



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 1, 2017 | 6:30PM

401 Hungerford Dr | 5th Floor | Rockville

Board Members			HHS and Council Staff			
Name	Title	Present				Present
Crystal Townsend	Chair			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
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

➤ **Workforce – Ms. Ellie Giles, Chief Executive Officer of WorkSource Montgomery**

Workforce development is the coordination of public and private-sector policies and programs that provides individuals with the opportunity for a sustainable livelihood and helps organizations achieve exemplary goals, consistent with the societal context.

- The societal perspective focus is future economic stability and growth.
- The organizational perspective provides coordinated and relevant talent development to stay globally competitive.
- An individual perspective centers on training and education.



Ms. Giles shared that last July 2016 the County Executive (CE) and the Council made a decision to move the economic development and work force development out of the county government and create a public private partnership as a non-profit. The goal is to be more responsive to the County and its needs, both to the County employers and career seekers. The focus is to create a work force development, also known as talent development. The ultimate goal is to be the sole talent resource, to provide job, that eventually lead into a career, for all job seekers and match them to the right employers.

Most of the job seekers have bachelor degrees or higher. Some may require additional training or having financial problems. Ms. Giles shared that they provide immediate responses to applicants and move them to a career path. The applicants goes through training stages: 1) every individual gets a follow-up every six months, and if the individual is in a career path they moved to another stage 2) connect with the employer to move the applicant to next opportunity. This process creates more sustainability to the job seekers at the end of the training.

The program consists of two focus groups: Adult and youth. In the County, there are three job centers: a comprehensive center at Wheaton mall with a wrap-around career set-up, a job center at Germantown, and a job center at the Correction Institute for the reentry residents. The job center offices are being remodeled and will include a small interview room and an internet café lab for work.

Youth Center works with opportunity youth. WIOA funds the out of school youth but not the in-school youth. Youth with a GED can participate. All these youth that come in the center will be certified within the first six weeks while in the program.

This year, Ms. Giles introduced the Summer R.I.S.E. Program for the rising senior and junior in high school, targeting 10% of the 24,000 youth. It is a career exploration for three weeks, 20 hours a week and these youths to learn about the industry through shadowing exploration. It is not an employment due to labor laws. There are about 600 occupational slots taken by private companies already.

Currently, WSM has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Montgomery College and University of Shady Grove, informing what WSM need from them in terms of training. Also, WSM is formalizing an MOU with the Libraries and East County Center for FY18 pop-up job centers. Pop-up job centers are another way WSM connect to job seekers, WSM set-up a job center to different libraries instead of job seekers coming to the job centers.

Per Ms. Giles, WSM created an in-house business solution, presenting customized business talent support. Whether it is a talent assessment to make sure they are utilizing the talent the effective way and providing targeted recruiting events. Most construction employers are doing



the outreach to applicants, including the vetting and hiring. Pepco is also offering an energy academy for sustainable energy or utility work. WSM is designing services to be career navigator model to be funded by the industry. It takes 10 weeks to fill a position.

WIOA funds 60% of the program, which is a federal funding and restricted. They are also funded by the County and grants.

Discussion:

For the 42% who have a Bachelor degrees or higher, why is there unemployment?

There is a wide range of reasons-- it could be the technology, with clients being affected being replaced by it. Unemployment can be attributed to career changes, affect of social media, or financial difficulty.

There are Two Generation Poverty initiatives to assist families: WSM has a Kellogg Grant, leveraging best practices to make it a “whole family impact grant”. This grant is currently supporting 50 families. WSM’s target this year is to help teen parents.

What is a way the Board can provide advocacy for WSM?

If there are any issues that come up, please share it with WSM. Get more feedback on how to improve the service.

➤ **Montgomery Moving Forward** – Lesley MacDonald

MMF is a program with Non-profit Montgomery, and non-profit Montgomery is an alliance of non-profit members. They provide three things: advocacy of the Council for policies for non-profits to be considered when policies are being made when its going to impact them and funding, capacity building programs, and team building for non-profits, bringing leaders together.

MMF is a collective impact project, cross sector of community issues. The Council is involved with it, leaders of MCPS are involved, Montgomery College and many more big company and big leaders of the community are involved. One issue the MMF identified is work force. MMF did a lot of research on what is the current state and what are the best practices across the county. MMF consulted with a lot of people in the County at the leadership level and put together series of recommendation called action.

The big focus of MMF is the economy moving forward. Gathering data, research, and bringing focus groups to inform improvements is a strategy. One of the biggest problems right now in the County is child care, MMF is looking into how improve the child care problem.

See handouts for additional information.



III. SOCIAL SERVICES REPORT

➤ **Highlights:**

- Budget – major highlight from the Social Services perspective is WPA. Currently there are 627 children on the waitlist. The County Council suggested three options: 1) \$5 million, to eliminate the waitlist; 2) \$3.4 million to prioritize children 0-5 ages; 3) \$2.1 million to prioritize children 2-4 ages. The Council finalize the recommendation during the reconciliation process. In the hearing they proposed to prioritize children on the waitlist 0-5 ages through staggered allocation of \$1 million initially and then another \$1million. Ms. Uma Ahluwalia, Director of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), recommended to the Council to also add an administration portion to the process.

Ms. Cabellon also shared that the TreeHouse currently has 35 children on the waitlist. DHHS acknowledge the increase of children being served due to part time staffing of therapists, and difficulty of getting therapists that are bilingual to serve this vulnerable population. Initially, DHHS received \$100,00 for the IV-E funding, flexibility of the federal funding with E-Federal funds, an additional amount of \$125,000 for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 was also requested. Ms. Cabellon submitted an additional proposal for FY17 specifically for the TreeHouse for \$200,000 for the bilingual therapist, trauma therapist and substance abuse therapist.

Ms. Cabellon suggested to the Board to watch the online video of the Council session.

➤ **Major Updates:**

- Ms. Cabellon did a walk through with the vendor who will be implementing the QLess system that will help with the business flow of the five offices.
- The Affordable Care Act sign-up for this year will only occur for 45 days, starting on November 1 - December 15.
- Implementing Lobby days to all offices, connecting with clients during the staff break.

➤ **Event Announcements:**

- Tour de Cookie – May 6th
- Annual Foster Parent Dinner – May 18th
- Admin Professional Day – April 26th
- Site Quality Initiative (SQI) Volunteer Recognition – April 26th

➤ **Discussion:**

Is there an anticipated increase on CWS because of deportation?

At this time, there is no increase of kids coming through CWS child protective services. The community reports that there is a decrease of clients reapplying for benefits. Currently this is being monitored and anecdotally, the community is seeing the increase of clients accessing the food banks.



IV. OLD BUSINESS

- Work Plan & Goals and Objective for FY2017:
 - Planning in June
 - Invite DHR for legislative wrap-up
 - Budget Update
 - Possible meet at Silver Spring in June

V. NEXT MEETING

Monday, June 5, 2017 | 4:30PM
8818 Georgia Avenue

VI. ADJOURNED: 8:03pm