

Board to Promote Self-Sufficiency

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



Minutes of the July 6, 2017 Meeting

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

Attendance:

Appointed Members: Bita Dayhoff, Ayesha Holmes, Matt Poole, Brad Closs, Jennifer Pollitt Hill and Stan Levi.

Ex Officio Members: Karen Butler, Tiffany Smith, Jacqueline Scott, and Elizabeth Meadows.

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

Consultants: Chris Kingsley

Meeting called to order at 9:05 am by Jennifer Pollitt Hill

Agenda:

- **Chris Kingsley welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a synopsis of the last meeting**
- **Discussed the role of Board to Promote Self-Sufficiency (BPSS) and the relationship to the Continuum of Care (CoC).**
 - Kathleen Swanson stated that Department of Community Resources and Services has not made a recommendation to BPSS about restructuring and feels it should be BPSS's decision.
 - Chris Kingley reaffirmed that BPSS does not want to lose the self-sufficiency portion of the Board's work, as it has resulted in many accomplishments and important programs for Howard County in the past.
 - Jennifer Pollitt Hill stated that a separate homelessness or CoC Board may not be possible, due to funding and other limiting factors. Instead suggested changing BPSS.
 - Discussed how the increase in cost of living makes self-sufficiency more difficult to obtain and whether someone can be self-sufficient if they will need subsidies long term. Is Self-sufficiency or stability the goal.
 - Matt Poole floated the idea of a "broader" CoC. Kathleen Swanson pointed out that the nature of CoC narrows it's focus on ending homelessness and those experiencing homelessness or risk of homelessness at the moment. There was a general agreement that CoC is in the trenches implementing programs and allocating homelessness funds. This can make it difficult for them to tackle the wider issues related to homelessness.
 - Brad Closs stated that homelessness is more than brick and mortar. Homeless individuals and those at risk of homelessness need a wide variety of supportive services to come out of or avoid homelessness. Jennifer Pollitt Hill added there needs to be a place in BPSS for in-depth discussions on those issues and that prevention and stabilization are equally important in fighting homelessness.

Ayesha Holmes built on this to say, BPSS needs to support the broad view of homeless services and see what pieces are missing or needed to be shored up in the community.

- Chris Kingsley stated that BPSS has the impulse to go “broad”. Sometimes it may be going too broad. By wanting to deal with all the related issues to homelessness, may end up causing inaction. Suggested that there needs to be prioritization.
- There was general agreement to wanting BPSS to “elevate”. To be open to all aspects of self-sufficiency but to use research to target two to three issues for in-depth focus each year. In this way BPSS would begin trying to the fix the system around homelessness.
- The CoC would become more inclusive in who it partners with in the community and have clearer roles and accountability. The CoC would continue to be focused on implementation of homeless programs and ending homelessness but would be encouraged to help the Board in its yearly choice of focus areas.
- Chris Kingsley requested a conference call before the July 25th full BPSS board planning meeting. This would give participants a chance to process the last two meetings and have a more organized proposal to present to the full board. The room agreed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:57 am by Chris Kingsley with agreement of the room

Next meetings:

Conference Call to Finalize Proposal to Full Board – July 20, 2017 4:15 pm
Dial 641-715-3580 - 664385# - Host is Chris 1936*

Full Board Planning Meeting – July 25, 2017 9:00 am – 11:00 am

Minutes submitted by Cara Baumgartner