

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD of SOCIAL SERVICES
December 5, 2022 | 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
HELD VIRUTALLY
MEETING MINUTES

Board Members

HHS and Council Staff

Name	Title	Present	Name	Title	Present
Marquette Rogers	Chair	X	Oscar Mensah	HHS Staff	X
Vacant	Vice Chair		Richon Nembhard	HHS Staff	
Marcy Frosh	Secretary	X	Hannah Shaw	HHS Staff	X
Kendell Battle	Member	X	Logan Anbinder	Council Staff	X
Chanté Leverette	Member	X			
Brandon Bragg	Member	X			
Swapnika Madhavaram	Member	X			
Loveline Tangwan	Member	X			
Michele Levy	Member	X			
Vacant	Member				
Vacant	Member				
Vacant Councilmember	Member				

● **OFFICE OF ELIGIBILITY AND SUPPORT SERVICES PRESENTATION**

Tadesse Tesemma, Program Manager, and Jean-Marie Benishay, Human Services Specialist, described the Public Assistance to Entrepreneurship (PA2E) program. The program recruits candidates who are mainly TCA and SNAP recipients and, from 2020-2022, recruited and trained 53 candidates, with a focus on:

- Entrepreneurship training
- Marketing research and social media
- Credit restoration, financial statements, and loan procurement
- Business consults

In response to the Board Chair’s question of how BSS can best help the program, Mr. Tesemma indicated support in accessing funding.

● **CALL TO ORDER**

- The meeting was officially called to order at 5:00 PM, with a quorum present.

● **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

- A motion to accept the October 3, 2022 Meeting Minutes (the Board’s November meeting was cancelled) was made by Kendell Battle and seconded by Brandon Bragg. The vote to accept the Minutes was unanimous.

● **REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES**

The Chair restated Board priorities, shared with the Montgomery County Council, including 1) increasing opportunities for transitioning youth; 2) supporting greater trauma-informed education; 3) service area advocacy; and 4) boards, commissions, and committee partnerships.

Brandon Bragg reported on Outreach, noting that he attended two steering committee meetings of the Commission on People with Disabilities which covered legislation, employment initiatives, FY’23 priorities, and specific initiatives such as a sensory trail in Fairview Park in Silver Spring.

Chante Leverette reported that she will be working on a manageable plan for Communications in areas such as transitioning youth from foster care.

- **NEW BUSINESS**

The Chair proposed consideration of nominations for Vice Chair via email. Kendell Battle suggested a motion to consider the nomination of Brandon Bragg immediately. The motion was seconded by Marcy Frosh and passed unanimously. A second motion was made by the same Board members to nominate Brandon Bragg. It passed unanimously and a vote to elect was also unanimous.

Hannah Shaw clarified that Montgomery County Mental Health and Human Services requested the Board's priorities on mental health and determinants of health. Discussion followed on the importance of mental health education.

Hannah Shaw noted that two Board members still need to complete online training on parliamentary procedure.

- **ACTION ITEMS**

1. Follow up from PAE2 presentation, including sharing slides, and consideration of how best BSS can help with the program's need for access to funding and other support.
2. Potential for a letter of support from BSS regarding the Commission on People with Disabilities' project to create a sensory trail in Fairview Park in Silver Spring, along with other potential support for their efforts.
3. Response to Montgomery County Mental Health and Human Services in light of Board discussion.
4. Completion of online training on parliamentary procedure by identified Board members.

- **NEXT MEETING**

Date: January 9, 2023

Location: Virtual – Microsoft Teams

Time: 4 PM

- **ADJOURNED**

- Marquette Rogers, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 5:45 PM. The motion to adjourn was made by Brandon Bragg and seconded by Kendell Battle.

Submitted by:

Marcy Frosh, Secretary

December 6, 2022