

## 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 September 17, 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; and Lisa Simon Jablon. Members attending via phone were Dr. Stefanie Bronson, Donald Gabriel, and Dr. Rosalyn Wiley

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dr. Karen Bethea, Justin Jackson, Sheri Lumsden, and Orrester Shaw.

**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

II. **Motion: To approve the minutes of July 16 and August 28, 2018 with the following corrections:** July 16 – *First paragraph, second sentence – Frederik corrected to Frederick. Acronyms spelled out.*

August 28 – *Spell out acronyms.*

**Motion by:** Ms. Jablon  
**Second by:** Dr. Bronson  
**Decision:** Unanimous Approval

### Director's Report

The Office of Housing was awarded 55 MAINSTREAM vouchers. The Office of Housing is working with the Director's Office to formulate the process for voucher issuance and is in the process of identifying families for these vouchers. The vouchers are scheduled to be awarded in November 2018.

Ten additional VASH vouchers, to address chronically homeless veterans, were awarded to Baltimore County.

### Old Business

#### Case Update

An update was provided to the Board on a case Mr. Millspaugh reported on in June.

#### Child Protective Services

This past weekend there were numerous after hour child protective services cases where children had to be removed from the home. This was the first time we were unable to find placement for one case; the Department of Human Services (DHS) will be notified of this incident. Not having placement resources is a systemic problem. We might reach out to the community via a campaign to recruit certified emergency placement options.

### Family and Children's Services Baltimore County Office

A letter was received on August 27 addressed to Dear Community Partner stating that Family and Children's Services, a domestic violence provider of services on the west side of the County, effective April 1 will be closing their Baltimore County office. Some clients will be transferred to Baltimore City but they are essentially discontinuing services.

What gaps this leaves in our system and how do we fill? Mr. Millspaugh contacted the DOVE program located at Northwest Hospital; they will be submitting information on how they can fill the void. Mr. Millspaugh will then contact Family and Children's Services. We are working to fill this gap; these are COMAR mandated services that have to be delivered.

### Partnering for Success (PFS) Initiative

Ms. Gehring, Assistant Director for Family Services, has been invited to the October board meeting. A presentation on PFS was given to other Maryland counties last week, a webinar sponsored by the University of Maryland. PFS has been implemented in New York, Oklahoma and Maine. The presentation went well. Mr. Millspaugh has requested a one page that summarizes points presented and provides real data outcomes.

112 child welfare staff and 144 community health therapists have been trained in PFS. Three of these organizations deliver mental health services in other counties. Children in those counties are benefiting from the program.

As of May, 147 children were enrolled in PFS. Beyond that, therapists have treated 1,356 children using Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT+). The impact is pretty substantial. The goal is better treatment outcome. Mr. Millspaugh wants to send the one page to colleagues. The larger goal is to build CBT+ and PFS into the Child Welfare Academy.

### Ethic/Protocols

In the news recently, the former director of Baltimore City Department of Social Services is being investigated regarding a potential improper relationship with a non-profit regarding funds and placement of foster care babies with the CEO of that non-profit. Baltimore County has practices and protocols in place where this would not happen. This is unique to one jurisdiction/individual.

Secondary employment is reviewed by the State Ethics Commission. The department has policies and procedures around ethical situations where they are reviewed; protocols so no one person has to make these decisions.

### **New Business**

Board members received a tour of the renovated first floor lobby/customer service area.

### **Remarks of the Chairman**

The next meeting of the board is October 15, 2018.

**Adjournment**

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 5:00

**Motion by:** Ms. Jablon  
**Second by:** Dr. Bronson  
**Decision:** Unanimous Approval



Mark Millspaugh  
Deputy Director