



Better Together Board Meeting Agenda

Thursday June 12, 2025 12:00pm-1:00pm

In-person at the CBTX Community Room 215 E. Main St.

Purpose: approval of finance-related proposals

This meeting will follow the Board Governance Training, facilitated by Heather Kartye of Angelina College's Nonprofit Leadership Center

Meeting called to order at 12:09pm.

1. Members in Attendance:
 - a. 12 members total (7 needed for Quorum)
9 members in attendance at the beginning of the meeting (several members had to leave before the meeting ended, some items were not able to be voted on because we no longer had quorum).
2. Approve minutes from May
No minutes to approve, due to the notes file being lost. Reconstructed minutes will be sent out to be approved at a later date.
3. Open discussion to reflect on learning from Board Governance Training
Mario reflected that this training was very useful and he is interested in participating in some of the other trainings Heather mentioned that are offered through AC's Nonprofit Leadership Center. Anna suggested adding continuing education for the board to the budget, which will be discussed at next month's board meeting.
4. Project Director's Report
 - a. Gateway to your Future 2025 updates
SFA, Workforce Solutions, and Better Together have been collaborating on this. Also Erin represents NISD and the Chamber in this planning committee. SFA is taking leadership on the event, planning on hosting at SFA. Looking to invite all Nac County 8th graders, maybe some from nearby counties. Currently in planning stages, but the planning committee is highly motivated and making progress. Aiming for early November. Catie asked if her understanding that BT has committed up to \$5,000 toward this event this year is accurate. There was a discussion about whether this was approved in a prior board meeting, Anna and Mario both said they think it was. Catie will review prior board notes to clarify.

Main expenses for this event will be food (meal card), t-shirts, and stipends to help small districts who may struggle with the expense of getting them here.

b. Education Series updates

We are moving forward with plan to offer 1 workshop per quarter, topics based on survey findings. Grant writing mini course with Pam June 26th (survey provided, will be sent digitally as well, notify Catie if you want hard copies), hoping those who couldn't do the full course may be able to do this.

We are in communication with SiglerCrist out of Tyler for workshops #3 and #4.

For #3, we are aiming for early August, combo of Marketing and Fundraising.

They have a worksheet people will work through as they go, some concrete plans/ideas to walk away with. Also offering mini consultation to selected orgs before/after the workshop. #4 planned for November, topic will be determined based on feedback/conversations in #3. Quoted price: \$3,500. Catie asked if Board wanted to approve this expense, members stated they prefer to have a better big picture idea of budget. We decided to wait and vote on this item at the end of the meeting [By the end of the meeting, we no longer had quorum. Catie discussed plans to request a vote via email afterwards].

Catie described plans to work with the A&M team to establish a useful evaluation tool so we can determine how effective this effort is, to inform discussions about whether to continue education series into 2026.

c. Mental Health Crisis updates

Catie and Anna attended commissioner's court to hear the report from the citizen bond advisory committee, they are recommending building a new jail, likely a bond on the ballot in November.

Recap about BT's involvement: since 2023, BT Mental Health Crisis committee has held meeting with stakeholders to explore the challenges and possible solutions to the issue of folks with mental health challenges being overrepresented in jail / criminal justice system, and the burden this places on local resources and on the individuals themselves.

What's next: electronic survey, delineating interventions in progress and those not currently implemented, asking stakeholders to prioritize for implementation. Roundtable event in the Fall at Temple Foundation's office, with stakeholders to explore and operationalize the top 1-3 interventions identified. Our role: bring people together, research some examples of these interventions working well, facilitate an exploration of what it would take to make it a reality. Understanding that we cannot force these other entities to be ready or interested in taking action right now. We set the table and see who wants to eat. Erin, Anna, and Catie working on this. Terrance Reeves noted that these conversations have been going on for 10 years, with little to show for it, Catie noted that the Mental Health Officers, which started last Fall, has been one positive outcome of these conversations. Ella Nobles suggested Memorial Hospital as a resource that could help with this issue, suggesting the 3rd floor could be turned into a psych unit to address this need. Conversations about BT's role in this work, there are key players (Burke, hospital, jail, etc.) that have to be committed to doing any meaningful work. Our role can be encouraging all of these players to come to the table, offer ideas and inspiration for a path forward.

Catie suggested another area, which she has been exploring: recruiting psychiatrist. Catie is gathering information about First Choice Service, a recruiting company specific psychiatrists. The cost is \$26,000 to recruit, only paid if the position is filled, 90 day guarantee they will find a replacement. Discussion about recruiting someone not for employment, but inviting them to set up practice. Erin suggested that this could go in tandem with the roundtable event we are hoping to do with the stakeholders: BT comes to the table saying "this is something we are prepared to do, now what can each of y'all do?" All present agreed for Catie to continue gathering information about this option to pursue as a possibility.

d. Request for Proposals Updates

RFP application and scoring matrix is included in handouts. We have 4 SFA social work doctoral students ready to volunteer to score the pilot proposal, and also to provide feedback about our application and process. We are currently working with Village Nac to refine their proposal, move forward with their project as a pilot.

Catie is recommending hosting a Collaboration Summit = part conference, part networking event, part bidders meeting, including breakout sessions (strategic planning, one-page reports, marketing, board governance, etc..), speed dating session to get these organizations to connect with one another, Catie has other ideas to promote connectedness and link needs with resources. We would host event in September, deadline for RFP end of October, then we have November - May for project implementation before our grant cycle (and possibly BT altogether) comes to an end in June 2026.

5. Treasurer's Report

Reviewed summary of better together funds (see attached)

Catie discussed limitations with SFA. SFA has not been forthcoming about information related to personnel expenses. Catie is making this top priority to start to find out.

6. Approve Financial Policy

We no longer had quorum. Catie oriented members to the financial policy draft that was included with their handouts. Catie will share this electronically after this meeting, and asks board members to review and prepare feedback so we can discuss and possibly approve at our next meeting.

7. Approve adding 2 signers to bank account

We no longer had quorum. Catie suggested we discuss this at the next meeting.

8. Quickbooks subscription

We no longer had quorum. Catie said the cost is \$80 per year, and suggested we include this in the budget we discuss at the next meeting. Catie said there is a class on setting up Quickbooks offered in Tyler next month, and that she plans to attend, cost is \$80, will come from funds allocated for training.

9. WRC Gathering in Victoria, July 14-17

Agenda for the gathering was included in handouts, any board member who wants to attend can, travel expenses will be covered by BT. Must notify Catie by this week.

10. Approve annual schedule of Board Meetings

We no longer had quorum. Catie shared proposed calendar of scheduled board meetings, and suggested we consider this proposal at next month's meeting.

11. Next Meeting:

Catie will send a survey to select a date/time for next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:07pm.