

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD of SOCIAL SERVICES
MAY 3, 2021 | 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
HELD VIRTUALLY
MEETING NOTES *Draft v. 5/5/2021*

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	No	Carolyn Chen	Council Staff	
Stephanie Mensh	Secretary	Yes	Belinda Cervas	HHS Staff	
Kendell Battle	Member	Yes	Richon Nembhard	HHS Staff	
Derek Flake	Member	Yes	Mina Jafarpoor	HHS Staff	Yes
Marcy Frosh	Member	Yes			
Asha Isable	Member	Yes			
Chanté Leverette	Member	Yes			
Michael Lipsitz	Member	Yes			
Geethani Liyanage	Member	Yes			
Pamela Marquez	Member	Yes			
Samaura Stone	Member	Yes			
Councilmember Rice	Member	No			

I. CALL TO ORDER

- Marquette Rogers called the meeting to order at 4:10 pm, noting that a quorum was present.

II. APPROVAL OF APRIL MEETING NOTES

- Marcy Frosh moved and Samaura Stone seconded approving the meeting notes from April 5, 2021 BSS meeting, approved unanimously.

III. OLD BUSINESS

- Marquette Rogers recognized Mina Jafarpoor’s assistance to the BSS while Oscar Mensah was away
- Marquette reviewed the new Committee Assignments, Chairs and members: Legislative, Outreach & Communication, Family Investment and Adult Services & Welfare Services Committee (see table below)

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		

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- Marquette asked Committee Chairs to present topics or activities for their committees:
 - Family Investment Committee Chair, Michael Lipsitz reported that the Committee met by phone and suggested a focus on benefits provision for people who are housing insecure, for example, how to provide addresses for COVID vaccinations for people who are homeless
 - Oscar offered to bring an expert from the income support group to brief the BSS, provide an overview and data and assist the Committee in taking a deeper dive into the topic
 - Legislative Committee Chair, Samaura Stone reported that the Committee suggested a briefing on State and County legislation.
 - Oscar noted that this past State session activities were conducted in a centralized way so the liaison and interaction was a little different from past years
 - Oscar offered to reach out to the legislative liaison, Leslie Frye, to have her brief the BSS, provide an overview of the process, timeline, types of legislation they track
 - Outreach & Communication Committee Chair, Chante Leverette, reported that the Committee had discussed mission and communications suggestions via email and will schedule a regular meeting time, the first call will be this Thursday, May 6, at 6:30 pm.
 - Oscar offered to bring in Dennis Linders, Senior Administrator, PACS, to brief the BSS on the agency's and BSS's public information and social media policies
 - Adult Services & Child Welfare Services Committee, Marquette noted that the Committee Chair, Jean Swift, is unavailable at the moment due to personal issues, and will meet when she becomes available.
- Status on inquiry of a board email address and intranet page. Marquette requested that Oscar and Mina look into who to contact to approve items to post to the Facebook page and to consider the possibility of having a BSS page similar to the Recreation Advisory Board page: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec/about/advisoryboard.html>
 - Oscar offered that he and Mina will research this, contact the agency's Public Information Officer, and try for a quick turn around
- Open forum to discuss any upcoming legislation, community engagement opportunities or Social Services business. The BSS had a wide-ranging discussion:
 - How to find, disseminate and participate in volunteer opportunities
 - Possibility of attending events to talk to community members to hear their needs and to provide information on County services
 - Follow-up on last month's discussion on difficulties in some communities in accessing COVID vaccines
 - Building trust with community members to understand their needs and assist in accessing government services and the strengths of various outreach and communication approaches

- How to conduct surveys, needs assessments, obtain input from community members, find reliable sources of input to determine needed services, service utilization, barriers, the roles of various government and non-profit case workers and service providers
- Marcy asked the BSS members to send her input to inform her participation in a focus group in July; she will send an email reminder

V. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS and ADJOURN MEETING

- Continue research into BSS Internet page
- Committees continue to meet to before the next BSS meeting
- Oscar will approach key individuals to provide briefings to the BSS on income support, legislation, and PACS, possibly with at least one presentation at the June BSS meeting
- Marcy will send email to BSS requesting input
- Marquette adjourned the meeting at 5:41 pm, with a motion by Kendall, second by Chante

Next meeting: Monday, June 7, 2021; 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm (virtual)

Note: the June meeting will be the last BSS meeting before the summer break; however, Committees are encouraged to continue their work over the summer