

Board to Promote Self-Sufficiency

Meeting Minutes

1/26/2021

Attendees:

X	Elizabeth Meadows	X	Vanita Leatherwood		Antigone Vickery
	Kashonna Holland	X	Joan Driessen		Jim Marshall
	Jackie Scott	X	Jennifer Broderick	X	Brad Closs
X	Sherry Banks	X	Peter Engel	X	Aisha Masood
	Kim Salazar		Jack Kavanagh		David Woodruff
X	Bitia Dayhoff	X	Minah Woo		Michael Garzon
X	Fran Trout	X	Stan Levi		

Staff:

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

Guests:

X	Kelly Kessler	X	David Woodruff		
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Agenda

Call to Order: 4:01 pm by Elizabeth Meadows

Minutes December minutes were approved

Approved

Agenda item: Nominating Committee Update **Presenting:** Minah Woo

Brad Closs and Stan Levi will continue serving as board members. Michael Garzon of BGE and Jennifer Broderick of Bridges to Housing Stability were appointed as board members. Brooke Abercrombie, David Woodruff, Rev. Brian Akers will be nominated in February. Vinita Leatherwood and Marina Izraelson will be nominated in March. Once these members are approved the board will have close to full membership.

Agenda item: COVID-19 Vaccination Presentation **Presenting:** Kelly Kessler

Kelly Kessler of the Howard County Health Department gave a presentation on the COVID-19 vaccination rollout. It included general information about the vaccines, registration process, and vaccination sites. There was a focus on using an equity lens to make sure everyone has access to the vaccine. This included discussion of barriers to receiving the vaccine and hard to reach communities. Partnerships with nonprofits and other parts of Howard County government were suggested and follow-up planning meetings will follow.

Agenda item: Housing Assistance During COVID-19 **Presenting:** Bitia Dayhoff and Elizabeth Meadows

Bitia Dayhoff gave a detailed presentation of the Community Action Council's (CAC) efforts to prevent evictions during COVID-19. People are still being evicted, even with the eviction moratorium in place. The average cost

of eviction prevention is about \$4,000 per household. 253 households have received assistance from the \$1.026 million-dollar program. 368 households are on the waiting list for assistance.

Elizabeth Meadows of the Howard County Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) presented on various types of funding during COVID-19. 355 households received assistance from \$1.435 million-dollars in CARES Act funding. Originally this funding covered 3 months of rent or mortgage subsidy. As COVID-19 continued, this was later increased to up to 9 months of assistance.

Howard County DHCD will receive an additional \$9.7 million dollars in emergency rental assistance from the U.S. Department of Treasury to assist with rent or utilities.

HUD funding has also been applied for that could cover up to 6 months of rent or mortgage. Howard County nonprofits that are administering these funds include: CAC, Bridges to Housing Stability, the Howard County Housing Commission, Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, FIRN, United Way, and Family and Children's Services – Springboard.

Agenda item: Community Services Partnerships (CSP) Redesign **Presenting:** Megan Godfrey Jackson

The presentation started with a brief history of CSP grant program. The work of the redesign includes bringing funding into alignment with modern Howard County and residents' needs. They are working with key stakeholders in the community for a design panel. COVID-19 put the redesign on hold. The process was restarted in the fall of 2020. They have now created a draft framework. Community forums are the next step and an announcement went out earlier today. After the community forums are complete, there will be in-depth meetings with key partners. Once the redesign process is complete, will work to link BPSS with CSP. This will make BPSS the CSP board.

Agenda item: CSP Operating Grant Renewal Process **Presenting:** Megan Godfrey Jackson

Due to COVID-19, fiscal year 2022 will be a closed application process. The program will not be funding new grantees. Funding is capped so that agencies applying can only receive up to level funding. One-Time grant application will not be opened until and unless funding availability is confirmed. There will be service renewal for Plan to End Homelessness (PEH) funding. Similar process of renewal for Human Service Transportation (HST) funding.

Meeting Concluded: 6:09 pm

Next Meeting: March 23, 2021 4:00 pm via WebEx