

Howard County Economic Opportunity and Prosperity Task Force

Minutes (**DRAFT**)

March 12, 2018

C. Vernon Gray Room
1st Floor, George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Members in attendance: Ali Abidi, Marianne Hyang Brackney, Paul Casey, Maddy Halbach, Phyllis Madachy, Leonardo McClarty, and Jaykant Parekh.

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

Others in attendance: Kelly Kesler, Director, Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition, and Peter O'Neil.

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

Chairperson Madachy called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

Task Force members reported on the progress of the subcommittees. The Economic Development subcommittee is co-chaired by Ali Abidi and Peter O'Neil. The subcommittee met on February 28 and the minutes are posted on the Task Force website. The subcommittee will meet next on March 28. Ms. Madachy suggested that the subcommittee consult with Clive Graham of the County's Transportation Office.

The Education and Workforce Development subcommittee met on March 5 and the minutes are posted on the Task Force website. Ms. Madachy suggested that the subcommittee contact Laurie Reubin to learn more about soft skills. The next meeting has not yet been scheduled. The subcommittee has shared a variety of reading materials with its members.

The Housing and Community Development subcommittee met immediately before the Task Force. The minutes will be posted to the Task Force website. The subcommittee was briefed by Kelly Cimino, Director of the county's Department of Housing and Community Development, and Peter Engel, Executive Director of the Howard County Housing Commission. The subcommittee will meet next on March 27. Mr. Casey noted that low wages is a key factor in the housing crisis, but addressing wages was beyond the remit of the subcommittee.

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

Ms. Madachy recommended that each subcommittee utilize the expertise of Jim Meyd (County Auditor's Office) on matters related to the County budget and Fran Trout (Office of Workforce Development) on matters related to workforce development.

The Task Force discussed the utility of the principal of "live where you work" and how that affects quality of life for families, workforce stability, diversity, economic growth, the environment, and political decision making.

The Task Force will hold a public hearing on April 9 at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Solomon discussed ways to publicize the hearing. Each subcommittee should prepare a brief presentation to explain their roles to the public at the hearing. Subcommittee chairs should consult with the Task Force co-chairs on their presentations. Members of the public wishing to testify will have 5 minutes to do so and the Task Force will accept written or electronic testimony. A second public hearing will be held during the summer about the Task Force's draft recommendations.

Kelly Kesler, Director, Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition (LHIC), Howard County Health Department, Bureau of Health Promotion briefed the Task Force about the role of the LHIC. Her presentation is posted to the Task Force website. The LHIC seeks to ensure that all residents of the County have access to health care and the health outcomes will be equitable for all residents. The LHIC works to connect residents with appropriate resources using methods designed to lead to the most successful outcomes. Ms. Madachy asked Ms. Kesler to provide the Task Force with more information about the social determinants of health.

The meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.