

Howard County Local Children's Board
1/20/15
Meeting Minutes

Attendees

Board Members: Rosemary Beakes, Carol Beatty, John Byrd, Brian Daugherty, Dawn Duignan, Gary Gardner, Pam Grady, Lois Mikkila, Bita Dayhoff, Maura Rossman, Donna Wells, Restia Whitaker, Tim Madden, Louis Valenti

Guest/Staff: Beth Silverman, Office of Consumer Affairs; Sucora Best, Program Monitor; Valerie Harvey, Adolescent Specialist; Meg Mekelburg, Outreach Specialist; Marsha Dawson, LCB Coordinator; Keri Hyde, Administrator

Meeting called to order at 8:40 am.

Ms. Beth Silverman was welcomed as a guest.

November 18, 2014 minutes were approved.

Office of Consumer Affairs Presentation/Discussion

Beth Silverman provided the Board with an overview of the Office of Consumer Affairs, a division of the Department of Citizens Services. The agency provides consumer information, assists in resolving consumer-merchant disputes and enforces Howard County consumer protection laws. Beth also discussed workshops provided by OCA; ID theft, Protecting Your Child's Identity, and Tips to Avoid Scams.

Board Member ship Composition

Marsha Dawson provided an update on filling open seats. In the meantime, an announcement has been sent to the Association of Community Services asking for resumes to be returned by February 20th.

Rosemary Beakes stated that her Pastor has a scheduling conflict that prevents him from serving. Board members were asked to forward names of prospects to Marsha. The suggestion was made to contact FIRN, Columbia Association and PATH ~Marsha will follow up.

GOC Update

GOC has a new executive director, Arlene Lee. She was previously the Head of GOC under Governor Ehrlich. She is very supportive of the work of the LMBs and an advocate for local decision making. To date, there hasn't been a reduction in this year's funding, despite cuts made to GOC in December. Keri will provide a budget update next month.

Stand Up to Bullying – The state is sponsoring an Anti-Bullying event on March 18th at Towson University. Each jurisdiction is responsible for recruiting and transporting a specific number of middle/high school children based on population; Howard County is responsible for sending 250. Transportation will be covered by restricted funds awarded to LCB last summer; leftover funds may be used for bully prevention or resources. The day will consist of speakers, exhibits, and town hall discussion on bullying. An awards ceremony is also planned to recognize the work of individuals and

student groups; we will nominate Voices 4 Change. Concern was expressed about the event competing with the Youth Summit and school testing.

Program Updates

Sucora Best reported all programs have submitted first quarter reports. Alpha Achiever's held a MLK breakfast. Discussion held about getting to know programs; suggestion was made to invite programs to speak at Board meetings.

Board Member Updates

Louis Valenti – Office of Child Care: There are proposed changes to the child care regulations scheduled to take effect in March, 2015. These changes include training in supporting breastfeeding and training in complying with the ADA. The proposed regulations are currently published in the Maryland Register.

Keri Hyde – Celebrating Successes, April 28th, 6-8:00 pm at Ten Oaks Ballroom; this year's youth award will be Youth Making a Difference in their Community.

Lois Mikkila – Behavioral Health Task Force subgroup is looking at issues across age groups. The team is looking at a screening tool used by CDC to screen and identify adults for mental health services.

Dawn Duignan – reported seeing a spike in younger children with anxiety.

Restia Whitaker – HCPSS is focusing on human trafficking and working with DSS on reducing barriers to enrollment for foster care kids; would like to improve turnaround time. Question regarding whether this would also be applicable to non-custodial grandparents with physical custody. Restia stated they will examine family situations such as deployment, illness, and death on an individual basis. As it stands, DSS will make recommendation for temporary enrollment for 30-90 days to allow time to establish guardianship or hardship.

Tim Madden – no DJS update. Tim posed a question regarding the RFP planning process for programs; the RFP committee will convene to hash out a plan. Anyone interested in serving on the committee should let Marsha know.

Donna Wells – HCMH received a grant from Horizon Foundation. Bayview Health Committee has been meeting on prevention in child mental health. Four crisis beds will open in February for adults 18 and older; will eventually expand to eight. Draft MOU received from Hopkins to contract with Grass Roots suicide prevention model to follow up on the individuals who are on the high end use of emergency room services.

Chief Gary Gardner – Chief recognized that the department has great community partnerships and is currently working on police/community relations. They're examining ways to improve community relations by establishing a youth liaison and holding meetings with a variety of churches and the African American roundtable.

Maura Rossman – reported changes in healthcare delivery systems due to the Affordability Care Act. Hospitals are now on a global budget, regardless of the number needing and/or receiving service. Howard County has exceeded the number of new enrollees; we will have the fewest number of uninsured residents. Since the health community understands that insurance cards don't translate into services, Howard County General is partnering with the community to increase access to care. LHIC is

hosting a Forum on Thursday, January 22nd at the Meeting House/Oakland Mills Interfaith Center. The five Tele-Health Centers placed in schools went live in January and served only a few children so far; the hope is for usage to increase.

Bitia Dayhoff – Community Action Council established a new partnership with Horizon Foundation and the Health Department to address issues of obesity; they are looking at intervention strategies. CAC will host MLK day of service at the Food Bank and Head Start. On January 26th Maryland Family Network will sponsor an Evening for Children’s Advocacy in Annapolis.

Carol Beatty – provided an update on Project SEARCH, the job training program that offers internships to students with disabilities. Interns are doing well in their placements so far and the process for employment has begun.

John Byrd – The volunteer registry is getting ready to launch and will be for multiple agencies who use volunteers in any capacity. Sports and Nature center are just two examples for DRP. The front lobby is being rehabbed to make the space more functional and secure.

Pam Grady – Voices for Children is currently providing training for volunteers to become Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA’s) to be matched to foster children. CASA volunteers build a rapport with a child and the significant people in their lives so they can recommend to the Court what placement and services are in the child’s best interest. Training begins February 2nd.

Next Meeting

February 2015

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.