

**BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
MAY 20, 2010**

MEMBERS PRESENT: K. Baumes, C. Bedwick, B. Chopick, M. Erwine, E. Mahler, N. Michalisin, J. Nolan, K. Pettinger, A. Smith, V. Splendido, D. Toomey, J. Walsh and B. Yeager.

MEMBERS EXCUSED: J. Bauman, H. Berlew, B. Gawlas, A. Green-Santry, J. Kern and J. Roberts.

STAFF PRESENT: R. Evans and Tanya Olaviany.

President D. Toomey called the meeting to order and welcomed new member Kevin Baumes. He wished Kevin a long and storied career as a board member and expressed appreciation for his interest and participation.

MINUTES: Members reviewed minutes of the April meeting. E. Mahler made a motion to accept the minutes. N. Michalisin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

FINANCE AND FUND DEVELOPMENT: J. Nolan reported the committee met and focused on BFKS. He said the packet contains the job description for BFKS corporate chairperson. The committee reviewed suggestions for chairperson. Bill suggested Mitch Kornfeld and his wife. They would be a great fit and are already supporters of BB/BS. Eric suggested Bob Sopher's wife and someone mentioned the McCarthys. Vince said CeeCee is on the Soup Kitchen board and he is not sure what value Jack would bring at this time in his life. Megan suggested their son John and his wife Tina. J. Nolan stressed this is an extremely important role for us. Because of what happened in the economy teams and corporate donations were down. We need a person with the ability to get \$1,000 plus sponsors to turn it around. All 3 suggested chairs have community and business contacts to get more corporate sponsors and in turn more bowlers. We need to beef up the ad hoc committee and go back to basics. We talked so much about other activities but need to focus on teams and sponsors. Jack recommended we rank the suggested chairs 1, 2, 3 and reach out to them for a commitment. B. Yeager asked about Jim Brogna of Allied. Vince said not at this juncture. Ron said when Tom Pugh and Connie Schintz got on the phone people gave. We had female chairs, Mary Erwine, Nela Patel and Denise Cesare, who did incredible jobs. Vince said it might be time to return to a woman chair. He said the Sophers are in a power level and are able to bring in money. The Kornfelds also deserve some thought. Tanya said reading the Luzerne Foundation insert in the newspaper made her consider Mr. Flack. Vince said he is facing a medical challenge now. A. Smith asked if we could see if Tom Pugh would be willing to serve as chair again. Vince said with the reorganization at Allied he doubts it. He suggested Mike and Ann Ferrara. He is an OBGYN and she was a very successful fundraiser for General Hospital. Vince said she has a passion for children. E. Mahler suggested Scott or Dan Meuser of Pride Mobility. They are involved with the Children's Association. Jack said Vince and Homer will approach the Sophers and move on from there. It was

noted that Bob Sopher served on the board of BB/BS in Connecticut. Jack said Tanya extracted key points regarding BFKS from the minutes of the last meeting. They were discussed at the committee meeting. He said he doesn't know how to change people and raising the minimum is not a good idea. He said A. Smith had a great idea to emphasize how much the money is needed and how we use it. We need to hit more companies. Jack said J. Kern brought up the idea for a survey. Tanya said that will be included in the marketing report. Jack encouraged members to sell as many raffle tickets as they can. Bill and Amy will sell tickets at the Farmers Market and all members are encouraged to help. B Yeager gave an update on the Golf Tournament. He circulated the brochure that will be taken to businesses for hole sponsors. There are varying levels of commitment and participation. Proceeds will be split 50-50 between BB/BS and the Wyoming Valley Children's Association. V. Splendido said he is on the CSS board and chairs fund development. A Fund Development Coordinator will be hired to assist the Executive Director of CSS and the Program Director of BB/BS. Jack Nolan said it was discussed at the meeting and information is included in the packet. Vince said he feels it should be mentioned here. He said Tanya has done a yeoman's job doing it all so it will be a welcome relief for her. A. Smith asked if the plan is to split the salary 50/50. Vince said it will be shared between divisions of CSS. A. Smith noted grants were not specified in the duties. Ron said for grant writing you go with someone with that skill set. You go that market and buy it when you need it. J. Nolan said M. Erwine has agreed to chair this year's Walk around Wilkes Barre. Megan said she met with Alison Splendido who did an amazing job on the Walks. This year's event will be August 12th. E. Mahler made a motion to accept the report. N. Michalisin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

