

Howard County's Local Children's Board

Meeting Minutes

5/19/20

Attendees

√	Dawn Duignan, Community	√	Charmayne Anderson, Community	√	Sharon Afework, Office of Child Care
√	Francine Trout, Office of Workforce Development	√	Jackie Scott, DCRS		Lisa Myers, HCPD
	Fayth Bowie, Youth		Father Fazolini, Community		Co-Tu Doan, Youth
√	Erica Byrne, Voices for Children	√	Mike Mitchell, FIRN	√	Melissa Rosenberg, Autism Society
√	Kelly Cimino, DHCD	√	Rich Gibson, States Attorney		Maura Rossman, Health Department
√	Bitu Dayhoff, CAC		Tonya Aikens, Library	√	Brianna Hughes, Youth
√	Tim Madden, DJS		Michael Martirano, HCPSS		
√	Raul Delerme, DRP	√	Stephen Liggett-Creel, DSS		

Staff: Candace Ball, Sucora Best, Marsha Dawson, Kim Eisenreich, Marchelle LeBlanc, Triston Cooper, Benjamin Barnwell, Jasmine Wigginton, Carla Lunn

Public Attendees: James LeMon, HCPSS; Lisa Davis, HCPSS; Lanlan Xu, GC; Seema Agarwal Harding, GC; Shereima Smith, GC; Andy Masters, GC; Cynthia Nicodemus, GC

Meeting was called to order at 11:08 a.m.

Roll Call

Lisa Myers, Tonya Aikens, Co-Tu Doan, Fayth Bowie, Maura Rossman - Excused

Consent Agenda

Approval of April 21, 2020 Minutes – Motion made by Fran seconded by Erica; all approved

FY20 Funding Reallocation Update and Vote

A summary of the sub-committee's recommendations was presented to the full Board.

- \$78,000 FY21 is the current allocation for food access activities including the summer Weekend Warrior Snack Pack program (GOC Funding). If HCPSS is unable to provide food over the weekends to youth 18 and under during the summer the proposed program (Weekend Warrior Snack Packs) will move forward as planned. However, HCPSS is hopeful they will receive a waiver from the state that will allow them to continue to serve meals over the weekend during the summer. If this happens the Weekend Warrior program will be duplicative, so the recommendation in that case from the sub-committee is to maintain the current free meal kit and grocery box program that is currently running via Roving Radish.
- \$65,000 FY 21 allocation to Summer Workforce Readiness and Youth Employment Program (GOC Funding). The recommendation from the sub-committee is to maintain this investment but allow services to expand beyond the summer into the school year – with services concluding no later than June 30, 2021.
- \$138,000 FY allocation for Summer Scholars (50% GOC and 50% HoCo STRIVES). Due to COVID-19 Summer Scholars is not able to be implemented as it has been the past two years, rather would have to be done virtually. As a result, the sub-committee recommends that support is still provided to the Summer Scholars students, but

done so virtually, while also preserving the majority of the funds to be spent in an afterschool model once program can run in-person even if size of classes are restricted.

Motion made by Melissa and Seconded by Raul; Fran Abstained – Motion Approved

Community Plan Data Deck and Narrative

Due East provided the Board with a comprehensive overview of the data deck and narrative of the Community Plan with some of the following data highlights:

