

Howard County Economic Opportunity and Prosperity Task Force

Minutes (Approved)

February 12, 2018

2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

C. Vernon Gray Room

1st Floor, George Howard Building

3430 Court House Drive

Ellicott City, MD 21043

Members in attendance: Marianne Hyang Brackney, Anne Brinker, Paul Casey, Ana Cisneros, Kimberly Flowers, Maddy Halbach, Leonardo McClarty, Elizabeth Noble, and Jaykant Parekh.

Staff in attendance: Jim Meyd, County Auditor's Office, Jeff Meyers, County Council office, John Gwynn, Office of Law, and Jessie Keller, Council Member Weinstein's office.

Others in attendance: Joan Driesen, Executive Director, Association of Community Services and Chuck Tildon, Vice President, Strategic Partnerships and Government Relations, United Way of Central Maryland.

The audio recording of the meeting is available on the Task Force website¹.

Chairperson McClarty called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

Ms. Flowers moved approval of the minutes from January 22, 2017. Ms. Halbach seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

The Task Force determined that it should hold a public hearing on the evening of April 9, 2018.

Task Force members reported on the progress of forming subcommittees.

Task Force members assigned to subcommittees have made progress in recruiting additional subcommittee members; however, none of the subcommittees is fully formed. Chairperson McClarty reviewed the legal requirements that apply to each subcommittee: the requirements to have a member trained in the Open Meetings Act, to announce meetings in advance, and to create minutes. The Chairperson reminded members of the quorum requirements and that documents that subcommittees collect or create are public documents. Each subcommittee is expected to prioritize its recommendations, presenting 2 or 3 to the full Task Force.

Joan Driesen, Executive Director, Association of Community Services, briefed the Task Force on the indicators that demonstrate the amount of income needed for stability in Howard County and the issues

¹ <http://cc.howardcountymd.gov/EOPTaskForce>

that face lower income residents. She described the “benefits cliff”, the reduction in various benefits that occurs when workers reach an income level of about \$9.25/hour. A variety of indicators show a continuing strong need for support for lower income workers and that the numbers needing support have not dropped in recent years. Mrs. Driesen’s PowerPoint has been posted to the Task Force web site².

Chuck Tildon, Vice President, Strategic Partnerships and Government Relations, United Way of Central Maryland, briefed the Task Force on the findings of the ALICE study³. The ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) study focused on the group often called the working poor. Individuals in this category are struggling to maintain stable households and are often on the brink of crisis. The report shows considerable numbers of ALICE households throughout the County. Mr. Tildon noted that it is cheaper to keep ALICE households out of crises than it is to address their needs after a crisis occurs. Mr. Tildon’s PowerPoint has been posted to the Task Force web site².

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

² Follow the “[documents](#)” link in the left sidebar

³ <http://www.uwcm.org/main/alice/>