

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD of SOCIAL SERVICES
APRIL 5, 2021 | 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
HELD VIRTUALLY
MEETING NOTES *Draft v. 4/6/2021*

Board Members

HHS and Council Staff

Name	Title	Present	Name	Title	Present
Marquette Rogers	Chair	Yes	Oscar Mensah	HHS Staff	Yes
Jean Swift	Vice Chair		Carolyn Chen	Council Staff	
Stephanie Mensh	Secretary	Yes	Belinda Cervas	HHS Staff	
Kendell Battle	Member	Yes	Warren Hansen	HHS Staff	Yes
Derek Flake	Member	Yes	Richon Nembhard	HHS Staff	Yes
Marcy Frosh	Member	Yes	Mina Jafarpoor	HHS Staff	Yes
Asha Isable	Member	Yes			
Chanté Leverette	Member	Yes			
Michael Lipsitz	Member	Yes			
Geethani Liyanage	Member				
Pamela Marquez	Member	Yes			
Samaura Stone	Member	Yes			
Councilmember Rice	Member				

I. CALL TO ORDER

- Marquette Rogers called the meeting to order at 4:04 pm, noting that a quorum was present.

II. APPROVAL OF MARCH MEETING NOTES

- Kendell Battle moved and Stephanie Mensh seconded approving the meeting notes from the March 1, 2021 BSS meeting, approved unanimously.

III. INTRODUCTIONS

- Oscar Mensah thanked Warren Hansen for his support of the BSS and noted that Warren will be focusing on other duties. Marquette and other BSS members also expressed their appreciation for Warren’s assistance. Oscar introduced the staff who will take Warren’s place:
 - Mina Jafarpoor, Program Manager, Children, Youth and Family Services, will be the primary support. When she is not available, for continuity, her supervisor will step in:
 - Richon Nembhard, Administrator, Children, Youth and Family Services

IV. PRESENTATION:

- Dr. Christopher Rogers, Policy and Strategy Officer, Public Health Services, Healthy Montgomery, Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) Qualitative Lead, presented an overview and status of the County’s CHNA. By July 2021, they plan to conduct their quantitative and qualitative assessments. These include small focus groups conducted virtually among a broad array of representative individuals, community

organizations, and leaders in the County. The purpose is to learn about the health needs, barriers, and priorities; explore the perceptions and attitudes regarding health; resources available; and recommendations to improve the health of communities. Among the groups to be included in the focus groups are “key informants,” such as members of the County’s boards and commissions. Dr. Rogers addressed questions and asked the BSS to select a member to participate in a Key Informant focus group.

- After some discussion, Marcy Frosh was nominated by Kendell Battle to participate in the CHNA Key Informant focus group on behalf of the BSS, seconded by Pamela Marquez, and approved unanimously. Oscar Mensah will inform Dr. Rogers of Marcy Frosh’s selection and pass on her contact information.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- Marquette reviewed the Doodle poll of members to sign up for these committees: Outreach, Legislative, Adult Services & Child Welfare Services, Family Investment, and Health & Education. Based on the sign up results, there will not be a Health & Education Committee this year.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- Committee chairs and assignments were approved as follows:
 - Legislative Committee Chair, Samaura Stone nominated by Kendell Battle, seconded by Stephanie Mensh, unanimously approved
 - Outreach & Communication Committee Chair, Chante Leverette nominated by Marcy Frosh, seconded by Kendell Battle, unanimously approved
 - Family Investment Committee Chair, Michael Lipsitz nominated by Chante Leverette, seconded by Derek Flake, unanimously approved
 - Adult Services & Child Welfare Services Committee Chair, Jean Swift nominated by Chante Leverette, seconded by Marcy Frosh, unanimously approved

Legislative	Outreach & Communication	Family Investment	Adult Services & Child Welfare Services
Samaura Stone, Chair	Chante Leverette, Chair	Michael Lipsitz, Chair	Jean Swift, Chair
Pamela Marquez	Geethani Liyanage	Asha Isable	Marquette Rogers
Jean Swift	Stephanie Mensh	Pamela Marquez	
Derek Flake	Kendell Battle	Derek Flake	
	Marcy Frosh		

VII. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS and ADJOURN MEETING

- Marquette reviewed and gave the status of the action items list from the March meeting, including: sending materials out to the BSS members, the Doodle poll for committee assignments, and Facebook postings to be determined. The support for pin wheels for Child Abuse Prevention awareness suggestion will need to be an individual BSS member activity.
- Oscar asked Committee Chairs to be in touch with their members before the next BSS meeting and suggest one possible topic or activity to consider over the next few months.

- Community items to share included a discussion on resources for accessing the COVID vaccine among underserved communities in the county. Kendell offered to share some resources. Marquette offered to share the vaccine hunter directions that he is developing.
- Marquette adjourned the meeting at 5:46 pm, with a motion by Kendell, second by Chante.

Next meeting: Monday, May 3, 2021; 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm (virtual)