

Queen Anne's County
Community Partnerships for Children and Families (LMB)
Board of Directors
Minutes
April 19, 2023
In-Person with Virtual Option

Members Present:

Matt Evans, Board of Education
Scott Evans, Community Member
Jessica Denny, Community Member
Katie Dilley, Mid Shore Behavioral Health
Patrick Kirk, Community Member
Lt. Mark Meil, QAC Sheriff's Department
James Miller, QAC Recreation
Jason Mullen, Chesapeake College
Deyanica Murga, Community Member

Stephen Palmer, Transit Department
Cameron Ronayne, Community Member
Lauren Searce, Department of Juvenile
Services
Jody Simmons, QAC Department of Social
Services
Jone Taylor, Children's Council
Colleen Thomas, Community Member
Mary Ann Thompson, Community Member

Administrative Staff:

Lacey Amos, Resource and Development
Specialist
Michael Clark, Director
Lisa Michaels, Office Coordinator
Melinda Ray, CharacterCounts!
Jennifer Stansbury, Operations Specialist

Member Regrets:

Pastor Mark Farnell, Community Member
Bobbi Graef, Department of Health
Margie Houck, County Commissioners
Justin Hoyt, Community Member
Ashley Kaiser, Community Member

Sara Shelley, Community Member
Olivia Tryon, Student Member

Guest:

Nicole Chase-Powell, Healthy Families
Vince Radosta, Out of School Time Committee
Robert Wooley, The Edge

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 on April 10, 2023. The Executive Committee reviewed and approved the agenda. No decisions were made that needed the full Board's ratification.

B. Secretary

Jody Simmons, designee for Susan Coppage, Vice President/Secretary, presented the meeting minutes from March 15, 2023, for approval.

****Action:**

Jone Taylor moved to approve the March 15, 2023 minutes as written. Patrick Kirk provided a second. All present voted in favor with no abstentions and the motion was carried.

C. Treasurer

Kathryn Dilley, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report for March 2023, for approval.

****Action:**

Jone Taylor made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for March 2023 as written. Matt Evans provided a second. All present voted in favor to accept the Treasurer's Report for March 2023 with no abstentions and the motion was carried.

D. Director's Report:

- Stuff the Bus Presentation – Stephen Palmer, Transit Administrator. See Attached.
- Connected Device Program
 - The Commissioners have signed the Memorandum of Understanding, and it has been forwarded to the State.
 - The LMB staff is currently working on an online application.
 - Staff is working collaboratively with QAC Department of Aging and the Queen Anne's County Free Library to develop an efficient and fair process for distributing the devices.
 - The tentative delivery date for the computers is at the beginning of May.
- Community Partnership Agreement (CPA) Update:
 - The initial feedback regarding our submission has been positive. The application did not require any amendments at this stage.
 - There is no new funding available for FY24.

See the complete Director's Report in your Board Packets.

E. Committee Updates:

- Backpack Committee – Scott Evans
 - The committee has not met recently.
 - 500-600 backpacks are distributed monthly, but saw a spike in March with 700 backpacks distributed.
 - Donated funds are being used now to cover expenses at churches and for summer school.

- CharacterCounts! – Jody Simmons
 - Welcome Melinda Ray, our new CharacterCounts! Coordinator.
 - The Faye Lister scholarship application deadline has passed.
 - Twenty-two applications were received.
 - There is a volunteer appreciation dinner tomorrow night.

- Children's Council – Jone Taylor
 - The Committee met last week and had a presentation on cyberbullying.
 - Data was reviewed from the State of The Child Summit held last year. (attached).
 - Eric Johnson would be happy to present this data to the LMB.

- Membership Committee – Mary Ann Thompson
 - There are four vacancies on the Board for FY24.
 - The Board vacancies have been advertised through social media and newspapers.
 - One resume and letter of interest have been received to date.
 - The committee does have a few people lined up already.
 - The Board will be presented with a slate at May's meeting.
 - Matt Evans will recruit a student board member.

- Out of School Time Committee (OOST) – Lauren Scearce
 - A letter was sent to the committee from the Matapeake Elementary School principal commending the AlphaBEST program.
 - PFY hired Ms. Paula Harris.

