

**CABARRUS COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
Tuesday, October 22, 2024**

The Board of Directors of the Cabarrus County Partnership for Children met on Tuesday, October 22, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. at the via requested Zoom link, which was advertised on our website and in our newsletter. Board Chair Pam Smith presided over the meeting.

These board members were present:

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| 1. Gil Small | Community/Faith Community |
| 2. Steve Morris | County Commissioner/Government |
| 3. Jackie Whitfield | Community/Faith Community |
| 4. Kevin Garay | Government/Superintendent Kannapolis City Schools |
| 5. Malisha Ross | Services/Partners BHM |
| 6. Lora Lipe | Government/DHS/Subsidy |
| 7. Pam Smith | CCM/Community/Services |
| 8. John Kopicki | Government/Superintendent Cabarrus County Schools |
| 9. Judge Beth Street | Government/Judge |
| 10. Marcella Beam | Government/Assistant City Manager |
| 11. Danielle Mauldin | Owner of Kids Korner/Services |
| 12. Aalece Pugh | Government/Assistant County Manager |

These board members were absent:

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| 1. Melanie Holles | Government/Libraries |
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A quorum was present.

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

Welcome:

Pam Smith welcomed board members and thanked them for attending the board meeting. Pam asked all board members to introduce themselves to new board member, Aalece Pugh. Ann Benfield noted that Timbs Fulgham, who was previously approved to join the board, is no longer able to.

Approval of Agenda:

The Board reviewed the agenda for today's meeting.

Steve Morris made a motion to approve the agenda.

2nd: 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 June 25, 2024 board meeting, October 2024 ED Report, September 24, 2024 Executive Committee Minutes, FY24-25 SS Expenditures, FY24-25 NCPK Expenditures, FY24-25 Other Funds Report, and FY24-25 State Directed Grant Expenditures.

Gil Small made a motion to approve the consent agenda items.

2nd: Steve Morris

All were in favor.

FY23-24 Tax Return & Update on Audit:

Ariel Ayers presented that the DRAFT Tax Return was completed by an independent auditor and was previously sent to the board to review. There were no questions regarding.

Gil Small made a motion to file the DRAFT Tax Return as presented.

2nd: Lora Lipe

All were in favor.

There is no current update on the Audit, other than all documents requested have been submitted.

Smart Start Advocate Support:

Ann Benfield presented the invoice for the a proposed contribution to a Statewide Advocate for the Smart Start Network. The Cabarrus County Partnership's portion is \$2,500. Steve Morris commented that it is worthwhile to have an advocate for your causes reminding legislators constantly during the year.

Steve Morris made a motion to approve payment of the invoice from private funds.

2nd: Malisha Ross

All were in Favor.

Program Oversight Updated, CAD Change:

Lauren Westin presented that the only update from the Program Oversight Committee is that the RFP for FY25-27 Smart Start Programming was released on Friday and will be open until early December. The Committee will work hard in the new year to review all submitted proposals and decide on recommendations for programming for the next two years.

Lauren Westin also reported that the current level of Triple P that was being provided in our Social Emotional Intervention for Young Children program was Stepping Stones, but that level of Triple P is not currently reviewed and approved by the North Carolina Partnership for Children. Lauren stated that the NCPC Program Officer received approval to put in a provisionsal program identifier for the next year while this level of Triple P is under review. This provisional identifier required a slight change in the Contracted Activity Description (CAD) as highlighted below.

Social Emotional Intervention

Social Emotional Intervention for Young Children will be provided in the child's home or child care setting in Cabarrus County, NC. These services will address the child's social emotional and developmental needs. Once the referral is received an assessment will be completed to determine need for services, create goals and identify need for possible referrals. Social Emotional Interventions will be provided in a 3-tier system based on the child and family's need. 1.) Behavioral Specialist 2.) Licensed Clinical Social Worker 3.) Child Psychologist / Clinical Play Therapist. Triple P parenting program (Level 3 Primary Care Stepping Stones (provisional) and Level 4 Standard) will be implemented based on need. Services will be available to all children under the age of 5 who have not yet started kindergarten, in Cabarrus County, with a social emotional delay no matter race, gender or social economic states. A Spanish Speaking Behavioral Specialist will provide services in the native language for Hispanic families in our community. Smart Start funds may be used to provide supervision of program components administrative support, Non-Cash grants, and other related program expenses such as office supplies, service-related supplies, travel, employee training, printing, and meeting expenses.

Malisha Ross made a motion to approve the CAD change as presented.

2nd: Danielle Mauldin

All were in favor.

Parents As Teacher Program

Our Parents As Teacher (PAT) Program operated by Endless Opportunities received the Blue Ribbon Quality Endorsement on October 1, 2024 and we are very proud of them. This process took five years and they are truly making an impact in the community helping our youngest families.

Update on Cabarrus Share Grant Program:

Ann Benfield reported the Cabarrus Share Grant Program is moving along slowly. Partnership staff have created all agreements and forms to be used within the program, and we've had interest and are contracting with Kannapolis City Government and Cabarrus County Government, but we have yet to receive an application from an employee. Since posting materials online we have experienced a few issues and some confusion and the Partnership is working on addressing those issues as they arise. Ann reported that the state Tri Share program is experiencing similar issues.

FY25-27 Strategic Plan Update & Retreat Date Scheduled:

Ann Benfield reported that Robbie Furr has submitted the Strategic Plan DRAFT and the Partnership staff is working on reviewing that. Ann said that once it has been reviewed and the DRAFT is close to finalized it will be sent to the Board to review and then a retreat or extended Board Meeting will need to be held to finalize the document and approve it. Ann asked which the board would prefer and the board was unanimous in extending the February 25, 2025 meeting from 1:00 until 3 p.m.

Update on Flex Plex/Multi-Site License Partnership:

Ann Benfield reports she is still going back and forth with government agencies to determine who can finalize the ruling on making McGill a multi-licensed site. It appears though that it will be a local decision on the interpretation of the rule. We are hoping to get a walk through with the county building inspector very soon.

Support the Partnership:

Pam Smith reminded the Board Members to donate this fiscal year to the Partnership, and that grants we are trying to apply for want 100% participation from the applicant's board.

With no further business, Pam Smith moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:29 p.m.
All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Lauren Westin