

**CABARRUS COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
Tuesday, October 24, 2023**

The Board of Directors of the Cabarrus County Partnership for Children met on Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. at the Cabarrus County Partnership for Children Office and via requested Zoom link, which was advertised on our website and in our newsletter. District Court Judge Beth Street presided over the meeting.

These board members were present:

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. Judge Beth Street | Government/Judge |
| 2. Gil Small | Community/Faith Community |
| 3. Marcella Beam | CHA/Community/Services (participated virtually) |
| 4. Pam Smith | CCM/Community/Services |
| 5. Steve Morris | County Commissioner/Government |
| 6. Patrick Graham | CFEA/Community/Services (participated virtually) |
| 7. Jackie Whitfield | Community/Faith Community (participated virtually) |
| 8. Kevin Garay | Government/Superintendent Kannapolis City Schools |
| 9. Malisha Ross | Services/Partners BHM |
| 10. Lora Lipe | Government/DHS/Subsidy |
| 11. Melanie Holles | Government/Libraries |
| 12. Danielle Mauldin | Owner of Kids Korner/Services |

These board members were absent:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 1. Amos McClorey | Services/NAACP |
| 2. John Kopicki | Government/Superintendent Cabarrus County Schools |

A quorum was present.

These staff members were present: Ann Benfield, Patricia Sehorn, Ariel Ayers, and Lauren Westin

Welcome:

Judge Beth Street welcomed board members and thanked them for attending the board meeting. The group went around the table and introduced themselves as there were new Board Members in attendance.

Approval of Agenda:

The Board reviewed the agenda for today's meeting. Ann Benfield requested that the item re: Karen Ponder Award designation be removed, since it was previously discussed and decided upon.

Pam Smith made a motion to approve the agenda with the above change.

2nd: Malisha Ross

All were in favor.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

The board reviewed the consent agenda documents that were emailed to members prior to the meeting, including: Minutes of August 22, 2023 board meeting, October 2023 ED Report, FY23-24 SS Expenditures, FY23-24 NCPK Expenditures, FY23-24 Other Funds Report, FY23-24 SUN Project Report, and NEW board meeting schedule.

Steve Morris made a motion to approve the consent agenda items.

2nd: Gil Small

All were in favor.

FY 2022 Form 990 Tax Return Draft:

Ariel Ayers noted that the full 990 had been sent via email ahead of the meeting for the board to review, and the Treasurer, Gil Small, reviewed it at length with Ariel. It was prepared by an Independent CPA, separate from our regular audit. No further questions regarding the 990 were presented at the meeting.

Gil Small made a motion to accept the 990.

2nd: Malisha Ross.

All were in favor.

Smart Start Advocate Invoice:

Ann Benfield presented that this group hired a lobbyist to lobby the legislature on behalf of Smart Start. The network splits the cost and it is Cabarrus County's turn again to contribute. Steve Morris clarified that this invoice is something that we have paid in the past and it is a worthwhile expenditure.

Steve Morris made the motion to approve and pay the invoice.

2nd: Danielle Mauldin.

All were in favor.

FY24-29 Strategic Plan Update:

Ann Benfield presented that we have almost completed the current strategic plan and the NC Partnership for Children is asking questions and watching the local partnership's strategic planning process closely. The new FY 2024 – 2029 Strategic Plan will be created with the help of Robbie Furr, who is a former Board Chair and has a long history and knowledge of Smart Start will be heading up the Strategic Planning process for the Partnership. It will be a year long process that will most likely beginning after the new year.

State Budget Appropriation #2 Million:

Ann Benfield presented that \$2 Million was earmarked for the Cabarrus County Partnership for Children in the legislative budget. She is still trying to determine if was put there for a specific program, but from what she has heard from the legislator's office it is the surplus money from Medicaid Transformation and is not for a specific program. Ann will share information as it becomes available as to what the money is for, how we get the money, or who we need to talk to, to get the money.

Ann has been pulling information on several programs that the money could be used for, and also brainstormed with the help of the Early Education Task Force. Some of the ideas that they have come up with are:

1. Tri-Share Model: child care cost is split between the local government, employer, and employee, reducing child care costs to families.
2. Professional Development/Leadership Academy to help child care facilities as Stabilization Grants expire.
3. Substitute Service to provide coverage to child care centers with training.

Voices for Children 25th Anniversary Celebration – December 5th:

Ann Benfield presented that the Voices for Children Luncheon will be held December 5th at 12 p.m. at a new location, McGill Baptist Church. There will be a special 25th Anniversary video presentation at the luncheon this year. Please RSVP and invite others to join us.

Anne Laukaitis Champion for Children Award – Nominations:

Ann Benfield presented that so far no applications have been received for the Champion for Children award. The board discussed and decided it was best to reopen the application window for two weeks and include a list of past recipients. The Board also wants to add a note that if no applications are received the Board will select someone. The board also suggested going back through old nominees who were not chosen and contact the nominators to see if they would like to nominate the person again.

Support the Partnership – Contribution Reminder:

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Westin