

SUBTITLE 3. LOCAL CHILDREN'S BOARD

Sec. 12.300. Local children's board established; purpose.

(a) *Board Established* There is a Howard County Local Children's Board within the department of Community Resources and Services~~citizen services~~.

(b) *Staffing*. Except as provided in section 12.306(a) of this subtitle, the Department of Community Resources and Services~~Citizen Services~~ shall provide staffing for the office of the local children's board.

(c) *Purpose of Local Children's Board*

~~(1) The local children's board shall approve and oversee the implementation of a local, interagency service delivery system for children, youth and families in Howard County.~~

~~(2) The local children's board shall act as the planning and coordinating mechanism for children's services. The Board shall act as a neutral convener that facilitates interagency collaboration, youth empowerment and community engagement to create and implement a shared vision for children, youth and families in Howard County.~~

(C.B. 96, 1996; C.B. 12, 2002, § 2)

Editor's note: Section 1 of C.B. 76, 1995, repealed subtitle 3, § 12.300, relating to home for indigent sick and derived from the following Public Local Laws: 1880, ch. 423; 1888, art. 14, § 45; and 1930, § 74.

Sec. 12.301. Membership of local children's board; appointment.

(a) *Appointment*.

(1) Members of the local children's board shall be appointed by the county executive and confirmed by the county council.

~~(2) The officers of the local children's board may appoint a nominating committee, bring nominations to the floor to fill a vacancy on the board.~~

~~(3)(2) which may recommend individuals to fill a vacancy on the board.~~ The county executive shall consider the individuals recommended by the ~~nominating committee~~board, but need

fill a vacancy from the list of individuals recommended.

(a) *Number of Board Members; Apportionment of Representation*.

(1) The local children's board shall have at least 19 members and no more than 29 members.

(2) (i) The local children's board shall maintain as close as possible at all times 51% public sector representation and 49% private sector representation.

(ii) At least 20% of the private sector representation shall be comprised of former service consumers or family members of consumers.

(b) *Qualifications of Members of the Local Children's Board*

(1) Members of the local children's board shall either reside or work in Howard County and shall demonstrate an interest in children's services. As far as is practicable, the local children's board shall reflect the gender, geographic, ethnic and racial makeup of the county.

(2) The membership of the local children's board shall reflect, as closely as is reasonable and practical, the profile contained in this paragraph.

~~(i) The board shall contain at least four consumer or family members, including:~~

~~a. A former consumer of child services;~~

~~b. A parent, family member, or guardian of a consumer of child services; and~~

~~e. An adolescent currently enrolled in the Howard County Public School System.~~

~~(ii)(i) The members of the board from the private sector shall include:~~

a. A minimum of 2 youth (ages 14-24) with one currently attending a Howard County Public

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~~a.~~ b. At least one individual representing private non-profit child serving agencies;

c. At least one individual with business experience;

d. At least one individual from the faith community;

e. At least one individual representing the disability community;

f. At least one individual representing the health care community;

~~b.~~ g.

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- ~~e. A child advocate;~~
- ~~d. h. An academician; and~~
- ~~e. An individual representing a private non-profit agency serving individuals with disabilities; and~~
- ~~f. An individual from a philanthropic organization.~~
- ~~(iii) Members of the board from the private sector may include:~~
 - ~~a. Individuals with business experience;~~
 - ~~b. Individuals with legal experience;~~
 - ~~c. Individuals with financial experience;~~
 - ~~d. Individuals representing the religious community;~~
 - ~~e. A health care professional;~~
 - ~~f. A mental health professional;~~
 - ~~g. A child care professional; and~~
 - ~~h. Individuals representing private for-profit child serving agencies; and~~
 - ~~i. A pediatrician.~~

~~(iv)(ii)~~ The following individuals from the public sector shall ~~be invited to~~ serve on the board:

- a. The director of the local department of social services;
- b. The superintendent of public schools or ~~an~~ assistant superintendent;
- c. The supervisor of the local office of juvenile justice;
- d. The health officer of Howard ~~and~~ County;
- e. The chief of police of Howard ~~and~~ County;
- f. The state's attorney for Howard ~~and~~ County;
- g. The director of recreation and parks;
- h. The director of the department of citizen services, community resources and services;
- i. The director of housing and community development;
- j. The regional manager of the local child care administration;
- k. The director of the department of corrections;
- ~~h. l. The director of the office of workforce development and~~
- ~~i. m. The executive director of the Howard County Mental Health Authority.~~

