



Montgomery County Children's Opportunity Alliance
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
July 21, 2022
(Meeting was held via Zoom)

The following Board members were present:

Kevin Beverly, KHB Consulting
Vernessa Broddie, Imagine Education/The Nurtery Preschool
Chandra Curtis, Parent Representative
Hannah Hahn, The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
William Hegwood, CareerCatchers
Tiffany Jones, Precious Moments Family Childcare
Deborah Lambert, Montgomery County Office of Management and Budget
Nora Morales, Identity, Inc.
Dr. Taniehsa Woods Myles, Parent Representative
BB Otero, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services
Myrna Peralta, CentroNia
Dr. Sonia Pruneda-Hernandez, Montgomery College
Sobia Qureshi, Bright Futures Early Learning Program
Theresa Ramsaroop, Parent Representative
Patricia Ruppert, Ruppert Companies
Wayne (Chris) Saxton, Universities of Shady Grove
Dira Treadance, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services

The following Board members were absent:

Dr. Raymond Crowell, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services

The following attendees were present, consistent with the requirements of the Open Meetings Act:

Larry Bram, Easterseals
Franca Brilliant, Nonprofit Montgomery
Lavontte Chapman, Nonprofit Montgomery
Joi Chester, Children's Opportunity Fund, Greater Washington Community Foundation
Amy Cropp, Montgomery County Public Schools
Sharon Friedman, Montgomery Moving Forward, Nonprofit Montgomery
Anna Hargrave, Greater Washington Community Foundation
Michelle Harman, Children's Opportunity Fund, Greater Washington Community Foundation
Ralph Morales, Children's Opportunity Fund, Greater Washington Community Foundation
Nichelle Owens, Montgomery County Public Schools
Kimberly Rusnak, Children's Opportunity Fund, Greater Washington Community Foundation

Joan Schaffer, Member of the Public
Vivian Yao, Montgomery County Council

Mr. Beverly moderated the meeting and called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. A quorum of the Board Members was present. Michelle Harman was designated to take minutes.

Introductions

Mr. Beverly welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Children's Opportunity Alliance Board Meeting. As a result of the new County legislation, The Alliance was created and designated and is required to follow the Open Meetings Act. Mr. Beverly requested that all board members complete the training.

Next, all Board Members and other individuals present took turns introducing themselves.

General Organizational Updates

Ms. Rusnak gave an informational overview of the need for an early childhood coordinating entity in Montgomery County.

Mr. Beverly gave an account and brief history of the set of the Children's Opportunity Alliance (COA) and commented on its relationship to the COF and the GWCF.

Actions: recommended that Mr. Beverly appoint interim officers to pull together a slate of nominees for the entire board to vote on. Mr. Beverly agreed to work on selecting an interim executive board.

New Entity Developments

Mr. Beverly reminded the group that the new organization would combine multiple voices: parents, providers, government, philanthropy, business, and nonprofits. The entity is to represent the community and it is our responsibility to address the community need related to kindergarten readiness.

Ms. Rusnak shared the link for the new COA website (<https://mocochildren.org>) and asked for input. The development of the website was paid for with private philanthropy funds.

Budget Report

Mr. Beverly shared with the Board of Directors information about the current COA budget. The legislation to create COA does not have funding provided for the new entity within the legislation that was passed. Public funding from DHHS, the County Executive and MCPS was discussed.

Ms. Treadvance reported on what funds COA would be receiving from the County. There was discussion around if COA will be able to provide grant funds in the future. Ms. Treadvance stated there is a funding need and the deficit issues should be tabled for now to be discussed later.

New Business

Mr. Beverly suggested adding wording to the current by-laws to allow the Board to hire/appoint an Executive Director.

Actions:

Ms. Peralta put forth a motion that the newly appointed Board of Directors, as this is the first official meeting recognizes its authority to appoint an interim Executive Director until such time as the entire Board can put together and complete the process to hire an Executive Director. Ms. Qureshi seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous vote. There were no abstentions.

Closed Session

Actions:

Pursuant to § 3-305(b)(13), on motion by Ms. Peralta and seconded by Ms. Ruppert, the members of the Board voted unanimously to move into closed session at 7:35 pm to discuss a confidential personnel matter. There were no abstentions.

By resolution Ms. Kimberly Rusnak was, by unanimous vote, approved as the interim Executive Director of the COA. Mr. Beverly will work out the details of this arrangement with the GWCF, her current employer.

Mr. Beverly will speak on behalf of the Board in negotiations with the transition of the COF to the COA with the GWCF and convene a small working group to amend the Corporation's bylaws.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.