

Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth and Families

Meeting Minutes

May 24, 2023

Attendance: Appointed members: Janetta Brewer, David Carlson, Megan Mack, Stephanie Brown, Rick Strobach, Karen Herrling. Staff: Esan Fullington, Linh Nghe. Guests: Marisa Mitchell, Lisa Perrone

Online: Jamii PremDas, John Andelin, Kristin Devaney

Special Guest: Bernadette Costello

MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

Welcome + Introductions:

David Carlson and Janetta Brewer introduced Bernadette Costello an executive coaching and consultant who led the group through exercises designed to clarify and expound on the central objectives for the Arlington Partnership for Children Youth & Families.

Team Building Activities:

#1-*What Character are you?* Bernadette asked each attendee to share what fictional character they would be to gain clearer insight with regard the personalities/inclinations of those in attendance.

#2- *The Five Whys* helps to clarify purpose. Bernadette instructed everyone to write down their WHYs for being a member of the Arlington Partnership for Children Youth and Families. The goal is getting the APCYF focused on what they really want their work to be over the next year and what they want to be able to get started rolling on that quickly so that within the year, they're able to make it happen.

Additionally, the group was asked to focus on the themes that people consistently repeat. In this way, the group is guided towards narrowing the primary areas of focus. Each person shared their WHYs (ex. Jami PremDas shared: "Because I want government's role in community healing to be one that is culturally responsive and trauma informed, and for people to have a different experience than government historical involvement."), then members of the group write the outstanding themes on chart paper on the wall.

Finally, the group collectively narrowed down what they agree to be the primary areas of focus that were recurring during the session. The themes include *Upward Mobility, Equity & Access, Racial Issues* and *Social Justice*. Additional themes included community healing, having a positive impact, being culturally responsive are being able to initiate difficult conversations, focusing on health and safety, safe and protected children where they can thrive and have upward mobility, families are strong and communities are responsive, government that is also trauma informed and culturally responsive. Bernadette and Rick Strobach agree to review the notes and prepare them for further consideration during future meetings.

#3- Next Steps Take the information collected and give people who were not able to participate, who are part of the partnership and an opportunity to kind of weigh in as well and doing a survey that talks about ranking levels of importance.

Another point for consideration is the group is that groups exist that are successfully impacting some of the items of interest that were listed. Ideally, the group could determine what organizations already exist in Arlington regarding the areas of focus that were identified.

In summation, the group will take the information that was gathered, summarize it, and get input from the people who are not in the room, and maintain a listing of all the values at a high level. The top five values will guide the conversation next month to establish next steps and APCYF will pull the data from John around the top five so that everyone has the same data around those top five issues to have inform the conversation.

Additional Items

- **Partnership Coordinator position is open**
- **APCYF Retreat will be held on June 21st (note date change, not 4th Wed. of the month)**
- **Planning and Development needs to meet before July meeting.**