

Baltimore County Department of Social Services Board Minutes

The meeting of the Advisory Board of the Baltimore County Department of Social Services was held February 13, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Baltimore County Department of Health and Human Services.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Stefanie Bronson, Lisa Simon Jablon, Sheri Jackson; Vice Chair, Gregg Powell; Chair, Orrester Shaw and Rosalyn Wiley. Donald Gabriel attended via conference phone.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Karen Bethea

OTHERS PRESENT: Gregory Wm. Branch; Director, Lisa Coleman; Office of Housing Program Manager, Mark Millspaugh; Deputy Director, and Kathy Wynn, Executive Secretary to the Director

I. Reading and Approval of the Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of January 9, 2017 as presented.

Motion by: Orrester Shaw
Second by: Lisa Simon Jablon
Decision: Unanimous Approval

II. Director's Report

Housing Choice Voucher Program Waiting List

Lisa Coleman presented the Office of Housing's Executive Directors Report and Power Point presentation on the Housing Program's waiting list.

Waiting List

The waiting list purge process was changed following feedback from the Board at last month's meeting. Additional notifications will be sent to participants that did not respond. In addition to participants that indicated they no longer wish to remain on the list.

An additional mailing was sent to participants that changed addresses with the post office, but failed to notify the Office of Housing.

The Chair asked if there were any plans to make the waiting list available online. Yes, the new data software will have a web portal to enable information to be updated.

Department of Human Resources (DHR) Secretary Welcome

The new Secretary, Lourdes Padilla, sent a welcome message today via email to staff. Ms. Padilla most recently served as Deputy Secretary for the Department of Health and Human Services in Pennsylvania.

Modernization

Approval has been granted for modernization of all platform systems. They will be using Amazon as the platform. They are working on Adult Protective Services and at one point on the CHESSIE system which supports child welfare; not certain if they are still or have moved onto another system.

In past meetings it was discussed that 150 positions were pulled from local departments and the Department of Human Resources (DHR) at the request of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM). Seventy-two positions were taken by DBM and abolished and seventy-eight positions were returned back to DHR. DHR did not give those positions back to counties that lost them in the process but instead retained in a pool for local departments to request. Baltimore County requested ten positions. DHR is not returning those positions to the local jurisdictions. DBM took an additional 40 PINs as social worker salaries were brought up to a Step 9.

Legislative Session

Savings Accounts for Foster Youth – this legislation would allow for savings accounts to be created for youth to have access to upon aging out. There is concern about giving a young adult a large sum of money and how they would manage those funds. There needs to be a method of distribution or an individual who can manage for them. A letter of support may be requested from the Board if it is a bill that we wish to support.

Child Protective Services (CPS) Central Hotline – this legislation would create a central hotline for CPS for the entire state using Maryland 211. This underestimates the complexity of the screening process. Individuals who answer the hotline currently are master level social workers who are able to ask appropriate questions and make good decisions on whether a case should go for further investigation. A letter from the Maryland Association of Social Services Boards in opposition to this legislation is being sent to the Chairwoman of the committee hearing this bill. A letter from the Board opposing this bill may be requested.

Family Services

There were three child fatalities that occurred within a week. The department is waiting on the medical examiner and toxicology reports to determine the cause of death for two of the deaths.

Trauma debriefing by an outside provider was made available to staff. Within the department, supervisors and managers are very supportive. Rapid response meetings were held to discuss what was done and the decisions made with what was known at that time.

III. New Business

None

Remarks of the Chairperson

The next meeting of the Board will be held on March 20.

IV. Adjournment

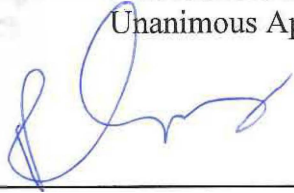
Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Motion by: Orrester Shaw

Second by: Lisa Simon Jablon

Decision:

Unanimous Approval



Gregory Wm. Branch, M.D., MBA, CPE, FACP