



# Board to Promote Self-Sufficiency

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

## Minutes of the May 26, 2016 Meeting

### Attendance

**Appointed Members:** Mike Couch, Brad Closs, , Lisa Jablonover, Joan Driessen, Bitu Dayhoff, Jennifer Pollitt-Hill

**Absent:** Andrea Ingram Julie Keough, Matt Poole, Stan Levi, Millicent Nwolisa,

**Ex Officio Members:** Tiffany Smith (for Tom Carbo), Karen Butler, , Rachel Choo Quan (for Donna Wells), Phyllis Madachy, Diane Martin (for Renee Foose)

**Absent:** Jack Kavanagh

**Staff:** Kathy Swanson, Michelle Hippert, Jackie Scott

**Guests:** Elizabeth Meadows, Fambridge Witherspoon

Meeting called to order at 9:16 A.M. by Mike Couch, Chairperson.

### **Presentation - *Lessons from the MultiService Center, Quinton Askew (Kathy Swanson)***

MSC has grown and is very successful; it is a known program in the community. Highlights of FY16 (thru April 30, 2016) include providing access to: 1,171 electricity services payment assistance and 644 food stamps (SNAP benefits). MSC events include annual community fair, a men's group, free tax services with makingchange, Inc., coffee & conversation with Title 1 schools (parent group).

The MSC is looking at broadening responsibilities of existing events and efforts. New MSC partners are Meals on Wheels, Center for Spiritual Living, Trumpet in Zion Church, Vehicles for Change, Howard County Public Schools (Bryant Woods, Running Brook, Ducketts Lane, Cradle Rock and Steven Forest Elementary schools). MSC worked with Family & Children Services who hired a part time therapist to serve school system increased need for additional case management and therapy services.

Getting Ahead Program will become an established program of the MSC, effective in FY2017.

Question about what PALS project is in Howard County. Jackie Scott answered that PALS (Partnership for Action Learning in Sustainability) is a partnership with the University of Maryland at College park courses and Howard County government to address a variety of issues. Response papers will be provided on the benefits cliff project.

**Updates – *Non-Profit Center (aka, Consolidated Human Resources Center), Joan Driessen***  
County Council committed \$300,000 for startup costs; Pending ongoing county commitment.

### **Committees**

*Nominating Committee*

An orientation for new BPSS members will be provided this summer. The BPSS still needs to nominate a BPSS chair, and it was reminded that all members are required to serve on a committee or workgroup. It was suggested for the BPSS to meet quarterly or every other month so committees would be emphasized. By the June 2016 meeting present slate for all positions will be available.

#### *Community Outreach*

There are five winners for Hire Power Awards. The Ceremony is scheduled for June 10, 2016 at Tino's Restaurant, at 8775 Centre Park Drive Columbia, Maryland.

#### *Getting Ahead*

The two day training is June 7 – 8, 2016, and currently there are no more spaces available. The first Getting Ahead Gala held May 20<sup>th</sup> (created by graduates).

Updates were provided on the Leadership Howard County “Staying Ahead” project. Projects with Leadership are a great opportunity, but may need to integrate more with Leadership’s curriculum to get a beneficial product. It was suggested to increase human services presence with leadership.

A question was asked on what it means for BPSS that Getting Ahead is moving to DCS. It was explained that the operational responsively will be moved to MSC, and the committee of BPSS will disperse. However, a new Getting Ahead Advisory Board will be formed by MSC specifically to continue the work.

#### **Updates – Continuum of Care, Michelle Hippert**

Fair Market Rent (FMR) changes are impacting and the Housing Commission, for instance, is providing a notice to landlords. Yet, how do we address these issues? Internally it was recommended to: (1) create an outreach strategy to landlords, (2) share information, (3) calculate the funding gap, and (4) advocate with HUD on impact on CoC program. The challenge will be when landlords request rent increases, what will the programs do?

#### **Discussion – Housing Update – Mike Couch**

#### **Discussion – Transportation Workgroup – no update yet (email Dionne)**

#### **New Business – Announcements:**

Committee work with continue through the summer of 2016, but the BPSS will not meet.

10:55AM meeting adjourn

Minutes submitted by Michelle L. Hippert, CoC Manager