



## Children's Opportunity Alliance

### Board of Directors Meeting

March 16, 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, BB Otero, Nichelle Owens, Sobia Qureshi, Theresa Ramsaroop, Pat Ruppert (Vice Chair), Wayne (Chris) Saxton, Dira Treadvance, Vivian Yao.

The following Directors were absent: Hannah Hahn, Myrna Peralta, Sonia Pruneda-Hernandez, Taniesha Woods Myles.

Members of the public in attendance: Franca Brilliant, Nonprofit Montgomery; Todd Frankfield, Atlas CPA; Sharon Friedman; Elizabeth Gaines, Children's Funding Project; Amanda Holiday-Bembridge; Courtney Moore, Children's Funding Project.

COA Interim Staff in attendance: Laura Jahromi, 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 February 1, 2023 meeting.

**Motion** to accept the minutes as written: Dira Treadvance. Second: Tiffany Jones.

Motion passed unanimously.

### Interim Executive Director Report

- Board Retreat: The Retreat will be held in person on Saturday 4/15 from 10am-4pm. Directors interested in informing planning were invited to reach out to Kimberly.
- ECE Position Update: COA received over 400 applications and the team will be reviewing them with the goal of identifying a candidate in April.
- Strategic Planning: COA received 10 applications from the Request for Proposals that was posted in February 2023. The Executive Committee will meet on March 22 to review



viable proposals using a standard rubric; any other interested Directors are welcome to attend. Further discussions and steps will be brought to the retreat in April.

- County Council presentation: Kevin Beverly, Pat Ruppert, Tiffany Jones, Vivian Yao, and Kimberly Rusnak presented to the County Council Joint Committees on Health & Human Services and Education & Culture on 3/16. The group discussed recent progress and current plans, as well as the budgets for FY23 and FY24, data, and possible work duplication. Committee chairs Will Jawando and Gabe Albornoz put forth a special appropriation of \$200,000 to close the COA budget gap in FY23; it will be introduced to the full Council likely the week of 3/28. Information will be shared as updates are available.
- Introduction of Atlas CPA, Todd Frankenfield: Thus far, Todd worked on the COA 501(c)(3) status filing and has gotten all accounts and software up to date as needed. Currently, Todd is focusing on Children's Opportunity Fund grants and reporting in order to get clarity on remaining COF funds in advance of the COA transition.
- County Executive Meeting: Last week, a group met with the County Executive to discuss COA. Pat Ruppert, Tiffany Jones, Kevin Beverly, BB Otero, and Deborah Lambert were in attendance with Kimberly Rusnak.
- Grant Making: A small group met recently to discuss COA grantmaking - Amy Cropp, Sobia Qureshi, and Taniehsa Woods Myles - and determined the \$150,000 in the FY23 budget should be distributed through an open grant making process to distribute small amounts of funds. The process will for accepting applications will begin in April and decisions will be made in June.

### **Early Care and Education Initiative (ECEI) Update**

BB Otero presented about the work of the ECEI, including its structure, focus areas, pandemic response, and recommendations for its next Action Plan.

### **Children's Funding Project**

Elizabeth Gaines, Chief Executive Officer, and Courtney Moore, Senior Policy Associate, from the Children's Funding Project (CFP) presented on the work of CFP and discussed "what is strategic public financing?", including fiscal mapping, cost modeling and estimation, and sourcing additional funding. They also discussed the data CFP collected during a 2018 fiscal map commissioned by Montgomery Moving Forward as well as updates about identifying American Rescue Plan Funding in Montgomery County.

### **Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Discussion**

COA was included in the County Executive's Proposed Budget for \$800,000. COA's current draft budget for FY24 is \$1.4 million and has not yet been approved by this Board. It was noted that COA will need to set up a contract with DHHS as soon as possible and that the funds will be reimbursement-based.



The Closed Session noted on the agenda was determined to not be necessary in the interest of time; Pat Ruppert offered to provide an update on Executive Director hiring via email.

*The Board Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:10pm.*

Respectfully submitted by Laura Jahromi, Interim Strategy Specialist.

Approved on: May 17, 2023