pigeon-holed
    - Focus on children's mental health needs, especially as they will be thrust back into social interactions when they return to school in the fall. What will be the repercussions on the child, parent, family, community, when children return to school full time?
    - School-based counseling
    - Social/emotional learning
    - Mental Health vendors – for summer school
    - Sustainability and expansion of services will be needed
    - Crisis services, emergency room diversions, and potential traumas going unaddressed

## **Activity 2 – Stir Can:**

- ◆ Shapers – factors influencing community/county
  - COVID
  - Burnout
  - Housing – lack of affordable housing
  - Access to internet and technology
  - Mental health
  - Transportation – to employment, medical appointments
  - Educational learning gaps
  - Job training (technical trades) – increased need for trades and youth to apply
  
- ◆ What is most important has most potential (to focus our energies on)?
  - Affordable housing – eviction process will begin shortly causing a bigger problem
  - Support teachers to keep them from burning out
  - Support parents/families through re-engagement
  
- ◆ What can proactively be done? Strategies?
  - Start looking through a different lens after each decision is made at meetings
  - Take time at the end of each meeting to check ourselves and make sure we are making decisions based on needs of the community
  - Planning of needs
  - Adapting
  - Collaborating
  - Be more flexible
  - Be realistic
  - Bring more stakeholders to the meetings
  - Marketing
  - Connection with the faith-based organizations as they have their fingers on the pulse of the community, and are the experts in the field for homelessness, hunger, etc.