

Board to Promote Self-Sufficiency

Meeting Minutes

3/22/2022

Attendees:

X	Stephen Liggett-Creel	X	Elizabeth Meadows		Aisha Masood
X	Jackie Scott	X	Joan Driessen	X	David Woodruff
	Kashonna Holland	X	Jennifer Broderick	X	Michael Garzon
	Sherry Banks		Peter Engel	X	Mariana Izraelson
	Kim Salazar	X	Brad Closs	X	Amma Felix
	Bitu Dayhoff	X	Minah Woo		Gudell Ward
X	Fran Trout	X	Stan Levi		
X	Brooke Abercrombie	X	Antigone Vickery		

Staff:

X	Rose Burton	X	Megan Godfrey Jackson	X	Cara Baumgartner
X	Valerie Mathis	X	Lelena Dagne	X	Briana McNemar

Guests:

X	Bess Landbein	X	Sarah Ramsey		
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Agenda

Call to Order: 4:12 pm by Rose Burton

Minutes Approved Multiple months of minutes went sent via email to board members for review. A SurveyMonkey poll was used to approve the minutes.

Agenda item: New Board Chair **Presenting:** Rose Burton

Stephen Liggett-Creel was nominated for Board Chair. He was confirmed via SurveyMonkey vote. Elizabeth Meadows and Kashonna Holland were thanked for their service as co-chairs and their contributions to the board.

Agenda item: Community Services Partnership (CSP) Grant Cycle **Presenting:** Megan Godfrey Jackson

FY23 CSP applications have been received and reviewed. The grant year will start July 1, 2022. This is a transition year to the new CSP grant structure. Focus was on converting existing grants to fit the new system. The Emerging Needs and Opportunities (ENO) grants were open to new applicants. CSP Grant Support Committee helped review ENO grants. Strong review sessions and recommendations have been put forward. Now making final recommendations and moving through the FY23 budgeting process. Surveys will be sent to grant reviewers and applicants for their impressions of the new process. Then we will make updates to the applications and process with the help of the Grant Support Committee before FY24.

Agenda item: Self-Sufficiency Indicators Report FY20

Presenting: Joan Driessen

Association of Community Services (ACS) releases a Self-Sufficiency Indicators Report for Howard County. The most recent is for FY20. Joan presented the FY20 report to the board.

State of change in population for Howard County in last 50 years, went from less than 100,000 people to more than 300,000 people. The population has become much more diverse and is older per capita.

Howard County has double the median income of the United States of America. In 2019, the highest 1/5 in income is 11 times larger than the lowest 1/5 in income. 28% of households in Howard County have an income less than \$25,000 a year. 5% of households in Howard County live below the poverty rate. Living at or below the poverty rate is most common for single mother households. Also, more likely for minority households. University of Michigan definition for financial secure is defined as a household with enough earnings to not need assistance programs. 16,600 households in Howard County earn less than \$75,000 a year. Which is below what is needed to support two adults and a child.

There is a deficit of 6,500 rental units needed for people making less than \$60,000. These are generally not homeless people but extremely rent burdened. 43% of households in Howard County are rent burdened.

Childcare costs and availability are huge issues. Childcare is almost as costly as rent.

Self-Sufficiency Indicators Report for Howard County is available on the ACS website:

<https://www.acshoco.org/self-sufficiency-indicators/>.

Agenda item: Life After Welfare 2021

Presenting: Stephen Liggett-Creel

Steven presented on the University of Maryland report: Life After Welfare 2021. Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) recipients tend to go on and off receiving assistance. COVID-19 pandemic caused a huge increase in recipients and the number of people enrolled started to decline as businesses opened back up. There was an increase in two parent households, male headed households and white households receiving assistance during the pandemic. Employment and income increase between entry and exiting the program, but recipients are moving from making \$6,000 to \$12,000 a year. During the pandemic, more left to unemployment with earning increase. Those that left during the pandemic that were employed had a decrease in income. Regardless of receiving during the pandemic, pre-pandemic or post-pandemic, most people exiting the program are still receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medical Assistance (MA or Medicaid). The report can be found online here: [Life-after-Welfare,-2020-Update.pdf \(umaryland.edu\)](#)

Agenda item: Renewing the Promise of the Middle Class

Presenting: Rose Burton

Rose presented on the Federal Reserve paper: Renewing the Promise of the Middle Class. The paper states the path to upward mobility is through having a secure job, saving and investing money, getting a college education, and providing opportunities to one's children. Three Observations: income inequality increases as economic mobility goes down, college graduates fare better in life, and a person's economic trajectory depends in part on factors beyond his or her own talents and hard work. Policy Considerations: reduce income inequality and promote economic growth, more opportunities to graduate from college, more employment opportunities for workers without college degree i.e. trades, and greater investments into families and neighborhoods.

Race equity must be part of this discussion. Guaranteed Income needs to be discussed as well. Guaranteed Income can help people avoid the benefit cliff when they make too much to qualify for aid programs but are still not making enough to be stable and secure. Apprentices and on the job training can be a path or step along the way to security. We should look for all paths to success, not everyone can spend 2-4 years in college, attend training or participate in internships while working or raising children. Having an underlining safety net or the lack of one can affect ability to stabilize or move into security.

The paper and a summary can be found online here: [Renewing the Promise of the Middle Class: Evidence and Insights from Research - Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago \(chicagofed.org\)](#)

Agenda item: What do we mean by Self-Sufficiency?

Presenting: Bess Landbein

Bess Landbein led a guided discussion about what the board means when we say self-sufficiency. Basic needs don't speak to self-sufficiency as much as they speak to stability. This can be knowing where to access resources, what a family should strive for in life, it can be something you don't have to have for survival but are working towards, or it can be asset building. Consider a tiered approach as a better way to assess self-sufficiency instead of stating someone has it or doesn't have it.

Brainstorming session thoughts:

- no "self" can do it alone, instead it comes from a group of people working together
- being able to provide for themselves
- being able to accomplish their goals
- able to do whatever they want in life
- it is different for everyone
- we can know the definition, but this is more about whether we think it is relevant to the board or not

Based on the definition, does self-sufficiency still fit in the board's name? What does the board stand for: connecting, policy and systems, awareness and communication, advocacy, gathering allies to create solutions, promoting collaboration, reducing duplication, educating people about what the system has to offer (community and each other), voice for those without a voice, and a champion for specific issues.

Instead of self-sufficiency what could be used instead: thrive, economic stability, economic mobility, educate/invest/convene, or safety/security/wellbeing. Discussion will continue at future board meetings.

Meeting Concluded: 6:04 pm

Next Meeting: May 26, 2022 4:00 pm via WebEx