

**CABARRUS PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL MEETING
TUESDAY, December 2, 2025**

The Board of Directors of the Cabarrus Partnership for Children held its Voices for Children annual Luncheon on Tuesday, December 2, 2024, at 12 pm at McGill Baptist Church. Pam Smith, the board chair, presided over the meeting.

The following board members were present:

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| 1. Beth Street, District Court Judge | District Court Judge/Attorney/Government |
| 2. Gil Small | Community/Faith Community |
| 3. Pam Smith | CCM/Community/Services |
| 4. Lora Lipe | Cabarrus County Department of Human Services Economic Services/Government |
| 5. Dr. Aalece Pugh | Assistant Cabarrus County Manager |
| 6. Rev. Jacqueline Whitfield | Retired Educator/Community |
| 7. Melanie Hollis | Director of Cabarrus County Libraries/Government |
| 8. Dr. Jessica Grant | Executive Director Healthy Cabarrus |
| 9. Samantha Moose | Parent/Community Representative |

These board members were absent:

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| 1. Stacy Fackler | Advocate Health Assistant VP, Patient Care |
| 2. Jeff Jones | Cabarrus County Commissioner – Chair |
| 3. Malisha Ross | Partners Behavioral Health |
| 4. Dr. Sara Newell | Superintendent of Kannapolis City Schools |

Quorum was established

The following staff members were present: Ann Benfield, Patricia Sehorn, Tu’Nicquia Bradley, Melissa Jones, Starla Hatley, Lauren Westin, Ariel Ayers, and Debra Pless.

Pam Smith welcomed everyone.

Dr. E. Steven Ayers, Pastor of McGill Baptist Church presented the Invocation.

Ann Benfield thanked the all the county partners, elected officials, Cabarrus County Partnership for Children Board of Directors and the staff of the Partnership for all the support and help throughout the years.

Ann Benfield thanked all the partners listed below:

1 Can
Advocate Health Cabarrus
Buzz City Games
Cabarrus Child Protection
Team
Cabarrus County
Commissioners
Cabarrus County DSS
Cabarrus County District
Attorney’s Office
Cabarrus County Government
&
County Manager’s Office
Cabarrus County Public
Library
Cabarrus County Schools
Cabarrus County School
Board
Cabarrus Economic
Development
Cabarrus Health Alliance
Cabarrus Regional Chamber
of Commerce
Cannon Charitable Trust
Child Care Resources, Inc.
Concord City Government &
City Council

Child Developmental Services
Agency (CDSA)
Cooperative Christian
Ministries
Country Law Shack
Early Childhood Foundation
of Cabarrus County
Cabarrus County Early
Childhood Task Force
ED NC
Endless Opportunities
Esther’s Heart
Families First of Cabarrus
County
First Kids
F&M Bank
Greater Cabarrus Foundation
Healthy Cabarrus
Jr. Charity League of Concord
Kannapolis City Schools &
Kannapolis City School Board
Kannapolis City Government
& City Council
Kannapolis City Schools
Head Start
Kids Interactive
Developmental Services
Kids Korner

Meals On Wheels
McGill Baptist Church
NC Child
NC DHHS
NC Works Career Center
NC House of Representative
NC House of Representative
NC House Office of
Representative
North Carolina Partnership
for Children
US Office of Senator Thom
Tillis – Elizabeth Edwards
US Office of Senator Ted
Budd
Partners Behavioral Health
Perry Productions
Rowan Cabarrus Community
College
Safe Kids Cabarrus
Salisbury Academy
Save the Children Headstart-
Cabarrus
Stanly County Community
College
Suda Institute
Truusight
We Build Concord

Anne Laukaitis Champion for Children Award

Ann Benfield introduced and presented the 2025 Anne Laukaitis Champion for Children award. The recipient was Lashonda Houston, from Endless Opportunities. Ann Benfield shared the accomplishments of Lashonda and surprised her with this award.

Parent As Teachers/Endless Opportunities Impact in Cabarrus County

Lashonda Houston continued to share the programs of Endless Opportunities and invited Bella Gonzalez & Samantha Moose to come and share with the group about how Endless Opportunities had impacted their lives over the years. The stories were compelling and made everyone cry. The ladies have grown into amazing parent caregivers, and their children are thriving.

Pam Smith shared the importance of giving on this, "Giving Tuesday" to support the Cabarrus County Partnership for Children so we can continue to serve the youngest citizens of our county.

Without any other business Pam Smith wished everyone a happy holiday season and the meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Respectively Submitted,
Ann Benfield, Executive Director