~~(v) The following individuals from the public sector may be invited to serve on the board:~~

- ~~a. A judge from the district court of Howard County or designee;~~
- ~~b. A judge from the circuit court of Howard County or designee;~~
- ~~c. The regional manager of the local child care administration or designee;~~
- ~~d. A member of the Howard County Housing Authority or designee;~~
- ~~e. An individual with responsibilities for coordination of transportation; and~~
- ~~f. The director of the Howard County Library.~~

(c) Voting Members.

- (1) All members appointed to the local children's board shall be voting members.
- (2) A majority, but no less than ten voting members of the local children's board shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting business.
- (3) In all matters before the local children's board, the members shall make every attempt to reach consensus prior to a vote being called.
- (4) In the event consensus is not reached during a reasonable period of time as determined by the chairperson, the vote of a majority of members then serving on the local children's board shall decide the matter.

(d) Terms of Members of Local Children's Board.

- (1) The members of the local children's board shall serve staggered ~~terms~~ of 5 years, except in the case of the youth representatives who shall serve two year terms.

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(2) Vacancies on the local children's board shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment or for the unexpired term.

(3) At the end of the term a member of the local children's board, the member continues to serve until a successor is appointed.

(4) A member of the local children's board who is appointed to complete an unexpired term serves only for the rest of that term, unless the member is reappointed.

(e) *Removal From Office.* In accordance with the provisions of section 903 of the Howard County Charter, a member of the local children's board may be removed for incompetence, misconduct, or failure to perform the duties of the position.

(f) *Officers of the Local Children's Board*

(1) The local children's board shall elect officers from among its members, to serve ~~one~~two- year terms.

(2) The officers shall consist of a chairperson, a vice-chairperson, ~~a secretary, and a treasurer, and three at-large committee members.~~ The vice-chair will become the chair once the chair as completed their term of service.

(3) A member may not be elected to the same office for more than 3 consecutive terms. (C.B. 96, 1996; C.B. 12, 2002, § 2)

Sec. 12.302. Meetings of the local children's board.

(a) *Number and Place.* The local children's board shall meet at ~~least ten~~at minimum six times per year at the times and places it determines. The board may meet more often for special meetings at the call of the chairperson, ~~with ten days notice to members.~~

(b) *Board Meetings Are Public.* All meetings of the local children's board shall be open to the public except:

(1) When the board is meeting regarding matters related to personnel;

(2) When matters discussed would breach laws regarding the confidentiality of juvenile records; or

(3) When a meeting is closed as authorized under federal, state, or local law.

(C.B. 96, 1996)

Sec. 12.303. Committees of the local children's board.

(a) *Committee Establishment and Structure.* The officers of the local children's board may appoint committees of the board as it deems necessary for the execution of the mission, purpose, and goals of the board.

(b) *Committee Membership.* Committee members may include members of the community or members of the board.

(C.B. 96, 1996)

Sec. 12.304. Responsibilities and duties of local children's board.

(a) *Responsibilities and Duties.* The local children's board shall:

(1) ~~Periodically c~~Conduct an ongoing needs assessment which identifies priorities, gaps in services, and areas of duplication;

(2) Identify ~~barriers~~ barriers to integration or access to services;

~~(3) Create a plan for an integrated continuum of care and services that is child-centered and family-oriented, emphasizing prevention, early intervention, and community-based programs; Prioritizing, designing and implementing strategies to achieve clearly defined results for families and children;~~

~~(4) Main~~in standards of accountability for locally agreed upon results for children and families;

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(5) Influence the allocation of resources across systems as necessary to accomplish desired results;

(6) Coordinate children and family services within the County to eliminate fragmentation and duplication of services;

(7) Create an effective system of services, supports and opportunities that improve outcomes for children, youth and families;

(8) Operate based on locally agreed upon principles concerning service delivery;

