



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 3, 2017 | 6:30PM

401 Hungerford Dr | 5th Floor | Rockville

Board Members			HHS and Council Staff			
Name	Title	Present				Present
Crystal Townsend	Chair	X		Angela Cabellon	HHS Staff	X
Justin Chappell	Co-Chair	X		Belinda Cervas	HHS Staff	X
Geoffrey Elungata	Member			Linda McMillan	Council Staff	
Seth Grimes	Member	X		Vivian Yao	Council Staff	X
Cecilia Hernandez	Member					
Clare Herington	Member	X				
Lesley Lopez	Member	X				
Lesley MacDonald	Member	X				
Emmanuel Mandel	Member	X				
Jason Martin	Member					
Stacey Reid- Swain	Member					
Councilmember Rice	Member					
Vanessa White	Member	X				

Action Items

Action	Person Responsible	Status
Invite the DHR Workforce as optional	Ms. Cabellon	Complete
Ms. Townsend to share information about Opioid conference	Ms. Townsend	Complete

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Handouts: May Agenda, April Meeting Minutes

- **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:34PM.
- **Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made to accept the April meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and carried.

II. PRESENTATION and DISCUSSION

Handouts:

- **CrossOver Youth – Lisa Merkin, Administrator of Child Welfare Services**

Ms. Lisa Merkin has been with the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services Child Welfare Services (CWS) for 17 years, and two years as the Administrator.

What is CrossOver Youth?



In 2010, the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform developed the Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM) to address the unique needs of youth who fluctuate between and are known to the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. These youth are commonly referred to as “crossover youth.”

The CYPM focuses on a reduction in the number of youth crossing over and becoming dually-involved; a reduction in the number of youth placed in out-of-home care; a reduction in the use of congregate care; and a reduction in the disproportionate representation of youth of color, particularly in the crossover population.

Ms. Merkin discussed how this effort was done in collaboration with Georgetown University. Prince George's County, who was the first jurisdiction in Maryland to partner with Georgetown, has many more crossover youth than Montgomery County. However, this effort is important for all youth involved and these youth will be tracked moving forward.

Ms. Merkin reviewed the crossover youth manual. This process will be used for on-going case management services and to provide dispositional recommendations by CWS and Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) for working with youth who are the subject of a Child in Need of Assistance (CINA) petition and/or receiving CWS' In-Home services and who are subsequently arrested, cited, or diverted by police.

Today, April 3, 2017, is the launch date for these CrossOver Youth. The baseline data for FY15 was 19 youth, but currently, there are zero crossover youth.

Discussion

The following captures the discussion of the group:

What is the age range?

There is no age range. Often, DJS involved youth are 13-21 years old. These are kids specifically charged in the County.

What is the Montgomery County link for kids placed elsewhere?

If a child has roots in the County, but placed in another county, these children would not be crossover youth. For example, we have kids placed in Baltimore County.

What has changed with the courts?

Interestingly, before today, there could be various judges for various children who may be dually involved. However, now, this process will ensure that the docket process yields one judge with one family.

What is the interaction with the mental health courts?

Judges who oversee the mental health court are different than the judges presiding over these youths. This will be a journey to see how this plays out.



What are the challenges to keep CWS clients out of the DJS system?

When you look at the data, it reveals mirroring national trends, there are more males than females, domestic violence, and multiple issues. We need more family services. Also, DJS looks at the child whereas CWS looks at the entire family. The two agencies are looking at the two systems and what could be done together. For example, there is a need for mental health services. CWS also does more around trauma than DJS so we will need to evaluate what can be done.

What is the source over the changes in the last 17 years in CWS?

Ms. Merkin said as a case worker, 17 years ago, it would be straight child abuse cases, neglect and lack of supervision. Now, there are larger families, more trauma (whether from sending country or another reason). There are more generational issues. Substance abuse, heroin has increased in In-Home cases. There are more economic issues where a victim is reliant on the abuser. Multiple issues can include: ability to keep a job, self-sufficiency, etc.

What are the data points that are of interest?

Georgetown is assisting with basic data:

- service level
- ages
- demographics
- did the child get help? Recidivism

Is there joint-training for trauma?

CWS has done a lot of work on trauma so we are hoping to share with DJS.

Is this considered an emergent best practice?

This was an individual choice. Georgetown used a lot of evidence-based practice and it looks like this will be an emergent best practice.

