

Baltimore County Department of Social Services Board Minutes

The meeting of the Advisory Board of the Baltimore County Department of Social Services was held March 19, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Baltimore County Department of Health and Human Services.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Stefanie Bronson, Justin Jackson

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Gregory Wm. Branch, Director; Mark Millspaugh, Deputy Director; Marsha Parham, Executive Director Office of Housing; and Kathy Wynn, Executive Secretary to the Director.

I. Reading and Approval of the Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of February 12, 2018 as presented.

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

II. Director's Report

Office of Housing

Baltimore County Single Audit was February 13. It was Housing's first audit utilizing electronic data. We are awaiting the final auditor report.

Housing's preliminary budget has been submitted to the Director's Office for review and approval. It is anticipated the budget will remain same for FY19 and FY18. A slight increase was requested for Housing Assistance Payments in the hopes that additional funding will be received for HUD FY18.

Housing is beginning implementation strategy with the Office of Information Technology to initiate the Landlord Portal to enable landlords' electronic access to payment information and inspection information for their clients and properties.

Social Work Month

March is National Social Work Month. Activities planned for the month:

The documentary, *Dark Side of the Full Moon*, was shown on March 9 with discussion following the presentation. Achieving Success and Happiness in Child Welfare Training presented by Steve

Acerno was held on March 14. The documentary, *Healing Neen*, was shown on March 15 also with discussion following. Tomorrow at Eastern Family Resource Center (EFRC), the film, *Happy*, will be shown followed by a discussion.

Also planned, social work dress up days where employees can dress in work appropriate attire for:

- Twin day with a colleague,
- Themed decades – 50s through the 90s era
- Sports Day - favorite sports team
- Hero Day – super hero of choice (e.g, Superman, Superwoman, Batman, etc.)

An ice cream social will be held on March 27 at 2:00 PM in the main conference room. Board members are welcome to attend, meet the staff and assist with serving.

State PINS

The Department of Human Services reassigned ten vacant PINS to Baltimore County for the Social Services Administration (SSA) to help with caseload ratios.

Children's Services

Judith Schagrin, Assistant Director for Family Services, retired in January. Theresa Cunningham, Assistant Director of Adult Services will be Acting Director of Children's Services. Valerie Douglas in Quality Improvement will move temporarily to assist Ms. Cunningham. Jamaal Moses and Aimee Bollinger-Smith will assume additional responsibilities in Adult Services.

Foster Youth Savings Program

The goal of this program is to assist youth transitioning out of foster care to save for a personal goal and future housing, education and career investments; helping them to develop and build financial skills and independence.

All youth ages 14-20 in an out-of-placement as of December 2017 are eligible to participate in the Foster Youth Savings Program. Each youth will receive a one-time only contribution of funds based on their age that will be deposited in their account. Youth who are ages 14-17 will receive \$350 and youth who are ages 18-20 will receive \$800. Funds will be released to youth who exit foster care on or after their 18th birthday.

III. Old Business

None

IV. New Business

None

V. Remarks of the Chairperson

The Chair will attend the ice cream social on the 27th and asks if others are able to attend to let Ms. Wynn know. The next meeting of the Board will be April 16, 2018.

VI. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Decision: Unanimous Approval



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

