



# Board to Promote Self-Sufficiency

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

## Minutes of the August 8, 2017 Meeting

Non-Profit Center - 9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Columbia, MD 21046

### Attendance:

Appointed Members: Jennifer Pollitt Hill, Joan Driessen, Ayesha Holmes, Matt Poole, Lisa Jablonover, Brad Closs, Bitu Dayhoff, Kim Salazar and Kashonna Holland.

Ex Officio Members: Karen Butler, Diane Martin, Jacqueline Scott, Francine Trout, Antigone Vickery, Jim Marshall and Elizabeth Meadows.

Department of Community Resources and Services Staff: Kathleen Swanson, Megan Godfrey Jackson, Quinton Askew, Charles Smith and Cara Baumgartner.

Consultants: Chris Kingsley

**Meeting called to order** at 9:03 am by Chris Kingsley

### Agenda:

- **Chris Kingsley welcomed everyone to the meeting**
- **Discussion of New Vision for BPSS**
  - The Board to Promote Self-Sufficiency exists to ensure that within Howard County, everyone can build the skills, confidence and relationships they need to be financially stable – and to invest in the future prosperity of their family and community
  - Financial stability vs economic self-sufficiency. There is more to stability than finances. Resources should be available for everyone to succeed but realistically not everyone will reach the same level of achievement. Teaching people to access resources can be a step in the right direction.
- **How do you measure success and what is a win for BPSS?**
  - Need reports with good data to decide where to help and to know if BPSS is making a difference. Suggested reports: United Way ALICE, Howard County Self-Sufficiency Indications, Howard County Human Services Master Plan and Making Ends Meet in Howard County.
  - Who is struggling in Howard County: female headed households, large families, non-English speakers (legal and illegal), people with a lack of transportation, seniors on a fixed income, the disabled, people re-entering society from prison, youth aging out of foster care and the under employed.
  - When does data not work: when it's too high level to be easily understood, when it is not championed, data for data's sake does not help people, when data is not used for a purpose or to inform actions.
  - Data should be directed by BPSS with willing partners to address problems.
- **Data Driven Action**
  - Data says that access to good quality, safe child care is essential to self-sufficiency for families with children. This is backed up with data in the Making Ends Meet report, Head Start, school system and copious antidotes from clients. It was suggested that this be a focus of BPSS in the coming year.

- Jennifer Broderick from Bridges to Housing Stability stated that rent goes up on average of \$80.00-\$100.00 a year. Bridges tracks rent prices through their eviction prevention program. As prices constantly increase, people are priced out of Howard County or they become more reliant on aid programs. Tiffany Smith and Elizabeth Meadows will be providing more data on rent prices. This is another possible focus for BPSS.
- **BPSS Funding Initiatives**
  - Lisa Jablonover questioned BPSS’s ability to fund pilot programs in focus areas. Noted that BPSS has been an incubator of programs that then were passed on to agencies to run permanently.
  - Jacqueline Scott stated that Boards have traditionally had very limited budgets. Instead they leverage budgets from organizations and bring programs to the attention of Howard County Government for funding.
  - Antigone Vickery asked if BPSS could do advocacy related fund raising. The room agreed this would be a good idea, if there is a clear choice of which programs or initiatives to back.
  - Megan Godfrey Jackson stated that Howard County Government has a proven track record of investing in programs when organizations have made a persuasive case for them.
  - Jacqueline Scott noted that BPSS could also look to Federal, State and private grants for funding.
- **Discussion to continue at the next meeting**

**Meeting adjourned** at 11:08 am by Chris Kingsley with agreement of the room

**Next meetings:**

September 12, 2017 9:00 am at the Non-Profit Center

October 3, 2017 9:00 am location to be determined

Minutes submitted by Cara Baumgartner