

**Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and Families, Inc.
Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2021**

The Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and Families, Inc., convened a meeting of its Board of Directors on March 10, 2021 via Microsoft Teams. There was a quorum present:

Public Members Present

JoAnn Barnes (Chair), *MC DHHS Children, Youth and Families Representative*
Valeria Carranza, *Montgomery County Council Representative*
Adriane Clutter, (Vice Chair), *Montgomery County Recreation Department Representative*
Delmonica Hawkins, *Department of Juvenile Services Representative*
Lisa Merkin, *MC DHHS/CWS, Provider of Direct Social Services to Children, Youth and Families*
Anita Vassallo, *Montgomery County Public Libraries Representative*
Lori-Christina Webb, *Board of Education Representative*

Public Members Absent

Joanie Glick, *MC DHHS, Public Health Office Representative*
Deborah Lambert, *Montgomery County Office of Management and Budget Representative*
Ruschelle Reuben, *Montgomery County Public Schools Representative*

Private Sector Members Present

Donte Brown (2023)
Monya Bunch (2021)
Hannah Davis, (2021)
Melanie Goldstein (2023)
Carolyn Lowery (2021) Secretary
Nicholette Smith-Bligen (2022)
Carol Walsh (2023)
Adam Younoszai (2022)

Private Sector Members Absent

Michelle Taylor (2022) (Treasurer)

Ex Officio Member

Elijah Wheeler, Executive Director

Guests and Collaboration Council Staff in Attendance

Alicia Church, Crystal Fang, Peter Garza, Charlotte Girona, Elaine Johnson, Patti Lyman, Dalbin Osorio, Shane Tate, Peter Wolk

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by J. Barnes, Board Chair. New board members, Donte Brown and Melanie Goldstein were introduced.

I. Consent Agenda - (Material Distributed via Email)

J. Barnes presented the Consent Agenda that was comprised of the following items:

1. Approval of January 13, 2021 Draft Board Meeting Minutes
2. Ratification of Executive Committee Approval via Mail Ballot for the National Center for Children and Families (NCCF) to Serve as the Sole Source Provider for the Drop-In Center
3. Ratification of Executive Committee Approval via Mail Ballot to:
 - a) Amend contract with Jackson and Associates to Revise Scope of Work and Increase Compensation
 - b) Increase Compensation for Youth Development Institute in Order to Provide Two Additional Advancing Youth Development Trainings
 - c) Modification of FY21 Community Partnership Agreement

- d) Plan to Use Open Solicitation Procurement Process to Identify a Pool of Qualified Vendors for the Montgomery County Community Youth Support and Engagement Program Hubs (MoCoCYSE)
4. Ratification of Executive committee Approval to Amend Asana Creative Strategy Substance Abuse Block Grant (SABG) Contract

Motion/Action: A motion was introduced by C. Walsh and seconded by A. Younoszai to approve the Consent Agenda. (*Unanimous*)

II. Updates from Board Chair - J. Barnes (*Material Distributed via Email*)

Legislative Issues

- Need volunteer to Chair the Legislative Committee. Chair would monitor the General Assembly and County for issues or legislation that might have an impact on the Collaboration Council's work.
- J. Barnes referred to the handout which listed 27 bills pending in Annapolis. Members were asked to review the list and report back if there were items the Collaboration Council should focus on.
- There are two bills related to the continuation of School Resource Officers (SROs) in Montgomery County Schools.
- V. Carranza provided a summary of recent Council actions.
 - Currently, there are two bills related to (SROs).
 - ❖ Councilmembers Reimer and Jawando presented a bill that would eliminate SROs.
 - ❖ Councilmembers Rice and Katz presented a bill that maintains SROs and provides training.
 - Councilmember Glass and Councilmember Navarro have issued their own memos to the County Executive.
 - Councilmember Glass's memo called for police free schools and having more robust mental health funding that would be done through the budget process.
 - Councilmember Navarro's memo proposed a hybrid model merging both bills.
 - An appropriation is required -- whether it is the SROs and having clusters outside or the mental health and restorative justice component -- it will need to go through the budget process.
 - Expect that the County Executive will put something forward in his budget recommendations March 15th.
 - Initially, the Public Safety and Education Culture Committees were scheduled to have a work session on the two bills but that has been postponed.
 - Now the Council is considering taking up the entire issue before the full Council.
 - V. Carranza will notify J. Barnes when a date has been set so that it can be shared with Collaboration Council members.
 - Impact of Delegate Acevaro's State bill to remove SRO's, if enacted.
 - ❖ Delegate Acevaro's proposed legislation includes the mental health and restorative justice component.
 - ❖ Currently, under state law, it is not required that police officers be in schools.
 - ❖ The first part of the County legislation would be rendered mute if Delegate Acevaro's legislation is passed.
 - ❖ Would still need the mental health and restorative justice components.
 - ❖ Any mandate would still require an appropriation through the budget process.
 - J. Barnes has been part of a team that has been touring the County to propose additional mental health and support services in the schools that would support children in the event SROs are removed. Even if the SROs stay but through a different model, we would see those additional supports strengthened whichever way the decision goes. The proposal was made up by members from HHS; Behavioral Health; Children, Youth and Family Services, Montgomery County Police Department; and, Montgomery County Public Schools.
 - Proposal looks at a tiered approach to providing additional social workers, recreation, strengthening the Mobile Crisis Team that responds to schools. It has a variety of solutions that can support children as opposed to just the SROs.
 - Suggestion was made that the proposal consider tutoring for students not in school so they don't fall behind.
 - Collaboration Council should weigh in on the proposal which would have to be done during the budget process.
 - Collaboration Council should be proactive for the resources that are needed to support mental health and restorative justice - those resources need to be in the budget and stay in the budget.
 - Mental health supports are critical regardless of how the state requirement of providing adequate police coverage is carried out.
 - Mental health support comes in various forms, not just adding social workers; need to consider what positive youth development could contribute.

