

**CABARRUS COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN  
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING  
Tuesday, October 26, 2021**

The Board of Directors of the Cabarrus County Partnership for Children met on Tuesday, October 26, 2021, at 12:00 noon via Zoom meeting, which was advertised on our website and in our newsletter. Ms. Waynett Taylor presided over the meeting.

**These board members were present:**

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. Karen Calhoun       | DHS/Government                                |
| 2. Danielle Mauldin    | Services                                      |
| 3. Beth Street         | Attorney/Government                           |
| 4. Dr. Rosolena Conroy | Community/Pediatrician/Counselor              |
| 5. Jeanne Dixon        | Community Advocate                            |
| 6. Carla Brown         | Government                                    |
| 7. Gil Small           | Community/Faith Community                     |
| 8. Waynett Taylor      | Services                                      |
| 9. Steve Morris        | County Commissioner/Government/Business Owner |

**These board members were absent:**

- |                     |                                    |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Rachel Brazil    | Services/Clinician                 |
| 2. Jackie Whitfield | Community/Faith Community/Advocate |
| 3. Amos McClorey    | Services/NAACP                     |
| 4. Joseph Houston   | Duke Energy/Business               |

**A quorum was present.**

**These staff members and guests were present:** Ann Benfield, Ariel Ayers, and Lauren Westin; MaryBeth Gilbert, Contracted Evaluator, and Marcella Beam from Cabarrus Health Alliance.

**Welcome:**

Ann Benfield welcomed board members and guests and thanked everyone for attending. Ann introduced Marcella Beam from Cabarrus Health Alliance to present the results of the Cabarrus County Community Needs Assessment.

**Community Needs Assessment:**

Marcella reported how the community planning committee conducted the 2020 Cabarrus Community Needs Assessment and noted there were over 40 community partners working together to complete this report. The committee surveyed over 2700 people from the community and worked very hard to get a cross representation of our population. They also surveyed community stakeholders on the needs in the county. The community planning committee spent 9 months listening to subject experts on each of the areas and Ann Benfield presented the information and data on early childhood education. After reviewing data from all areas the community planning committee voted on the three top needs in Cabarrus County. Marcella noted that part of the Community Needs Assessment is to share the findings with key stakeholders and create a plan to address the identified priorities. In the 2020 Cabarrus County Community Needs Assessment, the top three priorities outlined in the report are:

1. Housing
2. Mental and behavioral health
3. Early childhood education and development

Marcella allowed a time for questions at the end of the presentation, however the Board did not raise any questions at this time.

**Approval of Agenda:**

The Board reviewed the agenda for today's meeting.

- Beth Street made a motion to approve the agenda as is.  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Gil Small

All were in favor.

### **Consent Agenda:**

Consent Agenda items were emailed to board members prior to the meeting, including: Minutes of August 24, 2021 Board Meeting, October 2021 ED Report, FY 21-22 SS Expenditures, FY21-22 NCPK Expenditures, and FY21-22 Other Funds Report.

Beth Street made a motion to approve the consent agenda as listed.

2<sup>nd</sup>: Carla Brown

All were in favor.

### **2020-2021 Tax Return:**

Ariel Ayers presented that the Partnership was required to e-file the 990 tax return this year and the MAC site was unable to do the return this way. Cabarrus Partnership partnered with several other partnerships to find an outside CPA to prepare and file the 990 tax return. The cost of the tax returned increased from around \$800 to around \$1900 since we had to use an outside CDA firm.

Carla Brown made a motion to approve, sign and file the tax return.

2<sup>nd</sup>: Waynett Taylor

All were in favor.

### **Local Interagency Coordinating Council Request (MOU):**

Ann presented the Partnership has in the past and still today held funds for smaller organizations in the community, like Safe Kids and the Coming Together for Children group. The Cabarrus LICC approached the Partnership in hopes that they would also hold their funds as they are getting a \$20/month services charge from their bank, because there is not enough activity on their account and the balance is typically rather low. Ann presented the drafted MOU to the board for approval.

Waynett Taylor made the motion to go ahead with the MOU and hold the Cabarrus LICC funds for them.

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

All were in favor.

### **Program Oversight Committee Report:**

Lauren Westin reported the Program Oversight Committee will meet next month to review Q1 results for FY21-22, however they had received a request from the BFPS program at CHA to implement a new incentive plan and structure different than what was in their proposal. The committee had denied their proposal as there was no clear way to ensure that only breastfeeding supplies were being purchased to support the mothers. After their request was denied the BFPS program submitted a revised proposal with a more clearly defined structure where they provide the breastfeeding-related items, instead of a gift card. The program requested that the board or executive committee review the revised proposal at their next meeting, but the Program Oversight Committee does not meet again until the middle of November.

The Board discussed the proposal and felt that they needed to defer to Program Oversight Committee since they denied the initial proposal. Lauren understood the boards decision and hesitancy and said she would notify the program and the Program Oversight Committee at their next meeting.

### **Development Committee & Voices for Children Virtual Campaign:**

Ann Benfield reported the Development Committee and Perry Productions had designed a detail annual campaign plan. This year it was decided to have the Sponsorship levels directly purchase a "Duffle Bag of Hope" to be provided for a 12-18 year old in the foster care system. The duffle bag will be filled with new items, including clothing, toiletries, etc. DHS reported that they get tons of stuff for young children and this older age group is lucky to get a toothbrush. Dr. Conroy noted that these duffle bags will be the first time for a lot of these children receive a gift specially packed for them. These children have faced a lot of trauma and will really appreciate the gift. The annual campaign outline and sponsorship letter was distributed to the board ahead of the meeting to review.

### **Governance Committee:**

Ann Benfield presented that the governance committee has been working very hard on creating a structure to welcome new board members. They have created an outlined orientation, a new buddy system that pairs a new board member and a veteran board member, and a social media introduction. They have also created an Exit

Interview for board members leaving the board to help with improving the board member experience and gathering considerations for the future.

The Governance committee also drafted a letter for Ann to send to board members to remind them of their annual contribution to the Partnership. They also added a statement to the board member job description to ensure sustainability in the annual contributions.

The board inquired if the contributions should be made during the calendar or fiscal year, and Ann confirmed that they should be made during the calendar year.

The board agreed that all of the new board documents looked okay.

Ann confirmed that she had already sent letters at the beginning of October to board members that have not contributed this year. Ann and Ariel will follow up before the end of the year with those that need to still contribute.

**Anne Laukaitis Champion for Children Selection Committee Process:**

Ann Benfield presented that for the first time this year, two board members have been nominated for the award, which has prompted the need to create a selection committee. Ann recommends that the selection committee be comprised of at least one-two active board members and at least two-three former board members, supporters of the Partnership, community leaders, etc.

Beth Street made the motion to create the selection committee.

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

All were in favor.

Carla Brown, Beth Street and Jeanne Dixon volunteered to participate on this year's committee.

**Update on Staffing:**

Ann Benfield presented the Partnership has finally found three great candidates to interview for the open position, and hope to offer the position in the next few days. Ann also reported that almost all of the NCPK slots are filled except for a couple open slots at Bethel Elementary.

**Support the Partnership – Contribution Reminder:**

Waynett Taylor reminded the board members that it doesn't matter how much you give to the Partnership, what is important is that they give something. She noted that Grant funders love to see 100% participation from an organizations board on applications.

**Meeting Adjourned:**

With no further business, Waynett Taylor thanked everyone for their time and attendance today, and Ann and her staff for their continued work.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

**Next Meetings:**

Executive Committee: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. via Zoom

Board Meeting: Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom

Respectfully submitted,  
Lauren Westin