



Board to Promote Self-Sufficiency

6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 300 • Columbia, MD 21046

Minutes of the May 25, 2017 Meeting

Attendance

Appointed Members: Mike Couch, Ayesha Holmes, Jennifer Broderick (for Millicent Nwolisa), Matt Poole, Lisa Jablonover, Jennifer Pollitt-Hill, Stan Levi and Kim Salazar.

Absent: Bitu Dayhoff, Joan Driessen, Julie Keough, Stephen Martin, Sherry Banks, Brad Cross, Andra Cain and John Tenerowicz.

Ex Officio Members: Karen Butler, Trish Schupple, Jack Kavanagh, Diane Martin (for Dr. Michael Martirano), Madeline Morey, Elizabeth Meadows, Minah Woo (for Kate Hetherington)

Absent: Tiffany Smith, Francine Trout, Antigone Vickery, Jim Marshall

Staff: Jackie Scott, Kathy Swanson, Michelle Hippert, Quinton Askew

Guests: Chris Kingsley

Meeting called to order at 9:08 A.M. by Jennifer Pollitt-Hill, Chairperson.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – March 2017

- Mike Couch moved approval; Kimberly Salazar seconded. All approved.

Committees

- Community Outreach Committee: Mike Couch discussed Hire Power awards at the Non-Profit Center on June 14, 2017, from 8 am to 9:30 am. Four awards will be presented. Invites will follow.
- Nominating Committee: Mike Couch announced the Committee is nominating Jennifer Pollitt-Hill as Chair for a second year, and Karen Butler as Vice Chair. Vote will be in June.

New Business

Transportation: Kathy Swanson discussed Reentry Employment Initiative, BPSS can be a good avenue for assisting with employment programming for Reentry. Jennifer Pollitt-Hill stated there is a seafood business interested in hiring women. DSS has employment support for TCA recipients. Leadership Howard County did a premier project related to this topic. Recommended to include Office of Workforce Development.

Strategic Planning Process: Chris Kingsley, who is a policy advocate and writer in DC, was introduced. The Strategic Planning Process will: Gather feedback on what BPSS needs; Determine the driver of BPSS, and prioritize projects based on decision screening; Board structure and development, focusing on accountability and committee structure. It was decided to have a half day retreat, with a draft released in October. Two groups will be formed; Executive Committee and Subcommittee/Standing workgroup. It was asked how often BPSS should be meeting, as meeting more than every other month may be needed, as strategic planning should be intensive. It was echoed that BPSS members who participated in the Local Children's Board Strategic Planning process appreciated frequent meetings with deliberate conversations. Questions included expectations of the Executive Committee and Agenda for June. It was

decided that if no other business of the BPSS would be impacted, the BPSS could follow the LCB model, with work in-between with intense, smaller groups and an additional monthly meeting. LCB is winding down late June into July and there will be a little overlap with BPSS.

Reentry: Jack Kavanaugh and Trish Schupple reiterated the Reentry Coordinating Council's position to connect with resources to assist with reentry. The Department of Corrections partners with include BelAir and Mobern Electic. Questions were raised of how to engage other employers. ServeSafe classes are held in Detention, and READY had inmates plant rain gardens and grow food. Detention is interested in gardening and landscaping, so inmates can start their own businesses when they are released. Madeline Morey commented that employment counseling through outpatient mental health clinics does exist. Conversation led into discussing stigma with reentry and the need for public perception to change. Jennifer Pollitt-Hill commented a decision tree could be used in discussions such as these for the BPSS to decide next steps.

Announcements

- Elizabeth Meadows commented that Department of Housing and Community Development is watching the federal budget, pending program cuts.
- Mike Couch announced he is leaving his position with MakingChange, as he is moving out of state.
- Trish Schupple announced there are three openings for Strengthening Families Program focusing on families and children of an inmate, a 12-week course meeting at the North Laurel Community Center (NLCC).
- Three banks provided grants to Howard Community College to teach banking in the United States for the foreign born. Classes will teach employability and provide a track to employment as bank tellers.
- HopeWorks is hosting a Social Justice Institute, a youth camp that focuses on leadership skills this summer.

Minutes submitted by Michelle L. Hippert, CoC Manager