



**Commission on Children and Youth  
Meeting Summary  
May 13, 2020  
Meeting held via Microsoft TEAMS (virtual)**

**Members Present via Microsoft TEAMS:** Kirsten Andersen, Shruti Bhatnagar, Stephanie Clark, Leslie Copeland-Tune, Luciana Crotti-Espinoza, Karen Duffy, Lynne Harris, Joseph Hooks, Jerome Jackson, Alex Kern, Renae McPherson, Stephanie Nesmith, Julie Reiley, Andrea Shore, Shané Tate and Ashley Thommana

**Members Absent:** Itamar Fiorino, Uma Fox, Victoria Koretsky, Ijeoma Okoro, and Pamela Taylor

**Staff Present:** Erin Stillwell (DHHS)

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Kirsten Andersen, chair, called the full commission meeting to order at 7:06 pm

- Chair roll call
- Acknowledgment of all nurses during Nurses Week
- Chair provided opening remarks about hosting meeting via Microsoft TEAMS

**Meeting Summary Review and Vote:** Review and vote February 12, 2020 and March 11, 2020 meeting summary

**ACTION:** Motion to approve the meeting summaries for February 12, 2020 and March 11, 2020; amend March 11, 2020 to include Stephanie Nesmith as present via Skype

Motion: Shruti Bhatnagar

Second: Jeanett Peralta

**Past Commission Business**

- **34th Annual Dworkin Awards:**
  - Postponed this year due to Covid-19 health crisis; will look to reschedule for next year.
- **Update Commission Calendar:**
  - Planning retreat (usually scheduled for June) to be moved to September 2020; unclear if will be in person or virtual meeting

**Current Commission Business:**

- Call for nomination chair and vice chair
  - Election will be at June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting (either via ballot or acclamation)

- Current chair/vice chair (Kirsten and Karen) have agreed to remain in their roles until September to assist with transition
- Commissioners can self-nominate or send nominations to Erin via email no later than June 8<sup>th</sup>
- Current nominations: Renae Mc Pherson (chair), Jerome Jackson (vice chair) and Stephanie Nesmith (vice chair)

### **Subcommittee Report Outs**

- **Youth Leadership/Advisory Subcommittee**
  - Alex and Ashely reported out for youth
  - Youth commissioners will compile a summary of the research they conducted this year for the annual report; will also include some recommendation that can be carried over into next commission year
- **Law Enforcement/Youth Subcommittee**
  - Ashley reported out as co-chair for the subcommittee
  - Subcommittee has created a “to do list” and is working to complete items on that list; this will yield a summary and recommendation report for the annual report
  - Summary and recommendation section should be ready to distribute to the CCY prior to the June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting
- **School Diversity/Youth Subcommittee**
  - Jeanette reported out as one of the co-chairs for the subcommittee
  - Itamar and Victoria have a working document with recommendations
  - This subcommittee is going to recommend continuing this priority into the next commission year; still waiting to see how MCPS is going to handle diversity issues

### **New Commission Business**

- **Discussion about Letter from CCY:** Leslie Copeland-Tune proposed the idea to draft a letter from the CCY raising concerns about issues related to Covid-19, schools, virtual learning, equity, etc.
  - Commissioners discussed possible topics to include in the letter (learning recovery, issues identified with virtual learning, encouraging MCPS to look outside the County for best practices, acknowledging the hard work and commitment of MCPS staff to the students during virtual learning, issues with virtual learning and student with individual learning needs, how to assist families with limited access to technology, student frustration using various types of learning platforms, mental health of students, staff and families, etc.).
  - Address letter to Board of Education and cc to other identified stakeholders
  - Have working draft of letter ready to distribute to full CCY prior to June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting

### **Announcements:**

- Karen: EveryMind is hosting Walk in May for 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 24/7 Crisis Hotline (posted link in text box)
- Jerome: Montgomery Recreation: all camps have been refunded; if camps can be re-opened, they will most likely be for essential employees only; no news on community pools
- Renae: Pupil Personal Services have a resource link that has a number of community resources (mental health, medical, etc). (shared in the text box)
- Shané: Collaboration Council is conducting a virtual community needs assessment on 5/20; next forum will be on 6/9—also Excel Beyond the Bell.org and InfoMontgomery.org has resource links to community resources

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm