

Queen Anne's County
Community Partnerships for Children and Families (LMB)
Minutes
February 16, 2022
Virtual

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
Scott Evans, Community Member
Justin Hoyt, Community Member
Michelle Johnson, Community Member
Lt. Mark Meil, QAC Sheriff's Department
Jason Mullen, Chesapeake College

Maynard Nash, Transit Department
Lauren Scarce, Department of Juvenile Services
Sara Shelley, Community Member
Jone Taylor, Children's Council
Colleen Thomas, Community Member
Olivia Tryon, Student Member

Administrative Staff:

Michael Clark, Director
Lisa Michaels, Office Coordinator I
Rebecca Rombro, Resource Development Specialist
Jennifer Stansbury, Operations Specialist and Office Coordinator III

Member Regrets:

J Rev. Elmer Davis, Community Member
Alana Ellis, Student Member (QACHS)
Matt Evans, Board of Education
Bobbi Graef, Department of Health

Margie Houck, County Commissioners
Cameron Ronayne, Community Member
Mary Ann Thompson, Community Member (Proxy Given to Chairman)
Lauren Kay Weber, Community Member

Guest:

Linda Walls, Guardian Grands

- I. **Welcome:**
Michelle Johnson called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m.
- II. **LMB Updates & Reports:**

A. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met on February 14, 2022. The Executive Committee approved the agenda for today's Board meeting. No official decisions were made that need to be ratified by the Board.

B. Secretary

Michelle Johnson, Vice President and Secretary presented the meeting minutes from January 19, 2022, for approval.

****Action:**

Joan Brooks moved to approve the January 19, 2022, 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 January 2022.

****Action:**

Susan Coppage made a motion to accept the January 2022 Treasurer's Report as written. Colleen Thomas provided a second. All present voted in favor to accept the January 2022 Treasurer's Report with no abstentions and the motion was carried.

D. Director's Report:

Thank you to Linda Walls for presenting at today's meeting on Guardian Grands.

Please see your Board packets for the full Director's Report

E. Committee Updates:

• **Backpack Committee – Scott Evans**

- The Committee met on February 9th to review numbers.
- Four hundred and fifty children per month are receiving bags.
- As of right now, the program has leveled out.
- The numbers were the same for October, November, December, and January.
- A special thank you to Godfrey Farms for helping the program with storage space.
- The program continues to receive food from the Maryland Food Bank and will do so through March. After March, that resource will be going away which will be affecting our funds.
- The program requested a 5% increase for FY 23 from the County Commissioners.
- The next meeting will be in May as we look toward the summer.
- It is unknown what the schools plan to do over the summer.

- **Character Counts! – Susan Coppage**
 - The Advisory Committee met this morning. Coaches are able to go back into schools starting on Monday.
 - In the meantime, Character Counts! has been working with QACTV to do another video. Fourteen coaches participated.
 - The Committee does plan to have a volunteer appreciation event which will look a little different this year. A tentative event date is May 12, 2022. More information to come.
 - Kelly Huber has been working with National Character Counts and has discussed QAC becoming a member to allow for more resources, technical assistance, and trainings.
 - We plan to attend the April 12th County Commissioners meeting along with the Scouts from Sudlersville. Minary's Dream Alliance attended the County Commissioner's meeting in January.
 - The Advisory Group would like to increase membership. Please contact Kelly Huber, Mike Clark or myself if you would like to be a member.

- **Children's Council – Jone Taylor**
 - The Children's Council is hosting a Mental Health State of the Child Summit on May 24, 2022 from 12-4:00 at Chesapeake College.
 - Lisa Michaels will send out the invite link to all LMB Board Members.
 - The purpose of the summit is to assess the impact of the pandemic to our children and initiate a needs assessment of possible resources. Lunch will be served. There will be a key note speaker, panel discussion, and break-out session.

- **Out of School Time Committee – Lauren Searce**
 - There is a meeting scheduled for February 28, 2022. At that time the Committee will discuss Alphabest, Partnering for Youth, and Parks and Recreation.
 - The Committee will have two presentations – Giving the Edge Foundation, and also David Pritchard from Club on the Go (Boys and Girls of Cecil County).

- **Safety Net Committee**
 - QACPS has a wellness website which is updated daily.
 - An assembly is being organized for all 6th graders in the County entitled Rapping About Prevention on April 7th and 8th.
 - A social media and cyber bullying assembly is being planned for 7th graders. This will be virtual.
 - Looking into a possible assembly on compassion and empathy for everything that is going on in society today.

- **Strategic Planning Committee – Michelle Johnson**
 - Achievement Mentoring has hired a new coordinator for that program. That program will be up and running again soon.

