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County Executive

# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## Commission for Children, Youth and Families (Local Management Board)



Elana Belon-Butler  
Director

### *Meeting Minutes*

October 20, 2020

#### **I. Call to order**

Courtney Wimbush, Chair, called to order the regular meeting of the Local Management Board at 4:35 p.m. on October 20, 2020, via Microsoft Teams.

#### **II. Introductions**

Mia Brown conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: Kerriann Peart, Health, Human Services and Education; Elana Belon-Butler, Department of Family Services; Walter Jackson, Department of Social Services; Sharon Christmas-DeBerry, Citizen Member; Sheila Jackson, Prince George's County Public Schools; Michael Glynn, Office of the State's Attorney; Orethea Mattison, Commission for Children, Youth and Families; James Mitchell, Prince Georges County Police Department; Courtney Wimbush, Chair; Pamela Hamlin, Prince Georges County Memorial Library; Anthony Nolan, MD National Capital Parks & Planning; Tiffany Hardy, Citizen Member; Melvin High, Office of the Sheriff;

**Guests:** Lyrica Welch, Charlena Jones, Jonathan Baiden, Matthew Venuti, and Michael Thes (sp?)

#### **III. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting**

The minutes were reviewed and approved at 4:41 pm.

#### **IV. LMB Director's Report – Dr. Orethea Mattison**

**Community Plan:** Dr. Mattison stated that the Governor's Office requires that all jurisdictions complete a Community Plan. To meet the requirements, the LMB contracted with Youth Popular Culture to conduct a series of focus groups with key stakeholder, community leaders and business, and parents and youth to garner their perspective on the needs of the community. Dr. Mattison introduced Ms. Welch to provide detailed information regarding the focus groups and moving forward.

**Focus Groups and Surveys:** Ms. Welch provided an overview of the implementation and discussion points explored in the nine focus groups of 8-10 participants in the central, northern and southern Counties. Prior to the pandemic, we completed three in-person focus

groups. The remainder of the focus groups were completed via a virtual platform. The yield from the virtual platform was low, so we developed a brief online survey with the same questions used during the focus groups to be distributed to the Board, key stakeholders and the community at-large. The online survey will be available on Survey Monkey until Nov. 30, 2020.

**Local Care Team (LCT):** Ms. Jones presented on the Local Care Team (LCT) function and referral process. She stated that the LCT is a collaborative body of representatives who are empowered to commit agency resources to youth who may require a special placement or an alternative placement due to behavioral, educational, developmental, or mental health disabilities. The LCT meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday to review cases and work with families to develop a plan of care. In some cases, youth may require a special placement, at which time the parents may request a voluntary placement agreement (VPA). The ultimate goal is to connect families to community resources and services.

**Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS):** Dr. Jackson presented on Family Outreach and Engagement During COVID-19 Closure. She informed the Board that Prince George's County Public Schools are operating fully as distance learning with electronic devices at home. She shared that the last spring, PGIPS conducted a survey to determine stakeholder preferences for schools reopening and based on the surveys 80% of family/community preferred distance learning/a hybrid; 46% preferred continue learning at home full-time, 42% preferred a hybrid model distance learning with in-school instruction; and 12 preferred returning to school full-time. Dr. Jackson shared that the school systems has created a Distance Learning Hotline to assistance parents/families with concerns during the COVID-19 distant learning. The Hotline operates Monday – Friday from 9am – 5pm and the number is 240-696-6229. Dr. Jackson also informed the Board that the need for WIFI is great and some families are still having challenges. Ms. Hamlin for the Memorial Library shared the library has free WIFI access that families can connect from the library parking lot.

**Open Act Meeting 14 Official Opinions of the Compliance October 7, 2020:** Dr. Mattison shared the following information regarding complaints filed against the LMB with guidance from Matthew Venuti, Attorney from the Prince George's County Office of Law: The Open Meetings Compliance Board found LMB violated the following sections of the Open Meetings Act:

- § 3-302, the Act's notice provision, by providing notice only to interested parties, rather than to the general public, and
- § 3-306(e), which requires public bodies to do so post minutes online to the extent practicable

They found LMB did not violate the following sections:

- § 3-302.1 which requires public bodies to make agendas available
- § 3-306(b) by adopting minutes.

The Open Meetings Compliance Board recommends the following:

- If the LMB will hold a closed session subject to the Act, it must designate a member, as well as a staff member, to take training on the Act's requirements. § 3-213(d)(2)
  - Which LMB has already completed
- Before holding a closed session, the LMB must vote, in public, to close that public meeting, and in order to vote in public,
- LMB must give notice to the public that it may attend to observe the vote. See § § 3-302, 3-305(d)

**V. Dr. Mattison informed the Board that she has worked with Mr. Venuti to ensure that information regarding the LMB scheduled meeting, agenda and minutes are posted on DFS website in accordance to the Open Act Meeting guidelines. LMB Chair's Report – Courtney Wimbush**

**Ad HOC Committees Report:** Madame Chair Wimbush called for the Chairpersons to report on their committees. The Chairpersons reported that they have not held a meeting during this reporting period but will schedule meetings before the next LMB meeting in December 2020. Madame Chair informed the Chairpersons that the expectation of the LMB is that all Ad Hoc Committees meet during the month between regularly scheduled LMB meetings and be prepared to report out.

**VI. Announcements and Program Updates**

Walter Jackson, DSS stated that at the onset of COVID-19 referral for new CPS cases have dropped because the primary mandatory reporting sources i.e., schools are not seeing children and therefore not able to identify possible case of abuse and/or neglect. However, Mr. Jackson shared that recently there has been a slight increase in reporting. He also shared that DSS CPS Trainings are still available and any agency in need of CPS training should contact him.

Anthony Nolan, MNCPPC shared that on Saturday, October 31, 2020 there will be a virtual Steam Fest from 11am-4pm.

**VII. Adjournment**

Madame Chair Wimbush motioned to adjourn the meeting and Dr. Shelia Jackson second the motion. Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.