



The Family Tree

Raising families up.

Program and Research Committee Meeting

December 1, 2020, 8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.

Minutes

Members Present: John Meyerhoff, M.D., Mary Jean Herron, Rick Barth Ph.D., Howard Dubowitz M.D., Maureen van Stone Esq., Scott Krugman, M.D.

Members Excused: Sally Bauer

Staff Present: Pat Cronin, Mary Francioli, Stacey Brown, Jennifer Wolff, Nancy Pelton, Matila Jones, Melissa Burch

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Introductions John Meyerhoff
2. Approval of September 29th Minutes John Meyerhoff
3. Mission Moment Stacey Brown
4. Program Updates Stacey Brown/Staff
 - Program Dashboard
 - Parent Education
 - Baltimore City Child Care Resources
 - Intensive Family Services
 - Community Engagement Services
5. 2021 Advocacy Plan Pat Cronin
 - Statute Of Limitations (CSA)
 - Time to Care Act
 - ACEs Legislation
6. Strategic Plan Update -- Next Steps

Announcements

- Follow up: Evening to Give Thanks
- Tuesday, January 19, 2021 – **GENERAL BOARD MEETING, ZOOM 5:30 pm**
- Tuesday, February 23, 2021 – **Program and Research Committee 8:00 am**

Recorder: Jennifer Wolff

1. Welcome – John Meyerhoff

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: John Meyerhoff welcomed the group to our virtual meeting. September 29th meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

2. Mission Moment

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: Stacey Brown told a story about a mother whose child attends our Kids Care Plus program. The mother has had limited help since the beginning of the pandemic. She hasn't felt comfortable taking her child out into the stores. But since she has found KCP she has been able to have breaks to go to the store or just have some time to herself. She thanked Stacey for everything that the program has done for her and her child.

3. Program Updates

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:

- a) **Program Dashboard** – The Dashboard was shown on the screen. Stacey reported that we have exceeded our goal for the first quarter. ACE Trainer, Scott Showalter, helped exceed this goal tremendously by completing a training with more than 12,000 participants. We are also working with MSDE on Project Aware and are hoping that these numbers will continue to rise. Stacey plans to raise our quarterly goal to 25,000 served (dashboard filed with original minutes).
- b) **Parent Education** – Melissa Burch, Family Ed Coordinator reported on behalf of Raymond Greene-Joyner that the department is continuing to provide parenting classes online. Since the pandemic, with the restrictive court system and the altered child protective system, our numbers were impacted. Our classes went from 15-20 per class to 6-8 participants. However, we were beginning to see those numbers increase during the late summer/early fall. We are hoping that with the prioritizing of the court system cases, the numbers won't decrease too much in the next few months. The good news is that we are beginning to attract other jurisdictions outside of Baltimore City and County, and Prince George's County. Our goal is to reach some jurisdictions in Eastern and Western Maryland. We've started the 10-week *Girls Circle* at Gwynn Park School in Prince George's County and have 10 young students attending. We continue our partnership with Geraldine Young Family Center in Baltimore where we provide parenting classes to their clients as well as EDSI Works where we provide weekly workshops. Since the pandemic, we have developed several blogs and presentations for our website giving parenting tips and advice to parents who may be struggling with various parenting issues. The department has completed two webinars: *Communications* and *Stress Management*. The third webinar will be offered on December 7th at 1:00 PM. Please join us. The topic will be *Managing Difficult Behaviors*. Our goal is to provide a webinar once a month on various topics for parents. The department continues to host "Parenting Break" on Fridays. The episodes have expanded to offer more than just conversations for parenting to listen to. The program has had young talents perform, a workout demonstration, and Erik provided opportunities for parents to develop a game day for their families. The department is excited to have the STEM (Anger Management) program transferred to our department. The program is in its third week of a 10-week session. And with every new program, we are experiencing growing pains. However, we are hoping to offer the next cycle sometime in late January.