MARKETING AND RECRUITMENT: B. Chopick said the committee met and talked about the BFKS survey. They looked at online survey companies. Zoomerang, a survey site charges \$149.00 a year and provides reports. Free service is too limited at 10 questions and 100 people. J. Roberts' survey draft is included in the packet. Bob said Jim put together a nice set of questions that may lead to volunteer opportunities. Bob said he would gladly give his time to do the survey instead of paying an online survey company. J. Baumes said if the survey encompasses all areas it will be interesting to compare responses. Bob said J. Roberts will resubmit the program committee article to the Citizens' Voice and Times Leader. The value of WNEP's BFKS advertising amounted to \$14,645 and last year it was \$24,000. Although it decreased it is still nothing to sneeze at. Bob said he redesigned our website and it now reflects that we are multi county. There are panels for volunteering and donating and a thank you for BFKS participants. There is also a spot to sign up to our blog newsletter. There will be marketing for Walk around Wilkes Barre and the Raffle. The site is editable by Bob and the staff with a log in button. There is also a log in for volunteers and board members. The password is support. Board minutes and committee news will be available as well as the national website information, committee lists and member lists. This will have an extra level of protection. The goal is to keep it up to date. There is an events calendar and photo gallery. Bob said if you want information it is there. He will send an email with password information. Tanya said this can help cut back on mailing expenses. Bob said when someone wants to sign up to volunteer it now links to the national web site. It

will be automatically put into AIM and Tanya can assign it to a caseworker. It will also streamline donations by interfacing with donor perfect. D. Toomey and everyone present thanked Bob for a great job on the redesign. Bob invited those interested to attend the committee meetings on the 2nd Wednesday at 8 am at the Old House Café in Dallas. B. Yeager made a motion to accept the report. E. Mahler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT: J. Walsh introduced K. Baumes. He is employed at Geisinger and is Kings' men's soccer assistant coach. He formerly worked for Mercy and is adjunct professor at LCCC. He is married and has a family. Members introduced themselves and welcomed Kevin. Jerry reported B. Tielle has submitted his resignation due to travel conflicts. Level of participation of Friends of the Board will be reviewed every 2 years. Jerry said the committee recommends the following slate of officers: President – Jack Nolan, 1st Vice President – Bill Yeager, 2nd Vice President – Eric Mahler, Secretary – Kay Pettinger and Treasurer – John Bauman. There were no nominations from the floor. H. Berlew was an officer last year but stepped down due to time constraints. J. Walsh presented the following members for 2 year term renewals: Megan Erwine, Nick Michalisin, Kay Pettinger, Bill Yeager and Jerry Walsh. He presented Bill Behm and Dick DeHaven for 1 year term renewals. Jerry said voting will take place at the June meeting. No vote is required for Dennis Toomey who will be in Director Emeritus status. J. Nolan noted Dennis chose not to seek another term as president. E Mahler made a motion to accept the report. V. Splendido seconded the motion and it passed unanimously

PROGRAM: C. Bedwick reported the committee members were very busy with case file reviews. Tanya showed members reports and caseworker notes. Most were overwhelmingly very good. However newer caseworkers are not adept at making comments. It was suggested a more seasoned caseworker could share how to take notes. A. Smith also suggested instead of waiting for the next quarter they should be reviewed this month. Chris said there may be one Little eligible for the Paul Smith Memorial Scholarship. Materials are due by June 1st. The committee can approve by phone or email and it will be awarded at the June meeting. Vince recalled last year we discussed having it done earlier to get it published in the school programs. Chris said as soon as it comes we can act on it. Ann suggested changing the due date for next year. Tanya said unfortunately it gets lost in BFKS. J. Nolan made a motion to accept the report. B. Yeager seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Tanya reported the school based program ended. Due to graduations from high schools and colleges total active matches are down to 130. Tanya said a trend she has seen is a vast number of children are under treatment for mental health/behavioral disorders. If we do not accept them we would not have a waiting list. Approximately 70% of children reviewed since January in the Wyoming Valley office have some sort of mental health diagnosis. The challenge is the need to beef up match support and volunteer training. A. Smith said she volunteers as nurse at Church summer camp and sees the same thing. C. Bedwick said it is the same on the college level. Tanya said some have serious behavioral issues such as fire starting and

assault on a younger child. Ron Evans said we never saw these things at such an early age but he could see it coming. D. Toomey questioned how it affects our ability to match. Tanya said some are put on the waiting list for the benefit of outings and gifts. Tanya said we are no longer prevention but intervention. Ron said volunteers are an expensive resource and we hope for a match to work. Tanya said she is looking into training for match support staff to enable them to effectively support volunteers in their match relationships with these children with special needs, as well as developing volunteer trainings.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: A. Smith questioned where our June meeting will be held. Tanya said it will be at the Woodlands on June 17th. B. Yeager said he and his son will be attending an event sponsored by J. Kern's contact, Dick Ackourey & Sons. Bill said it is also a good opportunity for Bigs and Littles. B. Chopick said a photo is needed for the Summer Raffle press release. D. Toomey said he elected not to pursue a 3rd term as President. He has mixed feelings. He said the board has developed very well and it has been a great experience for him. The word that comes to his mind is engagement. We have a great group fully engaged in the work of BB/BS. He said we have a group of thoroughbreds at the gate. It's time to make the move and get people repositioned. C. Bedwick said Dennis has been an excellent president.

ADJOURNMENT: V. Splendido made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Pettinger