

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 via conference call on August 28, 2018 at Noon.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Gregg Powell, Chair; Lisa Simon Jablon and Orrester Shaw.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Karen Bethea, Dr. Stefanie Bronson, Donald Gabriel, Justin Jackson, Sheri Lumsden and Dr. Rosalyn Wiley.

OTHERS PRESENT: Gregory Branch, Director; Mark Millsbaugh, Deputy Director; and Kathy Wynn, Executive Secretary to the Director.

I. Reading and Approval of the July 16, 2018 Minutes

July 16 minutes to be approved at the September 17 board meeting.

II. Director's Report

2020 Budget

Our budget meeting with the Department of Human Services (DHS) has been postponed until September 17. The total State budget for social services is over \$36.2 million. Only 9% (\$2.9 million) of that \$36.2 million is managed by local departments.

The department requested \$2.8 million. The amount of \$2.9 million was allotted; an increase of \$46,000 over what was requested. Costs included in the \$2.9 million:

- Fuel/utilities (-\$13,000)
- Travel expenses (+\$3,000)
- Communications (cell phone costs - +\$6,000)
- Contractual (guards, shredding bin pick up, copy machine lease - +\$26,000)
- Supplies and materials – (+\$25,000)

Over target item requests:

- \$60,000 for additional renovation work in our district offices
- \$171,000 to cover the full cost of the law office

This will be our sixth year requesting an upgrade to the phone system. Phones were installed in 1997 with an upgrade occurring in 2006. Phones have not been supported by Verizon since 2010. Verizon is paid for each service call.

Hotline Number Marketing Campaign

410-887-TIME (8463) is the new number to report child/adult abuse. A new marketing campaign to "Take Time to Report Child or Adult Abuse" is being rolled out.

Welfare to Work (Job Network) Program

The phase in of the funding formula to equalize funding based on caseload/data for this program was to have started last year. The administration made a decision not to implement this year. Baltimore County has the largest shortfall in funding due to not using this formulation. We are requesting they allocate our fair share of Welfare to Work funding.

MD THINK

The State launched its first significant application related to this project, ENE (Eligibility and Enrollment). This system will replace the Client Automated Resource Eligibility System (CARES) for all Family Investment Administration (FIA) public assistance and benefit programs. Medicaid LTC was implemented on August 6, placed at the top of the list to implement to ensure funding streams are processed correctly. We do not have staff directly involved with this application, however; the centralized bureau of LTC resides on the second floor where our Catonsville district office is located. The rollout of this application went well and is being piloted in four counties. Onsite support was provided at each phase implemented. It was expected that minor items would occur, the problem resolution process worked very well and issues were resolved quickly.

Temporary cash assistance, food stamps and the rest of the Medicaid programs to be implemented in this system in September 2019. Our staff attended training, reports back were positive. The system is more intuitive and easy to navigate.

Simultaneous to this, the Child, Juvenile and Adult Management System (CJAM) pilot is to be implemented in March 2019 with a tentative statewide rollout date of August 2019. Ms. Gehring, Assistant Director for Family Services, has been directly involved in this process reporting positive feedback about the process.

Grants

Applications have been submitted for a number of grants.

- Homeless Prevention Grant – this grant in the amount of \$250,000 would allow us to serve up to 100 families with grants of \$1,500 per family plus intensive case management services. Assistance would be spread out over a number of months and taper off. Partnership between Adult Community Services and the Office of Housing.
- Victims of Crime Acts (VOCA) – Funding for a therapist to work in child protective services with children who witness domestic violence or homicides.
- Child Protective Services (Preservation and FIA Programs) – provide training on how to identify domestic violence, make referrals and follow up.
- Child Advocacy Center - Continue funding for physical services for forensic exams in the CAC and medical consultations.
- Additional funding for a victim advocate, required under accreditation.

Domestic Violence Conference

The Domestic Violence conference will be held on September 28 at the Red Lion Hotel North in Timonium. This event is sponsored by Baltimore County DSS and the Human Relations Commission. Baltimore County State's Attorney Scott Shellenberger's, topic will be on police body cameras. Retired Police Lieutenant, Mark Wynn's topic will be domestic violence response.

Customer Service Excellence Award

Brittany Call, licensed clinical social worker in Child Protective Services, will be recognized for her outstanding customer service in ceremony at the War Memorial Plaza in October.

Employee 50 Years of Service

Secretary Padilla recognized Jeannetta Boyce for her 50 years of service with the State with 37 of those years working for Baltimore County DSS. A note of congratulations will be prepared for the Chairman's signature.

Remarks of the Chairman

Reminder that a tour of the first floor waiting area will occur next month. The next meeting of the Board is September 17.

III. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 12:35 p.m.

Motion by: Ms. Jablon

Second by: Mr. Shaw

Decision: Unanimous Approval



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