Stacey also noted that we started providing the option to attend in person classes since some participants experienced technical trouble or didn't have a computer or cell phone. Although, at our first in person class only 1 participant showed, another did not come due to being sick and later learned he tested positive for Covid-19. We are very grateful that he did not come while he was ill. Mary Jean suggested that we come up with a list of locations that provide free Wifi for

participants to use as a reference. It was also suggested that webinar topic include the age of the child in the description.

- c. **Baltimore City Child Care Resource Center** – Nancy reported that most child care centers have reopened. BCCRC has been receiving a lot of calls for “quick fix” technical issues which has been challenging. They have started a Technical Assistance Support Group for providers and have found it to be helpful to them. Providers are feeling a great need to talk about the issues they are having and it’s helping to reduce their anxiety. Nancy her goal is to increase the quality of child care centers throughout the city. They are currently assisting 10 centers to become accredited, although it has been a challenging process. BCCRC has been participating in a pilot program with the Maryland Businesswoman’s Journal and are working with 20 centers in each jurisdiction to help support and get them back up on their feet since the pandemic. Nancy is also working with the Mayor’s Cabinet for Children and Families to help come up with an FY21 plan.
- d. **Kids Care Plus** – Stacey reported on behalf of Kids Care Plus Director, Ebony McCreary. We recently received \$10k from MSDE for Covid relief, this was given to us as a surprise and was very exciting.
- e. **Intensive Family Services** – Stacey reported on behalf of Asst Director, Natasha Peterson, that we have a new nurse starting on 12/7, as well as a new medical director, Michelle Ogunwole. She is currently doing her fellowship at Hopkins and has a strong interest in maternal health. She was quoted in today’s paper. We are very excited to have her. Pat gave a quick update regarding the Baltimore Babies Project: essentially that it has been more challenging to match data largely because a change in data bases during the evaluation period. Due to the pandemic, we cannot expect results as planned largely due to the interruption caused by COVID which preempted staff from going to the hospital; and with view exception, follow up interviews were virtual.
- f. **Community Engagement Services** – Matila Sackor-Jones, the new Asst Director (replaced Ruby Parker) reported that they have reached 719 participants through the call line, 112 through Parents Anonymous, 1,032 through community education and over 13,000 through ACE trainings this quarter. The department is currently working on receiving their ACE training license to be able to offer CEU’s. Lindsay Jacks is working hard on the Holiday Shop, where parents can “shop” through Facebook video. With regard to outreach, we are looking for new way to advertise due to the pandemic, such as Mom Groups on Facebook, food distribution centers, etc. Matila is working with Councilmember Zeke Cohen on how to train government and other human service professionals in the city. She is also working with MSDE on a pilot ACE Interface program where they will train educators throughout the state. There are currently 3 Parent’s Anonymous groups being run. Howard Dubowitz suggested looking into a program called “Help Me Grow” and will send Matila the information.
- g. **Development-** Mary reported that the Evening to Give Thanks event went better than expected. There were a total of 105 participants. We were able to reach people through this virtual event that we probably would not have if we would have had an in-person event. All of the proceeds of Giving Tuesday will go towards our Kids Care Plus program, we are currently already at \$4k of our \$5k goal. We also have some exciting new additions to the website coming soon!

4. **2021 Advocacy Plan**

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:

- a) **Advocacy** - Pat reported that the General Assembly will be virtual this year and guests not allowed. We will NOT be doing our annual Advocacy Day this year. Pat presented the ‘advocacy plan’ for the 21 session. The areas of concentration include legislation on racial equity, specifically in child welfare; Hidden Predator Act (statute of limitations for child sexual abuse); Time to Care—paid family leave. Screening for ACE’s in childhood

is an interest of Senator Augustine/Del Queen in Prince's George's county. It will be challenging this year for legislation to move forward; but interest in screening, identifying and mitigating childhood adversity will likely remain a focus. The committee discussed the confusion/inappropriateness of using a population survey (ACE Questionnaire) to screen individual children for adversity/risks. It is also noted that MD's public health/behavioral health and education is not integrated. It would be very challenging to screen children for trauma and not have at the ready needed resources. Dr. Krugman is attending the Prince George's County discussion re: potential ACE bills.