- Child care - third highest household cost over the past five years
- Kindergarten Readiness - disparities among children demonstrating readiness
- Education
 - Significant racial and ethnic disparity in the high school graduation, suspension, and chronic absenteeism rates
 - Chronic Absenteeism - Across all grade levels at Howard County Title I schools, chronic absenteeism increased between 2017 – 2018
- Mental/Behavioral Healthcare - Adults
 - Two of the most important health problems that affect the community are behavioral/mental health (52.45%) and alcohol/drug addiction (50%)
 - Rate of fatal overdoses increasing
 - Emergency department visits for alcohol/drug use increasing
- Mental/Behavioral Healthcare-Youth
 - Between 2014-2017 suicide was the leading cause of death for ages 15-19
 - Hispanic/Latino had the highest percentage of students considering suicide (22%)
- Families are Safe and Economically Stable-Housing
 - Percentage of households living at or below ALICE and poverty threshold by location
 - Savage 42%, N. Laurel 38%, Elkridge 34%, Columbia 30%, Ellicott City 23%, Ilchester 23%, Highland 19%, Scaggsville 16%, Fulton 16%
 - Percentage below poverty level by Race/ethnicity
 - African American 9%, Asian 6.80%, Hispanic/Latino 6.30%, White 3.50%, White/Non-Hispanic 3.00%
 - Steady increase in families falling into ALICE threshold; 2010 15%, 2016 21%
 - African Americans make up 20% of total population, 58% homeless population
 - 47% of renters spend more than (30%) of income on rent, resulting in a housing burden
- Families are Safe and Economically Stable-Youth
 - Since 2010, child poverty rate has remained around 6.5%
 - Latino children make up 6.4% of total population, but represent 10.7% of those families living in poverty, white families represent 55.3% of total population, but represent 3.3% of those families living in poverty
- Families are Safe and Economically Stable - Food
 - Rate of FARMS has remained steady
 - Rate of Food Bank distribution has increased significantly

Board members had a robust discussion on challenges facing the community and resources provided to mitigate the issues, some of which include the following:

- Unemployment claims have increased significantly over the last few months; week ending March 7th - 62 applicants, week ending May 9th - 24,000 applicants
- Across the country, families are slightly above the income guidelines and can't access resources such as TCA, SNAP, etc.
- HCPSS has provided 69,800 meals as well as chrome books and other resources to students

- Programs need to keep in mind there is a huge gap with Latin X population around kindergarten readiness, graduation rates and ESL students have a 43% graduation rate
- Influx in need, utility requests have increased 400%; 70,000 SNAP requests statewide in April
- Tablets purchased for Head Start families

Howard County Plan for Children, Youth and Families: FY21-FY25

Priority 1

- High cost of child care leads to inequitable outcomes for children from low income areas; left without access to early learning opportunities which leads to significant achievement gaps and fewer opportunities to succeed in life
- Chronic absenteeism is one of the most accurate predictors of high school graduation and post-secondary completion
- Youth need preparation and nurturing to have a productive future

Priority 2

- High cost of living leaves families facing financial hardships and tough choices
- Family stress takes a toll on children's academics, attendance, exposure to opportunities and social/emotional development

Priority 3

- Youth depression affects growth & development, engagement & relationships and school performance
- Youth often turn to substance abuse

Strategic Roadmap

- Results
 - Where are we going? Is it making a difference?
- Progress Indicators
 - What key indicators should shift if we're doing our job?
- Strategies
 - Consider changing from "opportunities" to "capabilities", capability is an important part of accessing opportunities
 - Specifically identify communities and families that are hard to reach, how do we engage them?

Board and Guiding Coalition Updates

Dave - HC Police Department

- School Resource Officers reassigned to patrol division
- Youth programs are cancelled for the summer
- Exploring alternative methods to support youth since camps are cancelled

Fran - Office of Workforce Development

- Online portal for training services and job search

Mike - FIRN

- Looking for interns for the summer, able to work remotely
- Translating resources available

Steve - Department of Social Services

- CPS calls are still down, some rebound in the last three weeks
- Calls from HCPSS and HC Police Department have brought the CPS number from the teens to the upper 20's
- Anticipate CPS calls to grow with reports from doctors

Lanlan - Guiding Coalition

- Racially charged sentiments against the Asian American community; LCB and HCPSS have done a great job of providing services

Dawn - FY21 budget proposal has been unofficially approved by GOC

Adjourned at 1:00 p.m. – Motion made by Rich, Seconded by Melissa

Next Meeting: June 16, 2020 (Annual Meeting)