



Board to Promote Self-Sufficiency

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

Minutes of the February 25, 2016 Meeting

Attendance

Appointed Members: Mike Couch, Bitu Dayhoff, Andrea Ingram, Lisa Jablonover, Julie Keough, Brad Closs, , Matt Poole, ~~Joan Driessen, Steve Martin~~

Ex Officio Members: +Diane Martin Karen Butler, Tom Carbo, Fran Trout, Patricia Schupple for Jack Kavanagh, ~~Phyllis Madaehy, Rachel Choo-Quan for Donna Wells~~

Guest: Cynthia Lynch & Fambridge Witherspoon, Millicent Nwolisa, Stan Levi

Staff: Kathy Swanson, Michelle Hippert, Wanda Travis

Meeting called to order at 9:18 A.M. by Mike Couch, Chairperson.

The Board had a moment of silence in memory of our dear long-time active member, Patricia Keeton. She passed away suddenly on February 16, 2016.

Presentation: Review of Barrier: Access to Sufficient Food by Bitu Dayhoff, Community Action Council

- Bitu Dayhoff thanked Patricia Keeton for her service on the Board.
- Households must be at or below 150% of Federal Poverty Level to be eligible at the Food Bank. 5.3% of Howard County residents are at or below poverty level. Food disbursement covers enough food for a household for three to five days depending on how much inventory the Food Bank has. 8.1% of Howard County residents skip meals or cannot afford food. Low-income households use SNAP benefits (food stamps), the Food Bank and TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program) to obtain food. There are 19,000 residents in Howard County receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and 27,000 are serviced by the Food Bank. There is a two week gap were people do not have access to food based on existing benefits and Food Bank inventory.
- The Food Bank was established in 1964 and now they employ 92 full-time staff and operate from seven locations. The main location is off Route 108 and is setup like a small grocery store, and has been open for 10 years. The Food Bank has grown from four to 13 pantries and 50 to 900 volunteers. The long-term goal is to not turn away any household.
 - CAC spends \$40,000/per month on dairy and produce products for families. They also have a garden which is 100% volunteer driven.
 - Plan for Howard Community College to open food pantry.
 - Volunteers pick up food from donor locations and drop off at the Food Bank; have 15 minutes to deliver food because they do not have vehicle to keep food refrigerated. The cost to purchase a refrigerated truck is \$80,000.
- Negotiations in the works for new 8,000 square foot facility with 60 days left to settle. There will be a bus stop located in front of the building.
- Diane Martin spoke on the Free and Reduced Price Meals (FARM) program in the public schools. In a FARM school, everyone is offered breakfast and students eligible for lunches are not singled out. Challenge when schools are closed and unsure how families feed children typically fed at school.
- Question posed if the Food Committee should report on access to sufficient food barrier.

Meeting minutes from the January 28, 2016 Board meeting were motioned to be approved by Julie Keough, and Bitu Dayhoff seconded. Minutes approved at 10:15 a.m.

Updates

Continuum of Care. Michelle Hippert, CoC Manager.

No CoC was meeting held in February 2016 due to blizzard. The annual Point in Time survey held in January was completed and all surveys are being collected. Multiple agencies attended the Youth Homelessness Workgroup. There is a provider-viewing of the documentary *Homestretch*. The event will be at the Roger Carter Center, April 14th 8:30 – 1 p.m., and CEUs will be provided. Contact Michelle Hippert if you want to attend.

Non-Profit Center. Mike Couch for Joan Driessen.

The Housing Commission is slated to be the master tenant for the site. In process of space planning for number of square feet needed; looking at appropriate locations. Conversations with Enterprise Community Partners seeking their expertise. The Maryland Corrections Enterprises may be able to supply furniture, refinished by inmates in detention.

Strategic Plan. Mike Couch.

Identify goal each month, including Transportation, Access to Sufficient Food, and asked how the Board can identify other gaps. March meeting will review “*Barrier: Lack of employment and/or training opportunities.*”

Consolidated Plan Sessions. Kathy Swanson.

Consultant was hired by Howard County Housing to complete the five year Consolidated Plan. Multiple community group sessions are being held and one-on-one interviews will be held with key stakeholders in housing and community development areas.

Discussion: Committees & Workgroups

Community Outreach. Julie Keough.

County has a new website; a communication plan is coming; need to gather activities to post, including a calendar of BPSS topics. Reminder to send all HigherPower nominees to Julie Keough.

Evaluation and Resource Allocation (ERA) Committee. Karen Burtler.

Committee will be meeting every other month.

Getting Ahead (GA) Committee. Lisa Jablonover.

Members of the Board are welcomed to attend the graduation ceremony on March 7th at 11 am at the Detention Center. Approximately 25 Getting Ahead graduates met at Union Jacks on February 10th for a networking event. The Getting Ahead web page is almost ready and should be operational by the end of the month. There is a waiting list for future Getting Ahead sessions. Quinton Askew is in discussions with two elementary schools, Bryant Woods and Guilford.

Childcare Workgroup. Mike Couch.

Needs to be revived as the Task Group focused on early childhood education needs.

Housing Workgroup. Andrea Ingram.

The negotiations with the Downtown Columbia Housing Corporation is ongoing. There are two proposals to the County Council. By the end of April 2016, a proposal will be final. There are complex issues examined in each proposal. Cynthia Lynch provided an update on the Single-Efficiency Apartment (SEA) Project. The Housing Commission is still in process of closing on the project; estimated to be settled within the next few weeks.

Transportation Workgroup. Patricia Schupple for Jack Kavanaugh.

Jack met with County Administration and will provide update at next meeting.

New Business

Self-Sufficiency Fund Update

Identified in DCS budget; BPSS must develop a policy and be approved by the Board for using funds.

Announcements

- Bridges Out of Poverty training scheduled for June 2016. If agencies have not been to training please plan to attend.
- Bridges to Housing Stability, Inc. Annual Chili Cookoff: March 6th from 12:30 – 2:30 – Church of the Resurrection.
- IT recruitment at University of Maryland University College in Elkridge, MD: March 24th
- Housing Fair on April 9th at Howard High School.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 A.M.

Next meeting: Thursday, March 24, 2016 at 9:00 A.M.

Minutes submitted by Michelle Hippert, CoC Manager