



Statesboro Community Youth Network

S C Y N

April 21, 2022, 6pm, via Zoom

Statesboro Youth Commission Meeting Minutes

In attendance: LaShai Campbell, Lakesha Hill, Renata Newbill-Jallow, Tracy Linderholm, Amanda Clements, Catherine Hendrix (Bulloch County Commission on Human Services), Mykeal Bennett, Danni Bennett, Caitlin Brady

Lakesha Hill called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm and noted quorum was not present. Agenda was approved as written. Minutes from the March meeting were approved.

BOE meeting: Summer learning/enrichment offered by BCS again this summer. Discussed budget. Approval to purchase 15 new school buses. School transfer request was tabled. AP Chemistry at SHS discussed as there is a demand for it - discussion about adding it in the future. Superintendent gave it to the SHS principal to decide.

City's Youth Conversation from April 2: Mayor introduced the Children's Zone project. **Request from the group for the Mayor to share budget slide - and the timeline slides - Lakesha will follow up with the Mayor.** Mayor addressed education and living conditions gaps that exist in the community; reading levels for 3rd graders highlight disparities. Mayor mentioned fundraising for the project.

Children's Zone Update: Waiting to hear back from Ossoff's office if we will receive funding from them. There is no date/timeline from when we

will hear. But the Mayor wants us to proceed as if we didn't get funding. Zones have been identified. Where can we find physical spaces in the zone (e.g., churches) where we can trade resources, etc. Would these entities be willing to offer "in kind" services and support such as transportation to the zone drop-off sites. Could students serve on council as representatives of their zones. And also discussing different ways to fund the program. Mayor is engaging members of the community 1-on-1 about supporting the project (e.g., Mayor met with GSU president's representatives). Request for the commission members to receive the maps so we can start thinking about those entities in each zone.

What is our role in this project? We are a governing body ... Mayor will hire a program manager and they will report to the commission.

Is there a duplication of services with Boys and Girls Club? They address needs in schools whereas Children's Zone would address needs in neighborhoods along with families. Do offer unique services. Would partner together.

Who will do background checks and determine the services offered were safe, being administered legally/properly. The hired staff.

Is each zone offering unique services? Early literacy, mentoring, food scarcity, academic outcomes, workforce development opportunities are goals of the program. Some zones may offer unique things but will have those common goals.

BOE elementary behavior intervention: Question from the group - will there be an evaluation to determine when the child can go back to the regular classroom? The program is still being developed for approximately 10 students. Concerns about these children being in a different location and will they be receiving the social skills with other children. Lakesha will ask these questions at the next BOE meeting if commission members will email her and continue to have conversations "on the side" to learn about the program and how it develops. Concerns that this is similar to

institutionalizing children. Lakesha will also ask if outside individuals and organizations can help develop the program.

Youth Event at Fostering Bulloch: Cannot get an update as Stacey was not in attendance.

Master list of youth organizations: Mayor asked the group to develop a master list. How can we encourage people to sign up (there was a form sent around). Members of the commission can encourage people to sign up. BCHS is also collecting information and will post online and can share it. A few members asked for the form since they lead non-profits.

Slack: If everyone could join this so we can determine if this would be a central place for us to communicate and work together. One member had access issues with Slack and Lakesha will let Tina know.

Youth Connect Interviews: The students who went to the interview will be offered the opportunity.