

**Queen Anne's County**  
**Community Partnerships for Children and Families (LMB)**  
**Board of Directors**  
**Minutes**  
**February 19, 2025**  
In-Person with Virtual Option

**Members Present:**

Dana Barnhart, Children's Council  
Susan Coppage, QAC Department of Social Services  
Katie Dilley, Mid Shore Behavioral Health  
Matt Evans, Board of Education  
Scott Evans, Community Member  
Joselle Gatrell, Community Member  
Michelle Johnson, Community Member  
Deanna Lewis, Community Member  
Gail Lundberg, Community Member  
1st/Sgt. John Meyers, QAC Sheriff's Office

James Miller, QAC Recreation  
Stephen Palmer, QAC County Ride  
Lauren Searce, Department of Juvenile Services  
Brice Strang, QAC Health Department  
Colleen Thomas, Community Member

**Administrative Staff:**

Lacey Amos, LMB Administrator  
Brian Barnshaw, Resource Development Specialist

Lisa Michaels, Office Coordinator  
Melinda Ray, Character Counts Coordinator  
Jennifer Stansbury, Fiscal Administrator

**Member Regrets:**

Pastor Mark Farnell, Community Member  
Stephanie Jarrell, County Commissioners  
Michael McGrew, Community Member

Michael Murphy, Community Member  
Jason Mullen, Chesapeake College  
Deyanica Murga, Community Member  
Janet Salazar, Community Member  
Alana Van Ornum, Student Member

**I. Welcome:**

Katie Dilley called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

**II. LMB Updates & Reports:**

**A. Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee was provided an update via email on February 11, 2025. The Executive Committee reviewed today's agenda and no decisions were made that will require ratification by the Board.

**B. Secretary**

Susan Coppage, Vice President & Secretary, presented the January 15, 2025 meeting minutes for approval.

**\*\*Action:**

Gail Lundberg made a motion to approve the January 15, 2025 minutes as written. A second was provided by Matt Evans. All present voted in favor with no abstentions.

**C. Treasurer**

Colleen Thomas, Board Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report for January 2025 for approval.

**\*\*Action:**

Scott Evans made a motion to accept the January 2025 Treasurer's Report as written. A second was provided by Gail Lundberg. All present voted in favor with no abstentions.

**D. Director's Report. See Board Packet.**

- The Board was requested to review and make any revisions to the Community Partnerships for Children and Families' (Local Management Board) Bylaws. The Bylaws were provided to the Board members prior to the February meeting.

**\*\*Action:**

A motion to approve the Queen Anne's County Community Partnerships for Children and Families bylaws as they stand, affirming the annual review process required by state oversight. Colleen Thomas provided a second. All present voted in favor with no abstentions and the motion was carried.

- It is that time of year where we submit our 2026 Community Partnership Agreement application. To ensure the timely handling of the application, considering the board's monthly meeting schedule, a strategy has been devised. Each year, a motion is made to authorize the Strategic Planning Committee, along with the Executive Committee, to endorse the CPA application for submission to the Governor's Office for Children.

**\*\*Action:**

Susan Coppage made a motion to empower the Strategic Planning Committee, in collaboration with the Executive Committee, to undertake all necessary actions to prepare, finalize, and submit the Fiscal Year 2026 Community Partnership Application on behalf of the Queen Anne's County Local Management Board. Matt Evans provided a second. All present voted in favor with no abstentions and the motion was carried.

**E. Committee Updates:**

- **Backpack Committee – Scott Evans**
  - The Committee met on February 12, 2025
  - There are currently 84 program volunteers.

- Volunteer hours are approximately 313 hours with 2,253 distributed bags.
- Vince Radosta continues to work towards securing multiple grants for the committee.
- The program is looking into collaborating with Haven Ministries to provide services to the community.
- The committee will begin planning for the summer backpack program.
  
- **Character Counts! – Melinda Ray**
  - 100% volunteer coaches in all K-5 classrooms.
  - Writing curriculum for the Horizons summer camp, Parks & Recreation and The Edge.
  - Inspired by a recent presentation by Maryland Reads, Character Counts! is sponsoring spring break book challenge for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in all elementary schools.
  - Please continue to send in your nominations for the Commissioner's Spotlight candidates.
  - Attended the Charter School planning meeting.
    - Still very early stages.
    - Application is due next week.
    - The Charter School be a part of QACPS, just an additional offering.
    - Start with K-2, and possibly adding pre-K.
    - Same State public school standards, testing, etc. just a different curriculum.
  
- **Children's Council – Dana Barnhart**
  - The Children Council met earlier this month. Maryland Reads presented to the Council.
  - According to Maryland Reads, MD is the 4<sup>th</sup> most diverse state.
  - Maryland Reads reports that technology has become a barrier to reading – that technology rewires the brain.
  - 95% of all students have ability to be proficient.
  - The Children Council plans to collaborate with Maryland Reads' QAC branch.
  
- **Out of School Time Committee (OOST) – Lauren Searce**
  - OOST met in mid-January.
  - The Committee is scheduled to review, post and award several RFPs.
  - Most pressing program currently is AlphaBest.
  - AlphaBest enrolled 158 students this year.
  - The Edge did a great job this year. In addition to sports, the Edge was able to provide a menu of offering to elementary and middle schools to include theater programs in multiple schools. The Spring Program begins in March.
  - The Committee is seeking additional committee members.
  
- **Safety Net Committee – Matt Evans**
  - The Safety Net Committee met this morning.

- Eddie Cortes - I'm Possible - 7th and 8th graders 4/22 & 4/23/2025. Also looking to include the 6 elementary schools (3rd-5th)
- Vaping Prevention initiatives
  - Presentations at KIHS from Caitlin Donohue-Vega, Oral Health Outreach Coordinator, through the Eastern Shore Area Health Education Center. Presentations also in November
  - Sterlen Barr and Rapping About Prevention (R.A.P.) April 8th & 9th.
- Suicide Prevention
  - [NAMI - Ending The Silence](#) - Presented to Student Services by Jeff Shultz. Next step is coordinating a presentation to the athletic club at QACHS.
  - [Suicide Prevention for Students](#) through 8th and 10th grade Health classes.
- Children's Mental Health Month om May – Striving for Wellness will be providing resources to students during their breaks.
- Meeting with Deyanica Murga about social media safety awareness. Hoping to develop a presentation to students with parents.
- **Strategic Planning Committee – Michelle Johnson**
  - The Committee was provided a written update regarding ENOUGH Act, Legislative Session, and CPA.
  - Horizons of Queen Anne's and Kent Summer Camp is a great resource to help prevent the summer slide.

**III. Transportation Discussion – Nadine Clark, Transportation Assistance Program (TAP), Stephen Palmer, QAC Count Ride and Lisa Michaels, Transportation Voucher Program. See Attached.**

**IV. Announcements & Adjourn**

- Wrapping up the QAC Free Laptop Program. Program deadline is end of April.
- A CRRF commission interest survey will be sent out to Board members.
- The LMB Board meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2025.

Colleen Thomas made a motion to adjourn. Lauren Searce provided a second. All present voted in favor and the meeting was adjourned.