



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 6, 2017 | 6:30PM

401 Hungerford Dr | 5th Floor

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	X		Linda McMillan	Council Staff	
Seth Grimes	Member	X		Vivian Yao	Council Staff	X
Cecilia Hernandez	Member					
Clare Herington	Member					
Lesley Lopez	Member	X				
Lesley MacDonald	Member					
Emmanuel Mandel	Member	X				
Jason Martin	Member	X				
Stacey Reid- Swain	Member	X				
Councilmember Rice	Member					
Vanessa White	Member	X				

Action Items

Action	Person Responsible	Status

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Handouts: February Agenda, January Meeting Minutes

- **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:33PM.
- **Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made to accept the January minutes. The motion was seconded and carried.

II. PRESENTATION and DISCUSSION

Handouts: [2017 Legislative Update MASSB](#), [Committee Meetings & Hearing Schedule 2/6/17 – 2/12/17](#), [Priority Meeting & Hearings Schedule 1/30/17 – 2/3/17](#)

- **2017 State Legislative Priorities – Stacy Reid-Swain, Assistant Director for Child, Adult and Family Services for Prince George’s County**

Stacy Reid Swain is the Assistant Director for Child, Adult and Family Services for Prince George's County Department of Social Services overseeing child and adult welfare programs for vulnerable persons. She is also the Vice Chair/Legislative Liaison for the Maryland



Association of Social Services Board (MASSB), and a member of the Maryland and Prince George's County Human Trafficking Task Forces.

During legislation sessions, which runs through April, MASSB convenes and discusses legislation being proposed that will impact the Department of Social Services statewide. As a local board, the role is to support initiatives in terms of offering letters to support or oppose certain bills under the guidance of the local Director to comment and review.

As part of Ms. Reid-Swain responsibility, she filters all bills for Montgomery County. Thus far, thousands have been introduced since the session started.

Ms. Reid-Swain shared the 2017 Legislative Update – MASSB, annually compiled by Ms. Netsanet Kibret, Director of Government Affairs in DHR. It outlines the process of DHR supporting or opposing bills, take no position, monitor the bills or support with amendments and outlines bills that the DHR supports or sponsored by the Social Services Administration or the Governor.

The top five priority bills this week are the following:

Governor's Legislation – Justice for Victim's Initiative

Senate Bill (SB) 308 - Protecting Victims of Sex Trafficking Act of 2017.

DHR's Department Legislation

House Bill (HB) 103 – Renaming Department of Human Resources and Child Support Enforcement Administration to Department of Human Services and Child Support Administration.

HB134 – Transferring the Bureau of Homeless Services from DHR to the Department of Housing and Community Development.

SB 27 – Repealing an exception for reporting substance exposed newborns to DSS in cases where mother is in compliance with: 1) a prescription for the controlled dangerous substance or 2) a prescribed medical or drug treatment. Bill heard 1/24; an amendment pending.

Privately Sponsored Legislation

HB 256 (Del. Carozza) – Adult Protective Services – Investigation time period increase from 30 days to 60 days. Hearing: 2/2



Discussion:

For any additional questions about the legislative priorities, please email Ms. Stacy Reid-Swain at sreidswain@hotmail.com.

To support a bill, a letter can be sent as a local board with the local Director's (Angela Cabellon's) guidance.

All five bills were supported by MASSB with the exception of HB 134. It requires more information and needs to be discussed with the local Directors. As of now this bill is in a monitoring position.

SB 308 and SB 27 impact federal funding which is passed down to state. SB 27 removes a previous exception of reporting substance exposed newborn cases if the mother has a prescription drug.

Board members inquired on the justification of the SB 308 and whether it is intended to have a beneficial impact. Mr. Grimes inquired as to why there were no Montgomery County sponsors of this bill. Ms. Reid-Swain clarified that there are various ways in which a bill could be introduced. Ms. Cabellon stated that she was unsure of the rationale for sponsorship behind the bill and both Ms. Reid-Swain and Ms. Cabellon provided rationale for support of SB 308 because of the positive impact for victims of human trafficking.

Board members asked: What is the guidance on the position the board takes bills? Are Boards supposed to be policy-driven? Or does the County have a different approach to it? Ms. Reid-Swain explained that historically, policy comes first and MASSB weighs each bill based on the impact on the community.

III. SOCIAL SERVICES REPORT

Handouts: [December 2016 Social Services Report](#).

➤ Working Parent Assistance Program Wait List Data:

At the close of December 2016, there were 439 children on the wait list and 286 families.

Child Care Subsidy – State serves the lowest income level who are eligible for state poverty. In Montgomery County provide a subsidy to working parents or continue school to able to get subsidy to get additional help. A family is required to apply from the state subsidy program before applying to WPA. If the family is accepted in the state program, they are not allowed to apply in WPA.



IV. OLD BUSINESS

Handouts: [BSS Working Agenda 2016-2017](#)

➤ Work Plan & Goals and Objectives for FY2017

Future Topics:

Asset Mapping – March

Crossover Youth – invite CWS update April

Youth Behavioral Health/Youth Suicide - May

Next Year Priority / Federal Impact – June

Future Discussion:

Undocumented Population

V. NEW BUSINESS

VI. NEXT MEETING

Monday, March 6, 2017 | 4:30PM

1401 Rockville Pike

VII. ADJOURNED: 8:28pm