

Howard County Transition Council for Youth with Disabilities
January 14, 2016
Gateway Building
8:30-10:30 a.m.

MINUTES

Attendees:

Joyce Agness, Rob Baynard, Beth Benevides, Patrick Boxall, Ella Bradley, Stephanie Chapple, Katie Collins-Ihrke, Bonnie Cronin, Michelle Henry, Keri Hyde, Doris Jacobs, Amity Lachowicz, Erica Lewis, Sharon Kramer, Phyllis Madachy, Mary Manzoni, Joan Ogaitis, Judy Pattik, Marya Pecukonis, Susan Potts, Dawson Robertson, Jermira Sarratt, Ann Scholz, Stephanie Wallace, Janice Yetter

Guests: Allan Kittleman, County Executive; David Lee, County Executive's Office; Linda Wise, HCPSS Deputy Superintendent; Nancy FitzGerald, HCPSS Executive Director, Special Education and Student Services

Absent:

Naysha Conway, Ellen Flynn Giles, Jesse Guercio, Ananta Hejeebu, Ranyne Herbert, Terri Hussman, Anthony Jackson, Kathy Land, Kathy McSweeney, Barbara Moyer, Cindy Parr, Linda Schnapp, Kris Wright

Meeting called to order at 8:30 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions

County Executive Allan Kittleman, Linda Wise, and Nancy FitzGerald were welcomed as special guests.

Comments from County Executive Kittleman

Allan Kittleman praised the work of the Transition Council. He shared that the Executive Order would not be renewed as he is recommending the development of a Commission to support the continuing work of this group. The development of the Commission will receive more focus following the budget season. He encouraged the Council to carry on with our work in the interim.

Celebrations:

Keri Hyde and Judy Pattik celebrated the partnership between the school system and the Department of Children Services. Seventeen of twenty students successfully completed the childcare modules and received certificates for their training.

Bonnie Cronin celebrated Project SEARCH students for launching their own Facebook page.

Linda Wise celebrated the group and recognized how grateful we all are for having the opportunity to do what's best for students.

Patrick Boxall recognized the members that are involved in planning the March 19 Transition Symposium at the Cedar Lane School, and commended their work.

Phyllis Madachy shared the renovations taking place at the Multiservice Center that will make room for more partners. She recognized the support that Council members have provided.

Maryland Works – Bob Hofmann

Maryland Works is a nonprofit organization that has been in Howard County for 20 years. Their focus is on increasing employment and business ownership for people with disabilities, ex-offenders, and the disadvantaged.

Maryland Works has three areas of focus: Education and Training, Public Policy and Advocacy, and Partnerships.

Through education and training, they help people become employed. They customize training programs and will provide training at the individual's/ group's location. Their service delivery system is focused on providing services in the least restrictive, most integrated environment. Maryland Works will provide training for free when money is an issue and they are interested in identifying new training topics.

Maryland Works has many local, state and national partnerships with the largest partnership being the State of Maryland. Through the state preference purchase program, Maryland Works helps to secure state contracts for businesses either owned by or employing people with disabilities. Maryland is the only state in country that has this this preferential bidding.

The Maryland disability employment tax credit is an underutilized incentive from the State. Employers can sign up for credit when they hire someone with a disability. Employers receive a tax credit at the end of each year. An application must be completed by the employer and submitted to the state. This credit also applies to nonprofit agencies. The tax credit is 30% of the first \$9,000 in wages for the first two years. There is also \$900 in tax credits in both years for transportation and childcare. The person with a disability has to work and earn wages in order for this to benefit an employer. Humanim processes tax credits for their own employees. Others can complete the paperwork for employers.

Disconnected Youth – Keri Hyde

The Local Children's Board will be seeking funding from the Governor's cabinet. Funding is being made available to create interventions and programs that will

address the following areas: incarceration of minors, homelessness, hunger, and disconnected youth.

Howard County will submit a proposal focused on disconnected youth. This group is defined as 16-26 year olds that are not working and not in school. The group will be looking for ways to locate this population. Funds will be identified to address needs, gaps in services, and interventions. The Department of Children Services will be holding topic-specific focus groups to support its work. Multi-year planning will take place to develop programs for this population. Within the state of Maryland, Howard County has the smallest percentage of disconnected youth but the highest racial disparity.

Stephanie Wallace and Jermira Sarratt expressed interest in supporting this effort.

Approval of Minutes

Dawson made a motion to approve the minutes. Ann Scholz seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Workgroups

Council members met with their assigned subgroups.

Closing

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 10, 2016, 8:30-10:30 a.m., Gateway Building, room 303.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.