

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES**

July 23, 2024

OPEN SESSION – Elk Room

4:30 P.M.

NOTE: The recording and transcription of this meeting are available on the County website at www.ccgov.org/council.

PRESENT: Council Members: Robert Meffley, Rebecca Hamilton, Al Miller and Jackie Gregory; David Culver, Council Manager; Christine Palmer, Council Assistant, members of the administration and members of the public.

Call to Order

President Gregory called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm and announced that there were four Council Members present and one absent which constitute a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Vice President Meffley, seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council Work Session of July 16, 2024, as presented. The motion passed 4 to 0 with one absent.

Presentations

a. Local Management Board Update

Director of Community Services David Trolie noted that the Local Management Board has undergone several transitions during its existence. He noted Cecil County originally created this type of Board prior to the State in the early 1990's. The State Legislature added this Board to the State Code in the early 2000's. Since this time the Legislature and the Governor's Office have changed the goals and priorities of this Board. He noted the current mission of the Board is to promote the existence of a quality service delivery system for Cecil County children, youth and families through a comprehensive planning process that emphasizes interagency collaboration, accountability, and citizen involvement with local decision-making authority. Director Trolie noted that the Board has membership from numerous organizations including, but not limited to, the Department of Social Services, Circuit Court, Cecil College, Department of Emergency Services, Sheriff's Office, State and local police, Board of Education, Union Hospital, County Council and numerous health agencies.

Director Trolie noted the Board's scope of work is to identify priorities and target resources for children, youth and families residing in the community; implement and support programs aligned with the Governor's Office for Children's Strategic Priorities; monitor children and family services through the funding of programs; increase collaboration between local stakeholders and agencies serving children; coordinate and oversee a Local Care Team; and conduct ongoing assessment of needs, resources and gaps related to children and families. Director Trolie noted to accomplish this scope they have many programs and partners. He noted for the Mentoring Program, they utilize CASA of Cecil County, for the Neighborhood Youth Panel (NYP) they use Community Services, for Prevention Overdose Response Team (PORT) they use Emergency Services, for Children of Incarcerated Parents (COIP) and the Legacy Program they use Youth Empowerment Source (YES), for Trauma Support (school-based therapy) they use Rising Wellness and for all other issues they work with the various local care teams. He noted that Cecil County, per capita, is the leader in the State at serving this community based on the number of cases. He noted for FY24 the total revenue to perform this scope was \$701,288. Finally, he noted that Governor Moore's office has announced new initiatives including the ENOUGH Act and allocated additional grant funding opportunities, however, at this time Cecil County may not meet the threshold for these new grants based on the criteria of concentration of poverty in census districts, which Cecil County does have three districts that meet this criteria and poverty in individual schools, which Cecil County does not have any that meet the criteria as set forth by the State. Director Trolie also reviewed the capacity building initiative of the Board and the goals of this program.

Councilwoman Hamilton inquired if the Board audits the programs to ensure compliance with the State's goals and Director Trolio noted they do review the programs to ensure compliance and they also coordinate efforts with the State. Councilwoman Hamilton also inquired on the capacity building initiative and the recent needs assessment results and Director Trolio noted the assessment still showed the need for affordable housing, employment and economic opportunities, transportation, food security, health care and mental health facilities. Councilman Miller inquired on the capacity building aspect of the program and Director Trolio noted it is, basically, an assessment on how to break the poverty cycle through better health, education, safe environments, employment opportunities and food security. He noted the capacity studies are to identify how, and who, will be able to provide these services going forward and to outline the way to break the poverty cycle.

Councilman Miller also noted food waste and the various programs to provide food security and noted that community gardens are a great way to help people learn how to grow food and provide some food security. Director Trolio noted the various food programs and the need for additional funding. Vice President Meffley also noted the lunch programs in schools and at MRDC and inquired on the status of these programs. Director Trolio noted this is handled directly by the Board of Education and MRDC through the State and Federal program but also noted the SNAP Program was being expanded to assist people. Vice President Meffley also inquired about the housing programs and Director Trolio noted the Cecil County programs and the importance of these programs to the local community.

President Gregory inquired on the school trauma programs and if this would be opened beyond the two current schools and Director Trolio noted they were working with the Board of Education and outlined how the two current schools were chosen based on behavior and other factors. President Gregory also inquired how the programs have been changing as it relates to youth diversion programs and juvenile justice reforms. Director Trolio reviewed the history of this program and how it has been changed from referrals from the Court system to referrals from the Board of Education and local police agencies. He did note the mentoring program and the emphasis on skill building with the youth. President Gregory also inquired on the type of items that the Board of Education can refer children to this program and Director Trolio noted it can be for smoking, vaping, fighting or general behavior issues, to name a few. He also noted that once referred, the panel will decide on the best course of action to assist the individual youth.

Councilwoman Hamilton inquired if the capacity building funding must be used for studies or can it be diverted to other programs. Director Trolio noted that capacity building, at this time, is to identify the problems and how they can be resolved and who can perform these tasks and not necessarily to fund the programs. Councilman Miller noted he is on the Local Management Board and thanked the numerous partners and the Community Services staff for the efforts being made on these issues.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Culver noted the updated Council Manager report is in the packet. He also noted that Drug Court was cancelled last week and has been rescheduled for July 26 if anyone from Council would like to attend.

Council Member Items

Councilwoman Hamilton noted she did not have any updates but thanked everybody for attending.

Councilman Miller noted that the Cecil County Fair is ongoing until July 27 and encouraged everyone to attend. He noted July 23 was AG Day at the Fair and that County Executive Danielle Hornberger and Senator Jason Gallion were guest speakers at the event.

Vice President Meffley also encouraged everybody to attend the Fair and that he was going to be one of the pig handlers at the auction on July 24.

President Gregory also encouraged everybody to attend the Fair and noted the annual Chicken Dinner at the Fair was very successful and that the local delegation, including Senator Hershey, participated in the event.

Adjournment

Councilman Miller made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Vice President Meffley. Council President Gregory adjourned the work session at 5:23 pm.

The next County Council Work Session will be held on Tuesday, August 6 at 4:30 pm in the Elk Room of the County Administrative Building. The session will be livestreamed on the County Council’s webpage at www.ccgov.org/council.



David M. Culver
Council Manager

Approved:



Jackie Gregory, Council President