- Interagency and integrative services.
- There is an MOU between the Montgomery County Police Department and Montgomery County Public Schools on the Board of Education website that delineates the roles and responsibilities of SROs.
- Public comment on SROs is also on the BOE website.
- Need to focus on what youth need to thrive in school regardless of whether or not there are SROs. Ensure young people have access to opportunity to thrive and to achieve well being in the community.

Motion/Action: A motion was introduced by C. Walsh and seconded by A. Younoszai that a letter be drafted by the Executive Director and approved by the Executive Committee to the County Executive and County Council and made available to the public that affirms our beliefs in the values and needs that children have for positive mental health and positive youth development. (*Unanimous*)

Montgomery Moving Forward Recommendations to Council Regarding an Early Childhood Entity

- On January 28th Montgomery Moving Forward (MMF) presented to Council their recommendations to create a separate independent entity to oversee and create policy for early care and education in Montgomery County.
- MMF received funding last fall to conduct a study and present recommendations to the Council.
- Three recommendations were presented:
 - 1) Create a new entity
 - 2) Separate the Children's Opportunity Fund (COF) from the Greater Washington Community Fund and make it a separate entity;
 - 3) Hybrid - a mixture of existing organizations possibly to include a role for the Collaboration Council as well as the Early Care and Education Steering Committee.
- Council is still deliberating on the recommendations.
- The County Executive presented a letter to Council expressing his concerns regarding the recommendations.

Board Survey

J. Barnes noted it is important to get feedback following each board meeting to measure the effectiveness and productivity of the meeting. During the last five minutes of the meeting, members would complete the survey that would be accessed through a link in the "Chat". Results would be presented at the beginning of the next Board meeting. Survey will be used to (1) make the meetings more productive; (2) give us direction on things we need to focus on as we move into strategic planning; and (3) make sure that members feel they have an opportunity to participate in the meeting, and to better understand the mission and purpose of the Collaboration Council.

Strategic Planning Process

J. Barnes noted that we are still working on identifying a facilitator. Need to create a timeline. May include an additional Board meeting.

II. Report of the Fiscal Committee - (Material Distributed via email)

Presentation and action on the FY21 2nd Quarter Financials was deferred until the next board meeting.

III. Report of the Governance Committee - C. Walsh

C. Walsh reported on the following activities of the Committee:

- Board Orientation was conducted March 9th for two new board members, D. Brown and M. Goldstein.
- Committee will be working on a Board Self-Assessment. Goal is to have it distributed to board members before the next meeting.
- Board Membership - Three board members have completed their first full three-year term and are eligible to apply for a second three-year term. County Executive's office oversees the process by issuing a press release for the vacancies, providing a link to the application process, and sending applications to the Governance Committee to schedule interviews and rank applicants.

Lori-Christina Web b volunteered to assist with the interview committee.

IV. Report of the Child Well Being committee - H. Davis, N. Smith-Bligen (Material Distributed via Email)

H. Davis reported that the Community Needs Assessment has been completed and made available to the public and community. Are in the process of soliciting feedback using a survey from our partners in the community and stakeholders. Survey will provide a better idea of what is needed in the county. The Committee is looking at the Executive Summary to determine what we do well and how we can leverage those programs to better serve the County.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work: Are considering making this a separate ad hoc committee.

Guiding Principles survey was sent to board members approximately three months ago. Lays the groundwork for the strategic planning conversation. Will be resending so that members who did not have a chance to complete before, can do so.

Update from Executive Director - E. Wheeler

- 2020 Annual Report was released a few weeks ago. Have received positive feedback on the format. Can be accessed on the Collaboration Council's website.
- FY22 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) from Governor's Office for Children. No change from FY21. Strategies are the same. Funding is the same as FY21 including the 10% reduction. Will review the strategies at the March 25th meeting of the Child Well Being Committee. Fiscal Committee will review and approve the budget. NOFA is due April 9th.
- At a budget hearing in Annapolis last week, it was revealed that the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth and Victim Services/GOC has a budget balance of \$4.6 million of unspent funds. LMBs are having conversations with the Governor's office on restoring not only the 10% reduction last year but restoring funding we have lost throughout the years. Are trying to get clarity on the issue.
- Event at Badlands. Partnering with David and Michael Blair to put together an event for young people, *Spring Break from the Screen*. Will take place March 29-31 at Badlands indoor play center?. Manna is partnering to provide food. Provides an opportunity to showcase the Collaboration Council in partnership with the community. Will have In person interactive enrichment activities with out of school time partners over the course of the three days. Middle schoolers 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and high schoolers 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Lunch will be provided onsite and Manna will provide food for families to take home.
- Personnel Updates - E. Wheeler noted that we are interviewing for the Finance Manager position. C. Girona, Director of Administration, is retiring at the end of the fiscal year. Recruitment efforts are underway for the Director of Administration.
- Drop-In Center. E. Wheeler noted that the Drop-in Center/Reengagement Center is something we have been planning for a number of years.
 - Drop-In Center will be the first in Montgomery County.
 - Drop-In Center will serve as a one stop shop for youth ages 16-24 who are either loosely connected, or disconnected entirely from school, or out of work with access to educational and employment pathways via case management services, GED training, employment and skill building, and resource referrals.
 - Disproportionately, these youth experience high rates of homelessness, in many cases they identify as black and as LGBTQIA.
 - The pandemic has intensified the needs these youth are facing.
 - The building for the Drop-In Center is located at 11319 Elkins Street, Silver Spring, MD (Wheaton, MD) at the corner of University Boulevard and Georgia Avenue.
 - 6,100 square feet. Includes a large multipurpose room, 8 offices, and kitchen area. Building served as the former Gilchrist Center for many years.
 - Location is readily accessible to public transportation.
 - Peter Wolk, Collaboration council's legal counsel, and Monya Bunch have reviewed the lease with the realtor and provided feedback.
 - The programs housed in the Drop-In Center are designed to provide participants with individualized support, education and skill building knowledge such as health education, daily living skills.
 - Will be done through a collaborative of agencies providing outreach, case management, education training, resource referrals and employment services training.
 - There will be low barrier access to showers, laundry, food and other basic necessities.
 - Staff will be working with youth to resolve the housing crises by connecting them to housing in the community.
 - The Collaboration Council is partnering with Maryland Multicultural Youth centers/LAYC, the National center for Children and Families (CCF), and SMYAL.
 - E. Wheeler acknowledged Councilmember Glass who has supported this effort and helped to bring this program to fruition; and, Patti Lyman, Program Manager who has worked with the partners to ensure that all partners were aligned and working toward a common goal.
 - Elements of the Lease:
 - Lease length is five (5) years.

- Initially, rent is \$9,400.00/month for the first five months after commencement of the lease.
- There is a rent abatement.
- There is a 2.3% escalation yearly.
- Year 1 costs will be approximately \$112,000.00; Year 5 costs are \$124,000.00
- Termination. Collaboration Council can move to terminate the lease upon no appropriation of funds from either the State or County with 180 days or 5 months' notice for the following fiscal year to the landlord. There is a \$30,000.00 fee if less than 180 days advance notice is given that we have not been appropriated funds or that we want to vacate the premises.
- Partners will be required to sign a license agreement to utilize the premises.
- Funding. Enough funding has been leveraged between the State and the County to cover both program delivery and rent. For FY22, approximate \$867,000.00 is allocated for the Drop-In Center and Reengagement.
- Delegate Solomon, who represents the Wheaton area, has put forth a bond bill without matching costs for capital improvements to the building.
- Capital improvements include the installation of two showers, single separate toilet with a sink; ADA compliant; two Washington machines and two dryers.
- This is the first time the Collaboration Council has been the leaseholder for the program providers.
- Did not want the program provider to be the leaseholder and have the option of determining what they wanted in the space.
- With the Collaboration Council as the leaseholder, we are in control of what activities we want to have happen there, if we want to bring in new partners or remove partners. This is about MoCoReconnect not individual partners or vendors we are funding.
- Project that the drop-In Center will open mid to late summer.

Motion/Action: A motion was introduced by A. Vassallo and seconded by C. Lowery that if there are no new concerns regarding the legal arrangement, and with final approval of the lease by the Executive Committee, that the Executive Director be authorized to sign the lease. (Unanimous)

V. Other Business

- J. Barnes requested members to access the link to the board Survey and complete the survey before leaving the meeting.

VI. Announcements/Adjournment

Motion/Action: A motion was introduced by M. Goldstein and seconded by H Davis that members complete the survey and the meeting be adjourned. (Unanimous)

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Addenda to the Collaboration Council Meeting Minutes March 10, 2021

The following documents comprised the meeting packet for the March 10, 2021 meeting and were distributed by email prior to the meeting.

Document

Final Agenda

Consent Agenda

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Current State and Local Legislative Issues

Montgomery Moving Forward Recommendations to County Council

FY21 2nd Quarter Financial Statements

February 23 2021 Report of the Fiscal Committee

January 28 2021 Report of the Child Well Being Committee