- Safety Net Committee – Matt Evans
 - The committee met just prior to this meeting.
 - There will be no meeting in May, June, or July, but will reconvene in August.
 - Suicide Prevention - Queen Anne County Board of Education is partnering with the boards from Talbot & Caroline Counties to bring in Alex Boye'. He is an artist, speaker, and a YouTube star. His style is to provide suicide prevention messages through a diverse blend of African-infused pop music and vibrant dynamic visuals. Matt reported that the plan is to have him present to the high schools during his time in Queen Anne 's County.
 - Social Media Safety – The organization for social media safety was scheduled to present at several schools on April 11 & 12th. However, the presenter had a medical emergency and had to cancel. It was decided to reschedule the event to the week of September 11th. There are also plans is to expand from 7th graders to all middle school grades. The event will include student presentations during the day along with a virtual parent presentation each evening at 6:00 p.m.
 - Ray Lozano's training - was provided to grades 6 through 8 and appeared to be well received. Principals also gave it high marks.

- R.A.P. - (Rapping About Prevention) occurred on April 13th and 14th for the 6th graders and it went well. The students were engaged, and the principals gave very positive feedback.
- Safe Schools Maryland - is Maryland's official anonymous reporting system available to students, teachers, school staff members, parents, and the public to report any school or student safety concerns, including mental health concerns. Joe Saboury, School Safety Coordinator, reported that he has distributed letters to parents and guardians regarding Safe Schools Maryland during the past month.
- Christmas Angels will be working over the summer collecting items.
- Strategic Planning Committee – Mary Ann Thompson
 - There was no meeting this month.
 - No update.

III. Healthy Families Update – Nicole Chase-Powell (See Attached)

IV. Out of School Time Activities in Queen Anne's County – Vince Radosta

- History of the Out of School Time Committee (OOST):
 - In 2010, Partnering for Youth (PFY) was the only certified after school program.
 - A few independent programs existed during this time, but these programs were mostly childcare after school, charging a fee to the parents.
 - PFY and Dr. Williamson asked the QAC LMB for funding to help cover costs after running out of their State grants.
 - The LMB formed a committee (OOST) and the committee met with the superintendent and the PFY Director numerous times.
 - At that time, PFY was not mapped for the entire school year and were not in all the schools.
 - The committee surveyed elementary and middle school parents with 22% middle school and 39% elementary school parents not satisfied with available after school programs.
 - The committee's recommendation to the LMB was to funds to cover costs for a PFY director for the first year.
 - AlphaBEST was the first program selected (through an RFP) for an after school program
 - The LMB secures \$200,000 from the County Commissioners every year to fund programs for out of school time. \$100,00 is for PFY specifically, and the other \$100,000 is for other after school programs through an RFP.
 - OOST currently funds four programs.
 - Paula Harris is now in charge of PFY programs.
 - Ms. Harris is new.
- **Partnering for Youth (PFY), Matt Evans (See Attached)**
- **AlphaBEST – Vince Radosta**
 - AlphaBEST was the first off-site program approved by the County.
 - They provide scholarships to students.

- AlphaBEST is a nation-wide program.
 - QAC was their first Maryland county.
 - The program offers before and after school care, and days when school is not in session.
 - AlphaBEST is mainly in the elementary schools and some middle schools.
 - Parents love this program.
 - Transportation is not provided, and they do charge a fee.
 - AlphaBEST does pay for use of BOE sites.
 - AlphaBEST has an accredited schedule, providing sports, arts, and academic schedule. They provide homework assistance too.
 - Flexible scheduling for childcare.
- **QAC Recreation – James Miller (See attached)**
 - **The Edge 360 – Robert Wooley**
 - During COVID, their program was a fully certified Department of Education program with 3 qualified teachers in the event school did not go back to session.
 - 27 families were waiting for those spots and the program was successful.
 - Post-Covid, when schools did go back in session, the program went back to their more traditional model, but with a more qualified approach. This approach offered a more organized day.
 - Funding from the LMB has assisted with the Edge 360 keeping down registration costs.
 - The program offers half day and full day programming.
 - Added an extra day during spring break and great enrollment.
 - Ratios are very small and lots of personal interaction and minimal conflicts.

VI. Announcements and Adjournment

- Next LMB meeting is May 17, 2023 at 11:30 a.m. at 107 North Liberty Street, Centreville, in the County Commissioner’s meeting room.
- No Such Thing as A Bad Child Training May 18, 2023, Chesapeake College

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Matt Evans. Patrick Kirk provided a second. All present voted in favor with no abstentions and the motion was carried.