



Board to Promote Self-Sufficiency

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

Minutes of the May 28, 2015 Meeting

Attendance

Appointed Members: Bita Dayhoff, Mike Couch, Joan Driessen, ~~Andrea Ingram~~, Julie Keough, ~~Stephen Martin~~, Richard Ohnmacht, Matt Poole, Jane O'Leary, Lisa Jablonover, Sherry Banks

Ex Officio Members: Karen Butler, Tom Carbo, ~~Jack Kavanagh~~, Patty Keeton, ~~Ronna Gotthamer~~, Phyllis Madachy, ~~Rachel Quan (for Donna Wells)~~, Fran Trout, ~~Diane Martin~~

Staff: Michelle Hippert

Meeting called to order at 9:09 A.M. by Mike Couch, Chairperson.

Meeting minutes from the April 23, 2015 Board meeting were approved.

Presentation

- Introductions were made of all Board members present.
- Leadership Howard County provided a presentation on a Graduate program for the Getting Ahead Program called "Circles." It was examined to see if Circles could be built upon and customized for Howard County. The process was rooted in feedback from current graduates and discussions with other communities that have used the Circles model. The Circles includes a "leader" and allies (mentor + coach/coordinator), and serves up to 200% of the federal poverty line.
 - Leadership's Summary:
 - Circles is costly and inflexible. There are a lot of principles to embrace and phase into programming in Howard County. Marketing, recruitment and training for volunteers, obtaining support for the program to be sustainable, and tracking outcomes would be challenges.
 - The extent Leadership Howard County could develop an effective model for Howard County was limited. The group was able to evaluate the Circles model only. Next steps would be to develop a program based on Circles, but that would address its limitations.
 - Leadership Howard County answered Board questions regarding the project. Discussion surrounded the costs of Circles, what financial support would be needed, the types of coordination required, if there were additional results from other communities that use their own program instead of Circles. Discussion included how to develop and integrate current Graduate Council feedback into a curriculum, what success would look like, and what outside agency would be best equipped to provide long-term investment to ensure long-term success. The group reviewed the current Graduate council's feedback on what would best serve their needs. Their expressed need was for ongoing accountability.

Updates

- Introductions were made, and Phyllis Madachy and Sherry Banks were welcomed to the Board.
- Michelle Hippert provided an update on the Continuum of Care. The Point in Time and Housing Inventory Count were submitted to HUD at the end of April, and reported 166 persons experiencing homelessness in Howard County on January 26, 2015. The FFY15 Continuum of Care annual application began and Howard County completed registration on May 19, 2015. The local FEMA (Emergency Food and Shelter Program) Phase 32 board met and allocated the award on May 19, 2015. Additionally, the FFY15 Emergency Solutions Grant application will be due in August to the Maryland State Department of Housing and Community Development.

- The Vehicles for Change idea was updated that it is being examined at the County-level for any commitment of the local fleet
- Mike Couch announced that the environmental scan identified issues that have been worked on and achieved great results. In that context, the Strategic plan was amended to include Responsibility / Action, Frequency and Performance Measure items. It was voted, and approved.

Discussion:

- Committee Update Reports
 - Community Outreach Committee – On June 17th Wegman’s will host the annual HirePower awards ceremony. A request has been placed for an official County-press release. There were five employers who won this award.
 - Getting Ahead Committee – Word is spreading across Howard Community College, and hoping to develop more groups by the end of the fiscal year. Three current graduates are becoming facilitators.. Information will be gathered to learn about what changes have been implemented at agency levels. For instance, Department of Corrections has made about 12 points of change that have impacted clients greatly. The Council wants to have directors hear about their agency services, strengths and obstacles, from consumer perspectives.
 - Will need to start looking at determining the organizational responsibility for the Getting Ahead program and any Graduate programming, as the Board’s role is not operational. It was recommended to support the Leadership Howard County’s framework to maintain momentum, but place into existing infrastructure to maintain programming. It was suggested to setup the program similar to Howard Community College’s coach program for enrolled students. The key will be to not solve problems, but connect initiatives to existing resources in the community
 - Housing Committee –Affordable housing and more subsidies are critical, and the Single Efficiency Apartment (SEA) program needs a name. Group discussed who would be responsible for naming. It was decided to provide a list of recommendations by the Board to the Howard County Housing Commission. It was announced that the Howard County Council will discuss affordable housing in downtown Columbia at their monthly meeting on June 8th.
 - Evaluation and Resource Allocation (ERA) Committee – It was announced that the Committee needs Board members for membership.
 - Childcare Update – The first meeting is Monday, June 1, 2015. More information will be provided after that meeting, as it was identified as a need from the environmental scan. Karen Butler will provide representation from that meeting to the Board.

New Business

- Mike Couch has accepted the nomination as the Chair for the next year. A Vice-Chair nominee is still to be determined.
- Joan Driessen met with the County Executive about the Nonprofit Center, and he seemed very receptive and sees the impact for Howard County family care coordination. Space at Ascend One was toured. Many organizations are embracing the concept.
- Hire Power Awards Ceremony is June 17, 2015 at 8:30 AM, at Wegmans
- Richard Ohnmacht is moving from PNC to BayBank

Meeting adjourned at 10:54 A.M.

Next meeting: June 25, 2015 at 9:00 A.M.

Minutes submitted by Michelle Hippert; to request an alternate format, call 410-313-6400 (voice/relay).