- **Need Assessment Update – Rebecca Rombro**
 - The LMB is conducting a Needs Assessment – hoping to gain insight from the whole community to determine how the County is doing meeting certain needs.
 - The Strategic Planning Committee has selected Kulik Strategic Advisers (KSA), and we have started the initial pre-work such as organizing, determining what we want to ask and who to ask. In addition, KSA has been designing surveys and translations into Spanish.
 - Staff has provided a spreadsheet of suggested key informant interviews.
 - Heather Witt has been reaching out to everyone on our list.
 - So far 25 key informant interviews have been scheduled and another 35 or more are in the process of being scheduled.
 - Four organizations will be hosting focus groups, the Family Center, DSS, YMCA, and the Health Department.
 - KSA plans to be in town March 24-30 to host in-person focus groups. Hope to have some of them in the evenings.
 - There has been a big push of our flyer and survey this week and last week. The survey is now live.
 - Residents can also complete the survey by calling the 1-800 phone number. Hard copies of the survey are also available.
 - The feedback thus far regarding the County's weakness is housing issues, mental health and substance abuse, and access to public healthcare.
 - The feedback regarding the County's strengths is partnerships, strong collaborations, trust, Mike Clark as leader.
 - Added the survey to kindergarten orientation, and seniors at the high schools.
 - KSA will give \$10.00 Food Lion gift cards to participants who attend in-person focus groups.

III. Community Partnership Agreement Fiscal Year 2023 – Mike Clark

- RFP – Release and Due Date:
 - The NOFA was released on January 21st, and it is due March 25th. The due date this year is earlier than usual.
 - Becky Rombro is writing the grant and there is a tight timeline.
 - The Governor's office has added \$3 million dollars to the state budget for LMBs for fiscal year FY23. These additional funds still have to survive the general assembly.
 - We would prefer to be given more time to brainstorm how to best use the additional funds.
 - This additional money will allow the LMB to do new things that members on this Board would like us to do and does not require us to cut programs. Will keep you posted.
 - The CPA asked us to prioritize the goals. The LMB will keep the same results as last year and perhaps next year discuss results based on the Needs Assessment.

- The LMB currently supports Achievement Mentoring, Community Mentoring, Transportation Voucher Program, Family Navigation, Healthy Families, and the Local Care Team.

****Action:** Jessica Denny proposed a motion to accept the Strategic Planning Committee's recommendation to request funding for the same strategies in the fiscal year 2023 Community Partnership Agreement application that were funded in the fiscal year 2022 CPA agreement. Jone Taylor provided a second. All present voted in favor with no abstentions and the motion was carried.

****Action:** Jone Taylor made a motion to Empower the Strategic Planning Committee in partnership with the Executive Committee to make the decisions necessary in order to submit the fiscal year 2023 Community Partnership Application on behalf of the Queen Anne's County Local Management Board. Colleen Thomas provided a second. All present voted in favor with no abstentions and the motion was carried.

IV. Program Review – Guardian Grands Project – Linda Walls (See Attached)

- We are seeing an uptick in families where grands are taking care of the children in their families.
- Personally, a niece and her husband have substance abuse disorder and they have two children. Linda spoke of her journey, in keeping a Milestone Log, in taking care of her grandniece.
- Linda spoke about trying to find resources for someone in her position, as a grand-aunt.
- Social Services, Health Department, and the Local Management Board were helpful in her journey of taking care of her grand-niece.
- Linda is hopeful that her niece gets the treatment she needs for her substance abuse disorder.
- The family has pulled together, along with the resources within the County, to save her grand-niece and nephew.
- Grands need resources to learn the new technologies and social media.
- Possible issue is when the grands get sick. Who will take care of the grands?
- Resources for grands are spread out. It would be helpful if there was one-stop resource that could assist the grands.
- Linda has met about 100 other grands in her travels.
- Numbers have increased due to the opioid crisis.
- Trying to get the resource out to people in the community in the situation.
- The LMB would like to support you however we can.
- DSS is very interested in the Project and DSS has the resources to help the Project.
- DSS is interested in forming a support group so that grands have someone to talk to.
- QACTV is willing to help spread the word.
- Jennifer Evans, DSS, has resources for the Project. Linda will set up time to meet with Susan Coppage and Jennifer Evans.
- The Needs Assessment may have feedback from grands.
- The Nurturing Program would be another great resource. The coordinator is Jone Taylor.

VI. Announcements and Adjourn.

- Next Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at 11:30 a.m.

Joan Brooks made a motion to end the meeting, Susan Coppage provided a second. All voted in favor of ending the meeting.