Has Prince George's County seen outcomes yet?

It has been two years and there have been good outcomes we are hearing, but we haven't been able to delve more deeply into the data.

Do you feel like you are getting the resources needed from when you first filled out the survey?

We have been able to prevent kids coming into care through the substance abuse specialist. We are still focused on transitioning youth. We do need affordable daycare for some of our youth who are parenting. We are making progress--steps in the right direction.

If a child is only in DJS, they get served by DJS. If a child is in CWS, they get CWS services. However, for those who crossover, then these kids fall into this category and can be tracked by



the courts. This effort will help dissipate the stress that two agencies may unknowingly be putting on families if kids touch both systems.

What are the greatest need or resources in CWS according to the survey?

According to Ms. Merkin, getting staff trained on substance abuse, accommodating in patient and out-patient, transitioning age group, and affordable day care.

III. SOCIAL SERVICES REPORT

➤ **Data:**

WPA Waitlist 527 children and 330 families.

Alternative Responses (AR) is above the state average, and we do 50% of the cases in a AR approach instead of investigative approach.

➤ **Priority Legislation Update:**

Bills that are likely to pass:

- HB0103: Renaming: Child Support Enforcement to Child Support Administration and DHR to Department of Human Services
- HB0256: Extending the APS Timeline investigation from 30 days to 60 days.
- HB0632 – SB0308: Definition of Sex Trafficking

The rest of the bills will be discussed very soon as the Legislative session ends on Monday, April 10, 2017.

Discussion:

Typically, when does the legislation agenda start?

Per Ms. Cabellon, the social services directors start planning on July. They gather constituent requests. Reviewed by the DHR, get moved to the Governor's office. Once the bill got approved, the bill get sponsored by a private sector or DHR, or by the Governor.

The Board is in advisory capacity to local directors. The Maryland Association of Social Services Directors (MASSD) receive ideas for legislation from Boards of Social Services or other constituents, and then works with DHR to make suggestions on a legislative agenda.

➤ **Highlights:**

- Ms. Cabellon shared the launch of the new eICM system training in mid-March for the CYF. The eICM will be implemented in April. What entails with this is there will be a business process change. The eICM is a role-based access system. Ms. Cabellon is overseeing the CYF portion of eICM and together with the subject matter expert, Ms. Richon Nemhard. Ms. Cabellon will invite Ms. Nembhard to a future BSS meeting to present eICM.



- The Rockville Regional office hosted a breakfast with their staff to build up staff appreciation.
- The NON hosted a town hall meeting with PEPCO to make the community aware of how to make payment plans and assisted with educating consumers about energy assistance and conservation.
- Ms. JoAnn Barnes and Ms. Cabellon did Chat with the Chief/Deputy Chief and visited Specialized Medical Assistance. At this open forum with staff; they were given their input and how to improve work and ask for any concerns.
- Ms. Cabellon has been working with a consultant to document the needs of DHHS and to get input from staff on what works best for business process changes. The consultant made recommendations on action areas and mapping of all the Regional sites giving feedback on how to improve business flow. Ms. Cabellon shared and embargoed copy of the report.
- A survey workplace report was handed out to staff to get their input on climate issues. The survey reveals that the more the staff communicate with their supervisors and managers for information, the staff feels that they are part of the change process. Staff also provided feedback on customer service perceptions and delivery.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- Work Plan & Goals and Objective for FY2017:
 - May – Lesley MacDonald
 - May - WorkSource Montgomery | Ellie Giles
 - June- Proposal to meet at Silver Spring

V. NEW BUSINESS

Chair Updates:

- Town Hall Meeting with the CE: There were about 30 attendees. BSS Focused on the Two Generation Poverty Prevention agenda, including requesting continued resources for East County and the Working Parents Assistance program. Ms. Townsend also expressed support for additional resources to Aging and Disability Services for Adult Protective Services.
- Ms. MacDonald was asked by Ms. Townsend to present to Montgomery Moving Forward about the early care education & childhood and a good multigenerational approach.



- Ms. Townsend inquire when can the Board can get eICM report. Per Ms. Cabellon, it can be discussed in the fall since the Board will take a break in the summer.

VI. NEXT MEETING

Monday, May 1, 2017 | 6:30PM
401 Hungerford Drive

Proposed Topic:

Topic:	Presenter:
WorkSource Montgomery	Ellie Giles

VII. ADJOURNED: 8:03pm