

**CABARRUS COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
Tuesday, October 28, 2025**

The Board of Directors of the Cabarrus County Partnership for Children met on Tuesday, October 28th 2025 at 1:00 p.m., at the Cabarrus County Partnership for Children Office, 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. Lora Lipe | Government/DHS/Subsidy |
| 2. Stacy Fackler | Atrium Health/Community/Services (Virtual) |
| 3. Pam Smith | CCM/Community/Services |
| 4. Aalece Pugh | Government/Assistant County Manager (Virtual) |
| 5. Jessica Grant | CHA/Healthy Cabarrus |
| 6. Samantha Moose | Community/Parent |
| 7. Gil Small | Community/Faith Community |
| 8. Jackie Whitfield | Community/Faith Community |
| 9. Melanie Holles | Government/Libraries |
| 10. Malisha Ross | Services/Partners BHM (Virtual) |
| 11. Jeff Jones | Government/County Commissioner |
| 12. Sara Newell | Government/Superintendent Kannapolis City Schools (Virtual) |

These board members were absent:

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| 1. Judge Beth Street | Government/Judge |
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A quorum was present.

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

Welcome:

Pam Smith welcomed board members and thanked them for attending the board meeting. Pam asked all attendees to introduce themselves, as several new board members are attending their first meeting.

Ann Benfield noted that she received Danielle Mauldin's resignation from the Board of Directors earlier today. Danielle has enjoyed serving on the board, however she has had too many conflicts lately with meetings and does not feel she is able to continue serving. Ann said that she will continue to look for a replacement board member to fill Danielle's slot.

Approval of Agenda:

The Board reviewed the agenda for today's meeting. Jackie Whitfield moved to approve the agenda as presented.

2nd: Lora Lipe

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 24, 2025 and August 26, 2025 board meetings, October 2025 ED Report, FY25-26 SS Expenditures, FY25-26 NCPK Expenditures, FY25-26 Other Funds Report, FY25-26 State Directed Grant Expenditures, Program Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes from October 15, 2025.

Gil Small moved to approve the items on the Consent Agenda.

2nd: Melanie Holles

All were in favor.

990 Tax Return:

Ariel Ayers presented that the 990 has been completed and a copy emailed to the board for review. Ariel asked if there were any questions.

Gil Small moved to approve the 990 to be submitted.

2nd: Lora Lipe.

All were in favor.

Final Proposal Vote for FY25-28 Strategic Plan:

Ann Benfield presented that the Strategic Plan has been finalized, and that there is one more item to decide on. There are two versions of the Mission Statement. The board discussed and was in agreement that they liked option #2.

Jeff Jones moved to approve the FY25-28 Strategic Plan with Option#2 as the Mission Statement.

2nd: Melanie Holles

All were in favor.

Selection of Anne Laukaitis Champion for Children 2025 Winner:

Ann Benfield presented that three applications were received for the Anne Laukaitis Champion for Children award. Ann is requested a committee from the board to review the applications and rank them to select a winner. Jackie Whitfield, Samantha Moose, Sara Newell and Pam Smith volunteered. Ann stated she would email the applications to the volunteers for review.

Program Oversight Committee Recommendation:

Lauren Westin presented that the Partnership received a request from P.U.R.E. Excellence to change the scope of their Technical Assistance Consultation and Coaching program as the needs in the child care community are changing to the QRIS modernization pathways are rolled out. Program Oversight reviewed the request and have sent a recommendation to the board to approve this change in scope to their program.

The board voted and all were in favor.

Presentation on the 2025 Cabarrus County Community Needs Assessment:

Jessica Grant presented the findings of the Cabarrus County Community Needs Assessment. They identified four priorities to focus on: Behavioral Health, Housing, Transportation and Early Childhood Education. These priorities will be used by the Partnership to guide our work.

Executive Director (ED) Search Committee Update:

Gil Small, Malisha Ross and Ariel Ayers updated the board on the search committee's work. They have hired a consultant and had a meeting Monday, where they reviewed applications and had a good discussion that led to selecting the pool of applicants to move forward with. More information to come as they move through the process.

Support the Partnership:

Pam Smith reminded the Board Members to donate this fiscal year to the Partnership, and support the children in our community and the Partnership's work.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lauren Westin