

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 April 15, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Baltimore County Department of Health and Human Services.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Stephanie Bronson, Gregg Powell, Chair; Mindie Flamholz, and Dr. Rosalyn Wiley. Members attending via phone were Dr. Karen Bethea and Donald Gabriel and Sheri Lumsden, Vice-Chair.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lisa Simon Jablon

OTHERS PRESENT: Mark Millsbaugh, Deputy Director; Dr. Gregory Wm. Branch, Director; Marsha Parham-Green, 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 March 18, 2019

Motion by: Ms. Flamholz

Second by: Dr. Wiley

Decision: Unanimous Approval

II. Director's Report

Office of Housing

The Office of Housing is awaiting the passage of a Continuing Resolution (CR) or a final budget from Congress.

Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) and Administrative Fees for the months of May and June, 2019 are scheduled to be received.

Agency Plan Approval

Baltimore County has developed its Annual Plan for fiscal year 2019 in compliance with Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) regulations in 24 CFR part 903 and all related requirements. The Plan is consistent with the County's Consolidated Plan, and serves as a planning tool and a community guide to policies, programs and activities associated with County rent subsidy programs. A copy of the draft plan was provided to the Board.

Ms. Parham-Green is requesting approval from the Board for a resolution that approves Baltimore County's Public Housing Agency Plan. There are no modifications to last year's plan.

Motion: To approve the Baltimore County Public Housing Agency Plan

Motion by: Dr. Bronson
Second by: Dr. Wiley
Decision: Unanimous Approval

Waitlist

Closing the wait list was indicated in the five year plan.

Strategies in use to work through the wait list:

- Attrition – when an individual(s) leaves the program, it allows the Office of Housing to reissue that voucher. Four hundred individuals are signed up for the Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) program and will eventually leave the voucher program.
- New voucher programs – whenever possible, individuals are pulled from the waiting list for new vouchers. An estimated 54 individuals will come off the wait list and be awarded Mainstream vouchers which are for persons with disabilities or at risk of (or exiting) an institutional setting.
- Housing staff periodically call individuals on the wait list and find that they are no longer interested in, or eligible for, the program.

Legislation

The following bills were considered priority legislation for the Department of Human Services (DHS):

HB 248 | SB181 – Passed – Takes effect in the 2021 Budget

This legislation codifies in State law the government must include funding each year to keep the child care voucher equal to 60% for child care. The subsidy will stay indexed to actual market rates. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) changed the name of this program to the Child Care Scholarship.

HB0843 – Passed - This legislation was supported by the Department of Human Services (DHS) and is necessary due to building the new Child, Juvenile and Adult Management System (CJAMS) computer system. The Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) and DHS are sharing this application. This legislation allows us to share information.

SB24 HB 1212 – Passed - This legislation, supported by DHS, further defines the definition of a kinship caregiver. A kinship caregiver must not be under the age of 21. It expands the definition of caregiver: *If an individual has a strong familial or other significant bond to the child or child's family or has maintained regular contact with the child or child's family sufficient to demonstrate strong familiarity with the child's activities and daily needs.*

SB1043 – Children in Need of Assistance – Qualified Residential Treatment Programs
This bill allows states to draw from federal funds to provide evidence-based services to families to prevent the need for foster care. It changes the requirements for treatment group foster care providers and residential treatment centers. The State cannot use federal funds for youth placed in these settings unless the facility meets certain requirements. This law aligns Maryland law with federal law and gives the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) regulatory authority to license facilities that only meet the federal criteria. There are a number of children in facilities that don't meet this criteria. These facilities are raising their concerns with DHS and MDH.

HB 338 – Passed - Summer SNAP for Children Act

This bill provides State funding to increase food stamp benefits to \$30 per child in June, July and August and \$10 per child in December. These funds provide a means for children to access nutritious diets when schools are closed. Local jurisdictions are required to complete an application for the increased funds.

HB 838 – Food Supplement Program – Restaurant Meals Program

This bill did not pass; failed on technical grounds. The bill would allow certain individuals to use their food stamp card for prepared meals at restaurants. Failed on technical grounds. Mr. Millspaugh anticipates this bill will come back. *[Correction – This bill passed but does not take effect for a year.]*

HB 911 – Workgroup to Study Shelter and Supportive Services for Homeless Minors

Bill did not pass; it would have identified ways to provide shelter environments specifically for homeless youth. The current challenge is if you are under 18, you cannot legally sign yourself into the shelter. DHS opposed this bill due to concerns regarding facility licensing and ensuring youth were safe. DHS will have representation on this workgroup. Mr. Millspaugh anticipating a recommendation next year.

HB 787 - Child Abuse and Neglect – Failure to Report

In law, it is a criminal penalty for failure to report child abuse or neglect. Maryland was one of a few states who did have this law. This bill makes it a misdemeanor with a fine of \$2,000. This bill is being celebrated by the child protection community.

County Budget

The County Executive delivered his budget message this morning

- Mentioned in the message related to HHS was deaths due to the opioid crisis. An opioid coordinator position will be created on the health side to assist with this crisis.
- Budget reductions – when EFRC was built, the shelter was built with a facility that could be a licensed child care. DSS ran day programing for adults and an early childhood program center. The day program was eliminated from the DSS budget and now is the responsibility of the shelter. They retained our child care specialists for the time being but the adult program was eliminated from our budget.
- The total DSS general fund budget for FY20 is \$8.5 million. This is a decrease of about \$100K from FY19. The department received \$8.3 million in grant funds.

Transition Report

The transition report was released in March and is posted on the county website. Services will be expanded in some of the areas highlightesd in the report.

- Housing will go out into communities to talk about the importance of vouchers and why affordable housing is important. Three new positions were approved to help manage the new FUP and Mainstream vouchers received, but these staffing resources will also allow us to assist in this effort.
- The department now has three dedicated units that accept substance exposed newborns.
- The department supports the No Wrong door approach to connecting residents with services. *This approach ensures that individuals are given the help needed to receive appropriate treatment or referral regardless of where or how they are entered into the system.*
- Maryland Faith Network Pilot - we are recommending a faith-based organization join our health coalition. The County is exploring moving the Woodlawn Health Center to be co-located with Set the Captives Free OWE Center.

III. Old Business

The status of Tiffany Haddish to perform at Camp Connect this year went from being available to schedule conflicts. The department has a contract this year for Camp Connect

to be held at Camp Manidokan. Any donations for Camp Connect can be made to Camp Manidokan.

IV. New Business

None

V. Remarks of the Co-Chairperson

The next meeting of the Board will be May 20, 2019.

VI. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 4:49 p.m.

Motion by: Dr. Bronson

Second by: Dr. Wiley

Decision: Unanimous Approval



Mark Millspaugh
Deputy Director

