

Committee: Equity and Opportunity

Chair and liaison to the Board: John Byrd

Date of last meeting: 6/7/2017

Attended: Captain Jim Marshall, Kelly Cimino, Brian Perry, John Byrd, Kim Eisenreich, Marsha Dawson, Sucora Best, Kori Jones and Chris Kingsley

Date of next meeting: 6/29/2017, 1:30pm at 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 303

Items for Board Consideration

- Approve the Equity and Opportunity Committee's proposal to contract for the development of a baseline report (described below), including approximate budget, scope, timeline, and plan for public engagement and developing a Board response to the report.
- Discuss willingness to work with vendor, once hired, to share and contextualize additional data needed for the development of this report.

Item: Baseline Report

Consistent with Board discussion through LCB's 2017 strategic planning process, this Committee is charged with planning the development a report on youth opportunity in Howard County that:

- Increases public and agency attention to the opportunity gap in Howard County;
- Extends LCB's knowledge and understanding of the parameters and consequences of that gap; and
- Frames a positive discussion about government and nonprofit actions that can ensure Howard County is a state and national leader in providing a path to success for *all* of our youth.

That discussion should include an explicit response to the baseline report by LCB and the agencies that constitute the Board, as well as a public engagement process. The audience for the report is the general public, including business and civic leaders.

Budget

The LCB's application to the Governor's Office of Children provides sufficient budget to hire a consultant draft research and draft the report, as well as additional support for communications and engagement activities and report design.

Timeline

CRS will issue an RFP by this July, the Committee will review submission in August, hire a consultant in September, aim to have a draft report prepared by March 2018, final report by June 2018, and public engagement process to begin immediately thereafter. LCB can begin preparing its response in March 2018, to have a communications strategy with written collateral by July 2018. (External factors include the FY2019 GOC funding cycle and 2018 election season.)

Scope of Work

The consultant / vendor will provide (a) *research* to update and extend data on the opportunity gap in Howard County, (b) *authorship* of the draft and final report, consistent with the tone set by the LCB and written for a general audience, and (c) *presentation* of findings to support LCB's public engagement process in 2018.

Report tone, elements, and priorities

The vendor will consult closely with the Committee during the development of the report to ensure its findings are presented frankly and fairly, in context, and in way that supports a constructive "call to action" from the County. Based on the example of other counties that have developed effective equity reports, it should include:

- Data on youth outcomes (e.g., school readiness, education, suspension and arrest, safety, household structure, income, employment, health and mental health), presented as part of a larger narrative and where possible as visuals rather than static data tables;
- Information on county investments and assets;
- Comparisons to peer counties and national trends;
- Comparison of outcomes across Howard County geographies, though with special effort to avoid presenting specific neighborhoods in a simplistic or negative light;
- Definition of key concepts and terminology (e.g., equity, disproportionality); and
- Discussion to demonstrate an awareness of other related or allied efforts in Howard County, such as One Howard and the HCPS 10 point equity plan.

Public engagement

The consultant/vendor will be available to present the process and findings of the report to various stakeholder groups identified by the Board. The Board will work with County Administration to see if there is alignment with One Howard and how the LCB and One Howard could work together on public engagement strategies. In addition, Voices for Change will also work to engage young people with support from the consultant/vendor and the Board. Lastly, the Board is hopeful that there will be alignment with this report and the interim Superintendent's equity plan for the school district.

LCB response

An important component of this project is determining the LCB's response to the *Call to Action*. March – June 2018 will be the time to focus on developing agencies' and LCB strategies that includes clear messaging illustrating our commitment to providing opportunity for all Howard County youth. Included should be steps showing efforts for greater engagement, opportunities to leverage funding and shifting the allocation of resources when appropriate with Howard County government to address specific concerns/needs. And lastly, clear articulation as to how the LCB will measure/evaluate whether our efforts are successful. What are the next steps and how do we ensure this isn't a moment in time, but a movement towards greater change and better outcomes for children, youth and families.