

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD of SOCIAL SERVICES
FEBRUARY 1, 2021 | 5PM – 6PM
HELD VIRUTALLY
MEETING NOTES *Draft v. 2.26.2021*

Board Members

HHS and Council Staff

Name	Title	Present				Present
Marquette Rogers	Chair	Yes		Oscar Mensah	HHS Staff	Yes
Jean Swift	Vice Chair	Yes		Carolyn Chen	Council Staff	
Stephanie Mensh	Secretary	Yes		Belinda Cervas	HHS Staff	
Kendell Battle	Member	Yes		Warren Hansen	HHS Staff	Yes
Chanté Leverette	Member	Yes				
Samaura Stone	Member	Yes				
Councilmember Rice	Member					

I. CALL TO ORDER

- Marquette Rogers called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm

II. PRESENTATION: Legislative Update from MASSB

- Marquette reviewed key Maryland state legislation being tracked by MASSB. Due to COVID there are significantly fewer bills being considered by the legislature and tracked by MASSB as relevant to the Boards’ mission. These include: Family Law provisions on investigating suspected child sexual abuse, mandatory reporting training, child custody and visitation; Higher Education tuition exemption for foster care and homeless youth; Public Safety youth violence review, civil actions, child abuse; Electric and gas energy suppliers; Human Services SNAP “heat and eat” program; COVID relief; Mental health resources and treatment capacity, hospital overstay for youth; Foster parents right to intervene.
- Marquette will send the MASSB slides to the Board. Oscar Mensah will send a link to the Maryland legislative website for those Board members who want to track specific legislation.
- Update Montgomery County’s handbook based on the MASSB handbook on items such as: review process, structure, fundraising, attendance, priorities.

III. NEW BUSINESS

a. Future discussions and topics

- April is Child Abuse Prevention month. Perhaps plan activities in March to prep and April to begin re: children coping with COVID; mental health/resilience activities; understanding what is being done and gaps.
- Samaura volunteered to pull together some research on what the county, schools, other boards, etc. are doing on this topic, so we can plan activities for June/July

b. Reappointments and new applications

- Oscar reported that 6 new members to our board are likely to be officially appointed in the next month or so, 2 members will be reappointed. He is working on an orientation packet and time for the new members.
- Bylaws question of missing 2 out of 8 meetings.

c. Board's monthly meetings and times

- After discussion, the Board voted to return to one meeting per month at the prior date and time: first Monday of the month for 2 hours from 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm.

IV. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS and ADJOURN MEETING

- Samaura will provide a quick research/review on current County child resilience activities and other resources to inform the Board on possible gaps and activities for the Board
- Marquette will distribute links to the MASSB legislative slides and Handbook
- Oscar will ask Linda if she can address the Board in March regarding possible April activities
- Marquette adjourned the meeting at 6:30 pm.

Next meeting: Monday, March 1, 2021; 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm