

# Board to Promote Self-Sufficiency

## Meeting Minutes

9/26/2019

### Attendees:

	Kashonna Holland		Kim Salazar		Minah Woo
X	Elizabeth Meadows		Andra Cain		Diane Martin
	Ayesha Holmes		Jennifer Pollitt Hill	X	Jackie Scott
	Julie Keough		Joan Driessen		Francine Trout
	Sherry Banks		Jennifer Broderick		Antigone Vickery
	Lisa Jablonover		Karen Butler	X	Jim Marshall
	Bitu Dayhoff	X	Peter Engel	X	Brad Closs
X	Stan Levi		Jack Kavanagh		Aisha Masood

### Staff:

X	Rose Burton		Megan Godfrey Jackson	X	Cara Baumgartner
	Valerie Mathis	X	Charles Smith		

### Public Attendees:

Name	Organization
Travis Teal	Chamber of Commerce
Phil Mullinix	Police Department
Shelia Little	Office of Workforce Development

## Agenda

**Call to Order** 9:10 am

**Minutes Approved** The minutes from the June meeting were motioned and accepted.

**Agenda item:** Legislation Update Jackie Scott

**Discussion:** The final draft of the updates to the BPSS legislation are complete. They are filed with the Council 9/26/2019. They will be on the Council agenda for October.

**Agenda item:** Workforce Development and Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) Shelia Little and Rose Burton

**Discussion:** Living wage in Howard County is \$22.00 an hour. We know what the barriers are: transportation, child care, and there is inability to advance at work or keep a job without these in place. Workforce development is trying to get people from minimum wage in unstable jobs to \$22 per hour in careers. They can spend up to \$5,000.00 per person in assistance, which can include: English as a Second Language (ESL), project literacy, certified nursing (CN) certificate, CDL, remedial education and GED, Getting Ahead, skills training, and other certificate or AA degrees at the Community College. The biggest problem is that people can be over income for

Workforce Development and aid programs while earning minimum wage. Funds are also limited and there are restrictions on programs if employers do accept funding or participants from these programs.

There is resistance from employers to ERNs. Employers feel that employees should come to the job with the skills to resolve issues on their own. Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC), instead of focusing on ERNs wants to equip workers with essential skills. Which include soft skills used to resolve and deal with these kinds of conflicts.

BMC also discussed transportation. While revolutionizing the Maryland transportation system is a worthy goal, they thought it more realistic to focus on areas of most need. A good start would be targeting specific neighborhoods. The Route 1 revitalization plan has potential to work with this approach. The Transportation department is already doing a study of that area. Census data could also be beneficial to targeting neighborhoods for transit improvements. The room agreed to investigate this approach.

**Agenda item:** Human Services Master Plan

Rose Burton

**Discussion:** Rose Burton presented on the Human Services Master Plan. The room thought the topics of the Master Plan matched with BPSS but should be looked at with an employment focused lens. BPSS should consider the gap between working poor and being self-sufficient. A list of reports related to the Master Plan were discussed.

**Decisions:** Reports were assigned to BPSS members. Members are responsible for presenting a synopsis to the Board with a lens towards employment.

Travis Teal of The Chamber of Commerce and Phil Mullinix of the Howard County Police Department have requested to join BPSS.

Meeting Concluded: 10:45 am

**Meetings:**

Coalition to End Homelessness: Department of Community Resources and Services at 9830 Patuxent Woods Dr Columbia MD 21046 – 10/15/2019 9:00 am – 10:30 am

BPSS: Department of Community Resources and Services at 9830 Patuxent Woods Dr Columbia MD 21046 – 10/16/2019 9:00 am – 10:30 am