******

**Community Advisory Board**

**Minutes for September 10th, 2021**

**In Attendance:**

**Community Action Council – Kim Buchanan**

* As a follow up to our previous meeting discussion identifying transportation as one of the main barriers to access resources and employment, the Community Action Council will share information on CAT Bus Program, other transportation resources and updates.
* Folder with info about CAC services given out to meeting attendees
* Transportation has been around since 2009 – recognition of a need for coordinated transportation program
* No contracts currently due to COVID
* Transport for people needing to go to medical appointments is fee for service to appts outside Washington County ($16 per hour/$1 per mile)
* Handicap accessible, assistance into and out of building if needed
* Hopewell Road Express – free employment transportation program to take people from downtown to Hopewell Rd corridor
* Partner with Community Free Clinic to offer free transportation to medical appts in Washington County for next two years (call 3 days before appt)
* Questions about whether mental health appointments and COVID testing are covered in grant funding
* Billed for service – no payment due at time of transport

**Bester Community of Hope – Programs**

* **Schools:**
	+ BOOST coming back to Bester Elementary School
		- 30 students enrolled
		- Health and wellness centered
		- Social emotional learning component
		- Ends at 5 pm daily
		- Six week cycles
		- Capacity varies depending on club
		- Family Involvement: This year the program is taking a different approach to family engagement activities. Families will be invited to the program at the end of a six-week cycle to participate in a selected club. Some of the clubs' parents have to look forward to participating in are kickball, art, self-defense and much more.
* **Families:**
	+ July – August:
		- Total number of referrals: **27**
		- Total number of transitions: **20**
		- **June**:  families, individuals: **35 families/ 177 individuals**
		- **July**:   families, individuals: **37 families/ 191 individuals**
		- **August**:  families, individuals: **31 families/ 142 individuals**
		- A total of home visits and service connections: **213 home visits/ 741 service connections**
		- Greatest needs identified in this quarter: crisis support, housing assistance including advocacy and facilitation of services, medical resources (especially in prep of children returning to school), mental health resources, and parenting supports.
	+ Parent Café
		- In- person Parent Cafes held in July, August, and September
		- September 23rd – Hager Park from 11:00am – 1:00pm
		- Going back to Virtual Parent Cafes for the Fall and Winter
			* October 13th 12-2pm
			* November 10th 12-2pm
			* December 8th 6-8pm
	+ Parent Advisory Committee remains stable – partnering with Maryland Coalition of Families to help support new peer program for those with DSS Involvement
* **Community:**
	+ Save the Dates:
		- 6th Annual South Side Community Block Party, September 18, 2021
		- Breaking the Cycle, October 7, 2021 at The Maryland Theater
		- 6th Annual Babypalooza, April 2022
			* Planning monthly activities leading up to Babypalooza
				+ Focus for this month:

Mental Health – Suicide Prevention

Recovery – Washington Goes Purple

* + - * + Planning meeting October 15th
	+ Community Enhancement Projects:
		- South End Mural
			* Identifying potential locations in South End
			* Gathering feedback for the artist
				+ What residents might like to see in a mural? Email ideas to Joan
		- Better Together:
			* July 14th, 2021 Clothing Distribution at the Crown Hotel - In collaboration with 410 Outreach and Families Helping Families we distributed 400 lbs of clothing along with hygiene and personal care items, shoes, food, diapers, wipes, baby essentials, home safety, lock boxes and sharps containers, among other items and supplies.
			* August 31st, 2021 – We had planned a clean-up and grounds keeping at St. John’s Lutheran in collaboration with Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren, Bester Community Neighborhood 1st group, and Girl Scout Troop #47851 from Emmanuel UMC. Unfortunately, this effort had to be postponed due to last minute repair of the church’s sprinkler system.
			* September 2021 – “Winter is Coming” Coat Drive; we will be collecting coats throughout the month of September and October for distribution in late Fall. If you or your agency would like to partner for this effort, please let me know.
			* November – identify locations for trees to be planted in South End by end of September
			* Submit ideas for upcoming months to Joan
	+ Community Connections:
		- Community Coffee continues to be available on Zoom Thursday mornings from 9:00am to 10:30am, added third Thursday evening from 6:00pm to 7:30pm
		- In person September 23rd from 9-10:30 at Hager Park
	+ City of Hagerstown has asked for assistance with staffing the Harvest Hoedown – volunteer sign ups available at meeting

Open Discussion/Community Updates

* Sandra Balbuena – HUB partnering with Judy Center for playgroups starting September 20th at Hager Park from 1-2 pm
* Upcoming COVID Vaccine Clinics to be sent to Joan – will be posted online and in community boards
* Boys and Girls Club On the Go – bring programming to your location, reach out to Jake for more information
* Girls Inc – provides transportation to their facility afterschool
* Partners In Care – Service fee based program for adults 60+, looking for volunteers
* Tomorrow St John’s Episcopal Church from 10-12 Food and activities