

Sayers, Margery

From: Joan Driessen <joan.driessen@acshoco.org>
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2019 2:37 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: ACS written testimony in support of CB53-2019
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Dear Ms. Jones,

As I am unable to attend tonight's public hearing, I am sending my testimony in support of CB52-2019.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like any further information. Thank you.

Best,

Joan

Joan Driessen
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Howard County Council Public Hearing, Bill 53-2019
October 21, 2019

Testimony

As a member of the Board to Promote Self-Sufficiency for over 7 years, I am testifying in support of the changes to the membership and responsibilities of the board provided in Bill 53-2019.

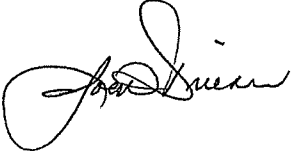
While originally charged with the development and oversight of the Plan to End Homelessness and subsequently the Coordinated System of Homeless Services, the BPSS has expanded its scope. The members of this multi-disciplinary board have extended its goals to include the collaborative development, implementation and evaluation of a broad range of services and programs designed to assist our most economically vulnerable residents in developing the resources necessary to meet their basic needs. Given the broad range of resources and services this requires, the BPSS is ideally positioned to convene the necessary organizations and to promote the development of the partnerships that can most effectively and efficiently respond to them. The changes to BPSS will allow it to be proactive in addressing needs upstream, before residents confront homelessness, and the domino effect that often follows.

BPSS has a history of proactive programming, The Getting Ahead program that helps residents to identify the resources needed to move out of poverty, a plan for moving ahead, and the community connections necessary to assist them was an initiative of the Board. BPSS Members worked to tailor this program to Howard County, pilot it in multiple agencies, and evaluate its effectiveness. Likewise, the VITA site program that provides free tax preparation for low-income residents, and the ever-expanding collaborations at the Multi-Service Center and NonProfit Collaborative are all outgrowths of the Board to Promote Self-Sufficiency.

Bringing together leaders with a common long-term goal but who address different aspects of it, continues to provide a unique opportunity to create programming that best meets the needs of economically vulnerable residents of Howard County. I encourage you to support the changes to the membership and responsibilities of the Board to Promote Self-Sufficiency.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony. I am always happy to address any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joan Driessen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "D".

Joan Driessen
Executive Director