

## 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 June 17, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Baltimore County Department of Health and Human Services.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mindie Flamholz and Lisa Simon Jablon. Members attending via phone were Dr. Stephanie Bronson, Don Gabriel, Dr. Karen Bethea and Dr. Rosalyn Wiley.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Gregg Powell and Sheri Lumsden.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mark Millspaugh, Deputy Director and Kathy Wynn, Executive Secretary to the Director.

### I. Reading and Approval of the Minutes

**Motion: To approve the minutes of May 20, 2019**

Minutes were approved with the following correction:

*Director's Report, sixth paragraph, wording for CJAMS acronym to be included - Child, Juvenile and Adult Management System.*

**Motion by:** Ms. Flamholz

**Second by:** Dr. Bronson

**Decision:** Unanimous Approval

### II. Director's Report

Child Welfare Caseworker Video

Board members viewed a video which shows the challenges faced and decisions CPS workers have to make on a daily basis.

Building Security

Mentioned in the May meeting, funds from the opioid grant have been allocated to have sharps containers placed outside all health centers. Lock boxes have now been installed at the health centers.

Term Limits

Term limits were also discussed at the May meeting. Dr. Bethea announced she will not be able to remain until a new member comes on board after her term ends due to schedule conflicts. Per the Maryland Human Services Code 3-501(f) (iii), members can remain on the Board until a replacement is found. Ms. Wynn to verify this with the County Executive's office. We have begun to put the word out we are looking for members. Mr. Millspaugh welcomes input from current members regarding new members.

Department of Human Services (DHS) Hotline

About two years ago, a bill was introduced that would have set up a single hotline for reporting child abuse. All 24 counties were opposed to this legislation and the bill was shelved. DHS communicated to the bill sponsor and advocates they would work to create one number but would allow for local DSS offices to handle.

DHS now has a number 1-800-91-PREVENT. When an individual phones this number, a voice command asks in which county do they wish to report and are instructed to hit a button that will direct the call to that jurisdiction. Baltimore County will be one of the jurisdictions to pilot the DHS hotline number. The majority of Baltimore County calls received are during the day and from the schools and police.

Baltimore County's hotline switched over to the county VOIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) system about six months ago with our own hotline number, 1-887-TIME. With participating in the pilot, our goal is to make as effective as possible and not to confuse callers.

#### Government Reform and Strategic Initiatives

Elisabeth Sachs, Director of Government Reform and Strategic Initiatives, attended this morning's leadership team meeting. Ms. Sachs was a coordinator for the County Executive's transition team and is now working on the County Executive's initiatives regarding government transparency. Ms. Sachs' office is moving through programs; starting with the Police Department and crime data. Health and Human Services is ahead of most other agencies with our Quality Improvement team. Mr. Millspaugh believes Health and Human Services will be early in this process.

#### Office of Housing Update

Dr. Branch, Mr. Millspaugh, Marsha Parham-Green; Executive Director of the Housing Office, and Nick Blendy from the County Attorney's Office met with the Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity division of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD has offered to provide technical assistance from industry experts to help Baltimore County (both Department of Planning and Office of Housing) fulfill the obligations of the Voluntary Compliance Agreement.

#### IV-E Waiver Funds

IV-E Waiver Funds may be used to promote well-being for children in the foster care system. The department has an estimated \$70,000 to spend for the summer. These funds will be used to pay for youth to attend camp. Parents may choose which type of camp they would like their child to attend; e.g. YMCA, karate, etc.

#### Foster Parent Recruitment

An area where the department could use Board support is in recruiting foster parents. Currently there are an estimated 160 approved agency foster parents, more are needed. Catholic Charities recently informed us they are closing two of their foster facilities so

Maryland continues to lose providers at a time when more are needed due to rising caseloads, partly resulting from the opioid epidemic.

**III. Old Business**

N/A

**IV. New Business**

N/A

**V. Remarks of the Chairperson**

N/A

**VI. Adjournment**

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:00 PM

**Motion by:** Ms. Flamholz

**Second by:** Dr. Bronson

**Decision:** Unanimous Approval



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Mark Millspaugh  
Deputy Director