

Baltimore County Department of Social Services Board Minutes

The meeting of the Advisory Board of the Baltimore County Department of Social Services was held May 15, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Baltimore County Department of Health and Human Services.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Gregory Wm. Branch, M.D.; Director, Justin Jackson, Marsha Parham; Executive Director; Office of Housing, 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 April 17, 2017 as presented.

Motion by: Stefanie Bronson
Second by: Karen Bethea
Decision: Unanimous Approval

Welcome

Board members welcomed Mr. Justin Jackson to the meeting. Mr. Jackson is interested in becoming a member of the board.

II. Director's Report

Housing Executive Report

Resolution - 2017 Administrative Plan

Ms. Parham provided an overview of the 2017 Administrative Plan changes at the April meeting. A resolution approving Baltimore County's Public Housing Agency Plans was brought to the board for approval and signature.

Motion by: Lisa Simon Jablon
Second by: Stefanie Bronson
Decision: Unanimous Approval

The approved resolution was signed by the Chair.

All letters were mailed on Friday to participants that will be removed from the waiting list. As of today, ten people have phoned and been reinstated. The number of applicants removed from the waiting list due to no response to the update letter was 11,487. Fourteen thousand families remain active on the list.

Notice regarding funding has not yet been received from HUD. We work with HUD and our finance office to ensure we stay within budget guidelines.

Ms. Jablon inquired about the difference between public housing and Section 8. Public housing is owned by a government entity. Baltimore County does not have public housing. TABCO project based vouchers are assigned to a unit. The Office of Housing manages the program for the owner.

Mr. Jackson suggested to help remove the stigma regarding housing choice vouchers, highlight participants in the program with different backgrounds via a video that could be posted to the website to help people understand the program and its participants.

Customer Satisfaction Surveys

Customer satisfaction surveys were sent to Department of Social Services (DSS) and Department of Health (DOH) clients. We are hoping for a good response. Interns will be tallying the data and results of the surveys will be reported to the board.

Council on Accreditation (COA)

COA will be onsite in November. We will be looking for two members of the board to participate. Narratives for each section of accreditation are in process.

Auditors

A letter is expected regarding the next auditor visit. Our goal is for no findings. Auditors go back three years from the month they visit. Prior audits have been reviewed and findings resolved. Board members will be updated on this visit.

Welfare to Work

Funding the State receives for Welfare to Work activities is being reduced. The initial proposal was that cuts were to be across the board. We make certain our grant funds are spent and made the argument that since funds were spent, the State should hold us harmless. Additional funds will not be received, the program will be level funded. The contract with CCBC, which offers the job enforcement program, will continue.

Summer Youth Program

This program for foster youth is in preparation to launch. Workforce Development operates this program. The Social Security Administration may develop into a year round program.

Secretary Visit to Local Jurisdictions

The Office of the Secretary contacted Local DSS Directors to inform them that they will be in contact regarding scheduling a date for Secretary Padilla to visit their jurisdiction. A date has not been determined for the Secretary's visit to Baltimore County. Once a date has been determined, invitations will be sent to elected officials and the Board. Mr. Millspaugh would like to have the Board represented at this visit.

Legislation

Legislation was passed that transfers the Bureau of Homeless Services within the Department of Human Resources to the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).

Legislation to establish a Housing Counselor and Aftercare Program. This program would assist families in danger of a housing crisis in obtaining permanent housing. This legislation will not impact us this year. I

Out of State Foster Youth Placements

As discussed at last month's meeting, there are not enough facilities in Maryland to place children/younger adults with severe behavioral health issues, e.g.; fire starters, homicidal tendencies. All in state facilities must say they will not accept the child/younger adult before placing out of state. Dr. Branch and Mr. Millspaugh recently visited an out of state facility, The Woods located in Langhorne. Since last month's meeting, Secretary Padilla has submitted a contract to Public Works to expand services to specific facilities. The State Comptroller has stated he wants all foster youth relocated to in state facilities by the end of the year.

These placements will continue to be a challenge. There may come a time when Dr. Branch requires the board's assistance via a letter in regards to placement of a foster youth. By law, the DSS Director makes the decision regarding placement with the State providing the funding.

Foster Youth Camp

The process was started last year for a five year contract for summer camp. We have been unsuccessful with that contract. A bid was put out for a one year contract, for this year's foster youth camp. There were two bidders, both located in Maryland. Camp Manidokan, the location of last year's camp, was one of the two. A contract has not yet been awarded/signed but we are confident the camp, which will be held June 19 – 24, will occur.

Emergency Food Assistance Program

This program is a one million dollar statewide program and provides grants to 141 different community organizations around the State. This program has been out of compliance with

COMAR. A requirement of the program is that the funds are to be managed by a local administering agency. Administrative funds are miniscule but the administrative burdens are not. A regional model has been proposed that would place Baltimore County with Anne Arundel County and Baltimore City. Seventy-five of the 141 grants are valued at two to five thousand dollars.

Child Advocacy Center Donation

Laura Clary, a nurse from GBMC was named “Americas Most Amazing Nurse” by “The Doctors” television show. Ms. Clary works in the hospital’s Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) unit and wishes to donate the \$5,000 received for this recognition to the Child Advocacy Center (CAC). The funds will be received via the MASSB foundation, a 501c3.

III. Old Business

Board Candidate

Board members thanked Mr. Jackson for attending today’s meeting. The board will make a recommendation regarding his candidacy.

Generous Juror Fund

Ms. Bronson reported to the Board that this program was mentioned after the stipend was handed out while at jury duty last month. Some jurors did bring back their stipend and donated to the fund. When meeting with the Jury Commissioner, discuss the timing of when the announcement was made. Announce before signing for/receiving the stipend and jurors wishing to donate would receive a receipt at that time.

Animal Services Video – Faith-Based Organizations

Discussed at the March meeting. Dr. Branch will forward information to Dr. Bethea.

IV. New Business

Board members are welcome to attend Camp Connect to be held June 19 – 25.

V. Remarks of the Chairperson

The Chair requested that Social Services month be placed on the board agenda for next year to draft a message from the board to be sent to staff along with board photo.

A new photo of the board will taken at next month’s meeting. Color theme will be navy and white. Ms. Wynn to send last year’s photo to board members.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending. The next meeting of the Board will be held on June 19.

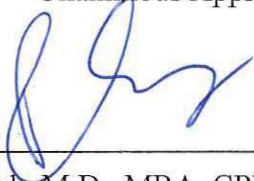
VI. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Motion by: Lisa Simon Jablon

Second by: Karen Bethea

Decision: Unanimous Approval



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