



Children's Opportunity Alliance

Board of Directors Meeting

February 1, 2023, 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

The following Directors were present: Kevin Beverly (Chair), Vernessa Broddie, Amy Cropp, Chandra Curtis, William Hegwood (Treasurer), Tiffany Jones (Secretary), Deborah Lambert, Nora Morales, Taniesha Woods Myles, BB Otero, Nichelle Owens, Myrna Peralta, Sonia Pruneda-Hernandez, Sobia Qureshi, Theresa Ramsaroop, Pat Ruppert (Vice Chair), Dira Treadvance, Vivian Yao.

The following Directors were absent: Hannah Hahn, Wayne (Chris) Saxton.

Members of the public in attendance: Franca Brilliant, Nonprofit Montgomery; Sharon Friedman; Joan Schaffer.

COA Interim Staff in attendance: Laura Jahromi, Ralph Morales, Brittany Owens, Kimberly Rusnak.

Board Chair Beverly called the meeting to order. A quorum of the Directors was present.

Review and Vote of Meeting Minutes

The Board reviewed the Minutes from the December 16, 2022 meeting.

Motion to accept the minutes as written: Deborah Lambert.

Myrna Peralta requested an edit to her statement as captured in the minutes. There were no objections to these edits.

Motion seconded by Myrna Peralta.

Motion passed unanimously.

The Board then reviewed the Minutes from the November 9, 2022 meeting.

Motion to accept the minutes as written: Myrna Peralta. Second: William Hegwood.

Motion passed unanimously.



Interim Executive Director Report

In her update, Kimberly Rusnak spoke about transition planning from the Children's Opportunity Fund (COF) to the Children's Opportunity Alliance (COA) as well as a 6 month project timeline roadmap. She then shared her insights from one-on-one conversations that she had conducted with Directors since her return from leave over the last month.

Lastly, she shared that there is a new Request for Proposals to identify a strategic planning consultant posted on the COA website; all Directors are invited to share the RFP with their networks and to notify Kevin Beverly if they are interested in participating in the selection process.

Budget Discussion

Kevin Beverly and Kimberly Rusnak explained that for fiscal year (FY) 2023, funders (Department of Health and Human Services and Montgomery County Public Schools) permitted grants made to the COF to be used to support the operational needs of COA. Ms. Rusnak explained the timeline and process for County budgeting. She also discussed the next steps in transitioning contracts and cash flow from COF to COA.

Directors engaged in a discussion around expenses in the FY23 budget, including data collection, strategic planning, and grant making.

New Business

- **Retreat:** Ms. Rusnak shared that Directors have expressed interest in receiving training on topics such as the Open Meetings Act and on team building as a Board. To this end, COA aims to plan a Board Retreat in April.
- **Committee Structure:** Kevin Beverly led a discussion on which standing committees the COA should adopt. Mr. Beverly proposed starting with 4 committees: Executive, governance, fund development, finance and developing others in time.

Closed Session

Statement of the time, place, and purpose of the closed session:

Time: 7:45pm to 8:00pm, February 1, 2023

Location: Zoom

Purpose of the closed session: Executive Director Hiring Process

Record of the vote of to close the session:



Motion: At 7:45pm a motion was made to move to closed session by Kevin Beverly. Second: Pat Ruppert. Motion passed unanimously.

Pursuant to the statutory authority of the Maryland Annotated Code, General Provisions Article, § 3-305(b), the Board of Directors met in a Closed Session for the following purpose: To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.

Topic description: Executive Director Hiring Process

Persons Present for Discussion: The following Directors were present: Kevin Beverly (Chair), Vernessa Broddie, Amy Cropp, Chandra Curtis, William Hegwood (Treasurer), Tiffany Jones (Secretary), Deborah Lambert, Nora Morales, Taniesha Woods Myles, BB Otero, Nichelle Owens, Myrna Peralta, Sonia Pruneda-Hernandez, Sobia Qureshi, Theresa Ramsaroop, Pat Ruppert (Vice Chair), Dira Treadvance, Vivian Yao.

No motions were made during this session.

The chair adjourned the meeting from closed session at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by Laura Jahromi, Interim Strategy Specialist.

Approved on: May 17, 2023