

Baltimore County Department of Social Services Board Minutes

The meeting of the Advisory Board of the Baltimore County Department of Social Services was held September 18, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Baltimore County Department of Health and Human Services.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Stefanie Bronson, Lisa Simon Jablon, Gregg Powell; Chair, and Dr. Rosalyn Wiley. Karen Bethea, Donald Gabriel and Orrester Shaw attended via conference call.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Justin Jackson, Sheri Jackson.

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Gregory Wm. Branch; Director, 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 June 19, and July 17, 2017 as presented.

The June 19 and July 17 minutes were approved with the following corrections.

June 19: Under Board Members Present Stefanie Bronson to read Dr. Stefanie Bronson and Rosalyn Wiley to read Dr. Rosalyn Wiley.

July 17 Minutes: Under Board Members Absent Stefanie Bronson to read Dr. Stefanie Bronson and Rosalyn Wiley to read Dr. Rosalyn Wiley.

Motion by: Lisa Simon Jablon
Second by: Dr. Wiley
Decision: Unanimous Approval

II. Director's Report

Office of Housing

The Year End Financials were submitted to the HUD/REAC Center on August 28 prior to the August 30 deadline.

A Notification of Funding Availability (NOFA) was issued for 2018 funding for Project Based VASH vouchers. The Office of Housing will submit a request for funding. We had applied last year but were denied.

Ms. Parham was elected Regional President of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials. Ms. Parham served as Vice President of Professional Development

for the Middle Atlantic Regional Council of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials.

The Office of Housing is moving toward an automated process, to become paperless. The applicant portal will open on Monday. Applicants will be able to monitor their progress on the waiting list. The online application was tested for six months prior to launching. There is a tutorial and help menus with each step of the application. The waiting list reorders every day. There is a clear statement at the top of the status stating the list is reordered daily based on preference. Having redetermination applications online is the last step in working towards becoming paperless.

Domestic Violence Conference

The 11th Annual Baltimore County “In Plain Sight” Domestic Violence Conference was held on Friday, September 15 at the Radisson Hotel North Baltimore. The event was co-sponsored by the Office of the States Attorney, TurnAround, Inc., the Human Relations Commission and the Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee.

Key note speakers were Dorothy J. Lennig, Esq. from the House of Ruth, and Lisae J. Jordan, Esq. Topics included the challenges of prosecuting domestic violence and the correlation between animal abuse and domestic violence. A survivor of domestic violence, shared her very powerful story. CEUs were offered to the 250 attendees for this conference.

We received a grant for a domestic violence social worker for our Child Protective Services (CPS) unit. The domestic violence social worker will go out on visits with the CPS social worker and focus on other elements in the home while the CPS social worker works with the child during the visit.

There is an additional social worker who is a trauma specialist and provides clinical therapy to children who have witnessed domestic violence. We are finding that there are children who aren't necessarily victims of abuse but are witnesses to this violence. The trauma specialist provides eight sessions and works to get the child additional therapy.

Mr. Powell thanked Mr. Millspaugh for having this conference and bringing this topic out in the news. Identifying the issues, developing resources and moving ahead is the goal, how do we make a difference where we or our successors are not here ten years from now trying to solve the same issues.

Young Parent Support Center (YPSC) 25th Anniversary

The YPSC will celebrate its 25th anniversary on Wednesday, October 18 at the YPSC located at 201 Back River Neck Road, Essex, 21221. The event will run from 10:30 am to Noon. Board members are welcome to attend this celebration.

Accreditation

Our self-study was submitted the end of last week for re-accreditation. The submitted documents will be reviewed and notes taken on areas for discussion at the onsite review which will be in November. They will want to interview the Chair one or more board members. This may be an agenda item for our October meeting.

Out of State Foster Youth Update

Out of State youth foster care placement continues to be an issue of high focus. Baltimore County has eight youth currently placed out of State. We are working on plans to bring four youths back, the other four will remain in their current locations. The State is very focused on bringing capacity to the State of Maryland. The Department of Human Services (DHS) is in the process of working on an RFP to grow the capacity in Maryland. There have also been discussions in regards to reconvening the Local Coordinating Council.

Dr. Branch spoke to the Board regarding a foster youth currently in a group home and plans to speak with the Secretary regarding his concerns.

DHS FY2019 Budget Request

Our annual budget request was presented to Secretary Padilla on September 13. Our management philosophy, innovations and consolidations were highlighted. Funding for twelve clerical temps to support our district offices was requested. We have fewer than 30 administrative staff supporting the child welfare program; 200 social workers supported by five clerical staff. Also requested were chairs (370 need replaced), a new phone system and an update of our fleet policy.

III. Old Business

None

IV. New Business

Ms. Jablon inquired if a welcome letter from the board could be sent to new employees thanking them for their service. A letter to be drafted for the Board to review.

V. Remarks of the Chairperson

Mr. Powell asked members to be available for this meeting for the next two months to discuss and be of assistance in preparation of the COA visit.

VI. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:14 p.m.

Motion by: Lisa Simon Jablon
Second by: Dr. Wiley
Decision: Unanimous Approval

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