

## **Baltimore County Department of Social Services Board Minutes**

The meeting of the Advisory Board of the Baltimore County Department of Social Services (DSS) was held July 16, 2018 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, Sheri Lumsden, Vice Chair; and Gregg Powell, Chair. Attending by phone: Donald Gabriel and Orrester Shaw.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dr. Karen Bethea, Justin Jackson, Dr. Rosalyn Wiley

**OTHERS PRESENT:** 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 June 18, 2018 as presented.**

**Motion by:** Mr. Gabriel  
**Second by:** Ms. Jablon  
**Decision:** Unanimous Approval

### **II. Director's Report**

#### Office of Housing

The County Executive approved the closing of the waitlist effective yesterday, July 15. If MAINSTREAM vouchers are awarded, the Office of Housing will reopen the list for a specific period of time. The Office of Housing will reach out to individuals on the list to make sure they meet the criteria and still wish to remain on the list. Ms. Parham thanked the Board for their support during this process.

### **III. Old Business**

A tour of the first floor remains on the agenda as tentative for the September Board meeting. Renovations are scheduled to be completed by that time.

At the June meeting, Mr. Gabriel asked if the Department could honor Mr. Kamenetz by renaming a street sign within the building. Once renovations are completed, the Human Relations Commission conference room, located on the first floor, will be named the Kevin Kamenetz room.

### **IV. New Business**

#### Camp Connect

Camp Connect was a major success. It rained heavily on two occasions which presented challenges. Roads into the camp were affected by prior rains. The main roads were flooded which made entrance into the camp more difficult. The rain also affected some planned activities. Over 40 children from nine jurisdictions attended the camp, most were repeat campers. Activities included horseback riding, rafting and the zip line.

A nurse hired by the camp was present and received assistance from Department of Health nurses. Staff from Washington and Frederick counties assisted with gift wrapping of presents chosen by campers to give to their siblings. Deputy Secretary Randi Walters attended on Thursday evening and was very impressed by the representation from the entire system at the camp. Next year, a RPF for a multi-year contract for Camp Connect will go out.

### Budget Updates

Funds not allocated in the State budget at the local department level are funded to the Department of Human Services (DHS) in one lump sum and they make the decisions regarding these funds. Funds were allocated last year for siblings but not for this year.

For the first time, funds for Families Blossom, Partnering for Success and Functional Family Therapy were included in the lump sum distribution by the State to DHS. Allocations will be redone for these programs to allow for the same amount of funding provided last year.

The Family Investment Administration (FIA) steering committee has been working hard regarding how Welfare to Work funding is allocated. Mr. Millspaugh worked with the State to bring to their attention funding should be based on caseloads and performances, to no longer use a formula to allocate funds which led to inequitable funding levels. When this year's budget was announced, the State applied the old funding; additional funds were not allocated to Baltimore County which we thought would be received. We were expecting \$60,000 more than was received. Mr. Millspaugh will address this issue, advocating that Baltimore County receive that funding.

Respite care will receive a significant increase in funding, specifically for the adult services population. \$175,000 was allocated in the budget for this year statewide. The department is reviewing options regarding these services, potentially contracting out to an organization to provide this service. The State has a contract with Easter Seals, which is a reputable organization that can do this work.

### Maryland Association of Social Services Director's Meeting (MASSD)

Secretary Padilla had a one on one conversation with local directors at this meeting. Topics of discussion were her opportunity to visit all 24 jurisdictions and the addition of Randi Walters as the new Deputy Secretary for Programs. Ms. Walters is a strong communicator and has an understanding of how to lead a large organization such as DHS. Greg James has returned to his role as Deputy Secretary of Operations and Craig Eichler as Chief of Staff and Deputy Secretary for Strategy and Administration. Procurement was also discussed.

An item taken from the Secretary's visits to the local jurisdiction is they expressed a lack of clarity around what DHS' priorities were. This issue is being addressed at the central office to ensure there are clear performance measures. When received, Mr. Millspaugh will bring the measures to the Board for review/discussion. DHS to also ensure that organization charts are posted on the intranet for staff to use as a resource.

### Shelter Video

The Department of Health (DOH) has produced an instruction video on how to set up a shelter. The DOH has Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) staff who are prepared to mobilize when needed. DSS is responsible for emergency preparedness but does not have paid staff to manage shelters. Mr. Millspaugh has a list of over sixty employees who have agreed to volunteer should a shelter need to open. A cache of shelter supplies has also been developed.

## Accreditation

A plaque which states we are accredited has been received. The plaque will be displayed on the first floor in the new renovated space.

## Case Update

Ms. Millspaugh informed the Board of a case DSS is involved with that has garnered media attention. If Board members are contacted regarding this case, please forward those calls to Mr. Millspaugh's office. Mr. Gabriel requested an update at the September meeting.

## V. Remarks of the Chairperson

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for September 17, Mr. Powell asked that members please try to attend.

## VI. Adjournment

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

**Motion by:** Ms. Jablon

**Second by:** Dr. Bronson

**Decision:** Unanimous Approval



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Mark Millspaugh  
Deputy Director