(9) Representing local residents, communities and state and local government

(3)(10) _____

~~(4)(11)~~ By December 1 of each year, submit a report to the county executive and county council describing the local children's board's activities *in* the previous fiscal year, assessing the board's progress toward the goals and objectives for the previous fiscal year

and stating the goals and objectives for the next fiscal year and making recommendations for any legislative and funding changes the board deems necessary to accomplish the responsibilities and duties established by this section;

~~(5) Implement a multi-disciplinary, interagency effort that is collaborative to maximize available resources in the county;~~

~~(6) Encourage, promote, and actively develop services which are complementary to the goals of the plan;~~

~~(7) Provide for community and family involvement in the service delivery system, including involvement in the planning processes and evaluation of service;~~

~~(8) Assure the development of an integrated data collection system;~~

~~(9) Implement an integrated management information system with the capacity to track case level data, monitor service delivery, track outcomes, and track expenditures for reporting on service delivery;~~

~~(10) Monitor expenditures to ensure they are in line with the priorities of the interagency plan;~~

~~(11) In addition to process evaluation, develop measurable outcomes to document program effectiveness;~~

~~(12) Continuously measure program performance against projected goals;~~

~~(13) Monitor service delivery to ensure access to effective programs with measurable outcomes;~~

~~(14) Assure the development of tracking processes which will document progress toward desired outcomes;~~

~~(15) Established open communication with and accountability to the citizens of Howard County;~~

~~(16) Promote training for all involved parties, including board members, agency staff, and the community to impart the goals and vision of the local children's board;~~

~~(17) Assure that contractor staff have the training necessary to perform their contracted tasks;~~

~~(18) Advocate for public policies, including legislation, which ensure all children a safe, nurturing, permanent environment and access to quality services which enable them to reach their full potential;~~

~~(19) Advocate for adequate fiscal resources to service children and families in Howard County; and~~

~~(20) Advocate for quality services and seek to optimize community-based services.~~

~~(21) Review and make recommendations on all contracts submitted for the provision of family preservation, return/diversion services and all programs funded through the sub-cabinet fund.~~

~~(22) Monitor all private or public agency sub-contractors, sub-grantees and consultants for compliance with program requirements, as set forth in the board's contracts and grants and the terms of its community partnership agreement.~~

~~(23) Participate in decision making for the expenditure of all funds which flow through the local children's board.~~

~~(24) Participate in the evaluation of the human services specialist II, titled program manager, and the human services specialist III, titled local children's board coordinator.~~

~~(25) Develop an evaluation plan and establish baseline results through a review of established results, historical data and federal requirements.~~

(b) *Limits on Powers of the Board.* The powers and duties granted to the local children's board may not be construed to authorize the board to:

(1) Preempt or supersede the regulatory authority of any state or county department or agency; or

(2) Engage in any activity which is beyond the express powers of the board.

(C.B. 96, 1996; C.B. 12, 2002, §§ 1, 2)

Sec. 12.305. Conflict of interest.

(a) *Members and employees of the board.* Members and employees of the local children's board shall be subject to the Howard County public ethics law.

(b) *Conflict of interest.*

(1) A member of the local children's board shall declare the member's interest in any matter before the board.

(2) If there is any interest to a private sector member in a matter before the board, the member may not participate in discussions or vote on the matter.

(c) The local children's board's subcontractor(s) or sub-grantee(s) may not be paid consultants to the local children's board.

(C.B. 96, 1996; C.B. 12, 2002, § 2)

Sec. 12.306. In-kind services.

(a) *Acceptance by Local Children's Board.* The local children's board may accept in-kind services of county departments and agencies for needs associated with the operation of the board.

(b) *Consultants.* The board may engage any necessary consultants.

(C.B. 96, 1996)

Sec. 12.307. Panel to review operations of the board.

(a) *Appointment.* The county executive shall appoint every three years beginning with the year 2004 a panel of at least eight people to include the county auditor, a member of the local children's board, two members of the general public and other members appointed by the county executive to review the operations and effectiveness of the local children's board.

(b) *Panel Recommendations.* Recommendations of the review panel may include recommended changes to improve the operation of the board.

(c) *Report of Findings.* Within twelve months of its appointment, the review panel shall report its findings and recommendations to the county executive and the county council.

(C.B. 96, 1996; C.B. 12, 2002, § 2)

Comment [EKA1]: Recommendation to remove because this has never been done in the history of the LCB.

