



Board to Promote Self-Sufficiency

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

Minutes of the October 22, 2015 Meeting

Attendance

Appointed Members: Mike Couch, Joan Driessen, Andrea Ingram, Julie Keough, Jane O'Leary, Richard Ohnmacht, Matt Poole, Brad Closs, Sherry Banks

Ex Officio Members: Karen Butler, Tom Carbo, Patty Keeton, Ronna Gotthainer, Jack Kavanagh, Donna Wells
Staff: Kathy Swanson, Michelle Hippert

Guest: Jackie Eng, Keisha Benjamin, Joe Willmott, Famebridge Witherspoon

Meeting called to order at 09:07A.M. by Mike Couch, Chairperson.

Presentation: "Continuum of Care (COC) Overview/Update," Michelle Hippert, COC Manager

- Ms. Hippert began by reviewing a number of handouts including: *Continuum of Care (COC) Levels of Responsibility 10/2014*, *Continuum of Care DCS Steering Group – Link to BPSS – 10/19/15*, *Howard County Continuum of Care (COC) Steering Group Overview – 9/23/14*, and excerpts from the Interim Rule.
- Ms. Hippert provided an overview describing the COC governance of the BPSS (the COC Board), the Evaluation and Resource Allocation (ERA) Committee, and the COC Steering Group (of the Lead Agency). This included how COC activities are delegated between the groups in line with the federal guiding regulations of the Interim Rule (24 CFR 578). The roles and responsibilities of the Board included: following and annually updating the governance charter, receiving monthly reports from the Lead Agency, and reviewing COC -initiatives. The roles and responsibility of the ERA included: analyzing data, evaluate COC programs and the coordinated system, rate/rate/review funding of the COC, and communicate findings to the Board. The COC Steering Group included reviewing the partners and the responsibility to: update the Plan to End Homelessness, guide the coordinated system, research best practices, provide input to the Lead Agency for COC applications, perform the PIT, convene needed workgroups and HMIS subcommittee, and provide needs/gaps of the COC to the ERA.

Minutes of the September 25, 2015 meeting were approved as submitted 9:36 a.m.

Updates

- Joan Driessen provided an update on the Consolidated Human Service Center (aka, Non-Profit Center), stating that they are looking at sites, completing a needs assessment, and development phase to be in the facility by end of FY2016. Needs 85,000-100,000 sf, and currently a dozen agencies are interested. The BPSS can contribute to the Needs Assessment and provide insight to ACS for funding.

Discussion

- *Getting Ahead (GA) Committee:* GA now has a website and content is being developed. Efforts include reaching out to community advocates to check ongoing stability of graduates. Leadership Howard County is meeting for a second time to review a graduation program for GA. GA Committee is meeting with ARL instructors for inspection and maintenance of vehicles for GA graduates. Fieldtrip is scheduled for Monday, October 29 to Vehicles for Change (VFC) to learn about how to get vehicles into Howard County for GA graduates. Three GA groups will start soon. Getting Ahead has outgrown the Board; the program has been moved to the MultiService Center managed by Quinton Askew. Effective July 2016 Department of Citizen Services will have operational responsibility for Getting Ahead, and the BPSS Committee would dissolve. Questions arose of how to transfer initiatives of the Board to programs in the community. Mike Couch made a motion to transfer responsibility of GA to DCS. This was unanimously approved.

- *Transportation Workgroup*: Jack Kavanagh has been working with the Office of Law to recraft code to donate cars to VFC. Fewer than 200 cars are turned over annually; suggestion to donate a few per year to inspire businesses to donate.
- *Childcare Workgroup*: The Childcare Action Group (external to BPSS) is completed. They determined that subsidized childcare is a need, and businesses would benefit from workforce retention. Suggestion to start a childcare trust fund in DSS' budget, to subsidize gap. Donna Wells suggested on-site childcare at places of employment.
- *Evaluation and Resource Allocation (ERA) Committee*: New members added, still need Board members to join. ERA is creating an evaluation rubric to document decision making where there is no rubric provided by outside funding. Karen Butler introduced Joe Willmott to present some of his thoughts and notes regarding existing funding to end homelessness.
 - Mr. Willmott announced that the Plan to End Homelessness (2010) is five years old and many of the recommendations have been funded, including Flexible Financial Assistance (FFA). He commented that communities have been successful at ending veteran homelessness with HUD-VASH funding, but Howard County is not eligible for these federal funds. Because of this, he urged the Board to support additional resources gap. His estimated need of funding is \$1.6 million, as highlighted in his handout.
 - Mr. Couch asked about the Housing Inventory Count, the federal report that itemizes all units in the community for households experiencing homelessness, and the corresponding Unmet Need report. Ms. Hippert commented that the Unmet Need report indicated a demand for permanent supportive housing for households with children, as that they are in shelters, when they ultimately need permanent supportive housing to end their homelessness.
 - Mr. Couch clarified that the Board cannot go into budget recommendations.
 - Jane O'Leary commented that even if all households in the coordinated system were housed with additional dollars, there are 6,700 renters in the community that have an income at or below \$50,000, and cannot afford housing in Howard County.
 - Andrea Ingram commented that the Single Efficiency Apartment (SEA) co-located with the Day Resource Center (DRC) will make a dent in the number of chronically homeless households. Mr. Willmott stated that the chronically homeless persons are not in the CSHS because they won't accept case management, so they are not referred until there are resources available, such as the SEA/DRC.
 - Mr. Couch stated that when the Board writes its annual report, there may be opportunity to provide an Ad Hoc budget for initiatives. Jackie Eng advocated that it is very important to raise issues to the County Executive.
- *Housing Committee*: Ms. O'Leary provided updates that HUD has placed a hold on the FMR change for Columbia City, MD, as the County met with Secretary Castro at HUD. The Committee supports naming the SEA/DRC. The Committee sees a need to develop affordable housing for households making between 30% and 60% Area Median Income (AMI); other partners should contribute so initiative can grow. The Downtown Columbia Housing legislation is going through the Planning Board first, and then the County Council. Mr. Couch suggested tabling this topic until the next meeting, as more information will be provided by then.

Announcements

- Sherry Banks and Brad Closs were appointed to the Board.
- Richard Ohnmacht to transition off the Board.
- Jane O'Leary from Bridges thank you event October 29, 2015, 5-8p.m.
- DSS open at the MultiService Center five days a week; until 7 PM M-Th; Tues until 7PM twice a month.

Meeting adjourned at 11:01 A.M.

Next meeting: December 3, 2015 at 9:00 A.M.

Minutes submitted by Michelle Hippert