

**CABARRUS COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN  
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING  
Tuesday, February 27, 2024**

The Board of Directors of the Cabarrus County Partnership for Children met on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, 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. Steve Morris      | County Commissioner/Government   |
| 5. Patrick Graham    | CFEA/Community/Services (participated virtually)                           |
| 6. Jackie Whitfield  | Community/Faith Community  |
| 7. Kevin Garay       | Government/Superintendent Kannapolis City Schools                          |
| 8. Malisha Ross      | Services/Partners BHM  |
| 9. Lora Lipe         | Government/DHS/Subsidy   |
| 10. Melanie Holles   | Government/Libraries   |
| 11. John Kopicki     | Government/Superintendent Cabarrus County Schools (participated virtually) |

**These board members were absent:**

- |                     |                               |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Amos McClorey    | Services/NAACP                |
| 2. Danielle Mauldin | Owner of Kids Korner/Services |
| 3. Pam Smith        | CCM/Community/Services        |

**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.

**Approval of Agenda:**

The Board reviewed the agenda for today's meeting.

Steve Morris made a motion to approve the agenda.

2<sup>nd</sup>: Gil Small

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 October 24, 2023 and December 5, 2023 board meetings, February 2024 ED Report, January 23, 2024 Executive Committee Minutes, FY23-24 SS Expenditures, FY23-24 NCPK Expenditures, FY23-24 Other Funds Report, and FY23-24 SUN Project Report.

Kevin Garay made a motion to approve the consent agenda items.

2<sup>nd</sup>: Steve Morris

All were in favor.

**FY 2022-2023 Financial Audit:**

Ariel Ayers note that the Financial Audit was emailed prior to the meeting and two copies have been printed for review. There were no findings on the audit. Gil Small congratulated Ariel Ayers on a job well done on the audit and thanked her for all the work.

**Program Oversight Meeting – Second Quarter:**

Lauren Westin reported that Program Oversight met earlier this month to review second quarter data and midyear outcomes. Everything is looking good for the year. The Committee also reviewed programming and approved programming for the Annual Submission of Activities to NCPC. These approvals come as recommendations from the committee for the Board’s approval. The Board voted on each program with conflicted members abstaining from the vote.

Program Oversight Recommendations for FY24-25 Programming								
Activity	FY24-25 Ranking	FY24-25 Ranking	Motion	2nd	Program Oversight Approval 2/13/24	Board Approved Recommendation 2/27/24	Comments	Conflicted Members, Abstained from Voting
<b>SUBSIDY</b>								
Subsidy	MANDATORY	MANDATORY	CH	GC	All in Favor	All in Favor		SM/LL
NC Pre-K Program	MANDATORY	MANDATORY	LL	PS	All in Favor	All in Favor		SM
<b>ADDITIONAL CHILD CARE RELATED</b>								
Subsidy Administration	MANDATORY	MANDATORY	CH	GC	All in Favor	All in Favor		SM/LL
NC Pre-K Non TANF	MANDATORY	MANDATORY	LL	PS	All in Favor	All in Favor		SM/KG/JK
NC Pre-K TANF	MANDATORY	MANDATORY	LL	PS	All in Favor	All in Favor		SM/KG/JK
Child Care Health Consultants	1		LL	PS	All in Favor	All in Favor		
Early Education Liaison	2		LL	PS	All in Favor	All in Favor		AM
Inclusive Child Care	3		LL	PS	All in Favor	All in Favor		
WAGE\$	4		LL	PS	All in Favor	All in Favor		
<b>FAMILY, HEALTH and OTHER PROGRAMS</b>								
ABCD	1		PS	MB	All in Favor	All in Favor		SM
Dolly Parton's Imagination Library	6		PS	MB	All in Favor	All in Favor		
Emergency Dental	3		PS	MB	All in Favor	All in Favor		SM

Program Management/Evaluation	MANDATORY	MANDATORY	PS	MB	All in Favor	All in Favor		
Public Education & Outreach	MANDATORY	MANDATORY	PS	MB	All in Favor	All in Favor		
Safe Kids	4		PS	MB	All in Favor	All in Favor		
Social Emotional Intervention	2		PS	MB	All in Favor	All in Favor		
SUN Project	5		PS	MB	All in Favor	All in Favor		SM

**FY24-29 Strategic Plan Update:**

Ann Benfield presented that Robbie Furr will be launching the strategic planning process soon. He plans to conduct focus groups and interviews, and Ann would like board members to send a small group of individuals from each of their agencies to participate in this process. Once the process is complete they plan to host a two – three hour meeting to discuss the results and recommendations for the strategic plan. Ann and Robbie will be looking to complete the board input and approval somewhere between July and August this year to meet the deadline to submit the new strategic plan to NCPC.

**State Budget Appropriation \$2 Million:**

Ann Benfield presented that the plan for the \$2 Million dollars was submitted to NCDHHS (NCPK) early in February and we are still waiting on the contract to be sent to us. We anticipate receiving funding in March or April. Ann asked the board if it would be alright to go ahead and bid out these programs from the plan so that once the contract is executed we have a headstart on implementation.

Gil Small made the motion to go ahead and bid out the programs.

2<sup>nd</sup>: Malisha Ross

All were in favor.

**Implementation of Tri Share in Cabarrus County:**

Ann Benfield presented that she has had a preliminary meeting with Child Care Providers in the county about participating in Tri Share, and so far she has four providers that are interested, including Kannapolis City Schools. Ann will also be meeting with Businesses about interest in participation this Thursday, February 29, 2024 at 9 a.m. at the Cabarrus Center - FlyWheel. If any board members would like to attend and talk to business owners, she welcomes them to join. Ann reports she will need feedback from business owners to determine the percent of poverty that we will use in the Tri Share pilot.

**Diaper Drive:**

Ann Benfield presented Primrose School at Afton Village and Cabarrus County EMS held a diaper drive and filled the Partnership’s front office with Diapers, Wipes and formula, that the Partnership is now distributing in the community.

**Cabarrus Early Childhood Task Force:**

Ann Benfield reports that she is now the Chair for the Early Childhood Task Force. The task force had been meeting monthly and assisting with the plan for the \$2 Million, and working on the Early Childhood Action Plan. They are now moving the meetings to quarterly on the fourth Monday of the month. The next meeting is in April.

**Update on the SUN Project/SUDA Institute:**

Ann Benfield reported that the Partnership is wrapping up our involvement with the SUN Project. We hope to have all of the funding through the Partnership spent by the end of May or early June, and then funding and operation of the SUN Project will be operated through their own non-profit The Suda Institute.

**Support the Partnership – Contribution Reminder:**

Beth Street reminded the board to please contribute. She noted that 100% Board participation is highly encouraged on grant applications, and the deadline to donate for this fiscal year is the end of June.

With no further business, Kevin Garay made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:46 p.m.

2<sup>nd</sup>: Malisha Ross

All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Westin