

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2025 Legislative Session

Legislative day # 5

RESOLUTION NO. 75 - 2025

Introduced by: Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Reappointment- Ayesha Holmes - Local Behavioral Health Advisory Board

A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Ayesha Holmes to the Local Behavioral Health Advisory Board.

Introduced and read first time on April 7, 2025.

By order

Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

Read for a second time and a public hearing held on April 21, 2025.

By order

Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted ☒, Adopted with amendments __, Failed __, Withdrawn __ by the County Council on May 5, 2025.

Certified by

Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing language; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing language. Strike-out indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

WHEREAS, Section 404 of the Howard County Charter and Section 6.300 of the Howard County Code provide for the County Executive to appoint and for the County Council to confirm nominees to Howard County Boards and Commissions created by law; and

WHEREAS, Section 6.335 and 12.1000 of the County Code provide for a Local Behavioral Health Advisory Board in Howard County; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive has proposed the reappointment of Ayesha Holmes as a member of the Local Behavioral Health Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, the Local Behavioral Health Advisory Board has been designated as a Local Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council under Section 8-1001(b) of the Health-General Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and, accordingly, County provisions governing the term of members apply; and

WHEREAS, the County Council ratifies the County Executive's special trust and confidence in the abilities of the nominee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland this 5 day of May, 2025 that the following person is reappointed as a member of the Local Behavioral Health Advisory Board to serve from the passage of this Resolution to May 5, 2029 or until a successor is appointed and confirmed:

Ayesha Holmes
Columbia, MD

Ayesha B. Holmes

Professional Profile

Proven leader with an outstanding track record of launching, implementing, and sustaining successful programs to improve outcomes for those served • Strong interpersonal skills and ability to relate to diverse personalities with emphasis on team cohesion and development • Data informed planning, budget management, and growth decisions and project improvements • Skilled trainer able to present information to diverse groups • Skilled at focusing individuals and groups through change processes to achieve strategic goals • Over 20 years of experience in conducting public outreach including convening and facilitating various stakeholder groups including families and youth, developing and implementing surveys to collect and analyze data.

Education

Johns Hopkins University, 1998
Masters of Science Education - Clinical Community Counseling

University of Maryland Baltimore County, 1993
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

Georgetown University, Public Policy Institute, 2011
Executive Certificate in Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Multi-System Integration

Leadership Howard County, 2019
Premier Graduate

Professional Highlights

- Using and aligning best practices to guide care practice for individuals and families experiencing behavioral health crisis or homelessness.
- Working closely with funders, partners and local leaders to develop programming to meet the growing needs of county residents.
- Strategically leading through challenging times to ensure the needs of individuals were met
- Developing and maintaining strong partnerships with government agencies to ensure an integrated approach to care.
- Collaborating with private providers, including hospitals, pediatric groups and AIDS prevention activities to develop strong continuums of care
- Writing winning grant proposal to ensure growth and continuity of organization's mission
- Collaborating with a strong Boards of Directors
- Working in diverse communities facing multiple challenges including mental health, substance abuse, crime, and poverty concerns
 - Developing tracking tools to build a common language for outcomes management

Relevant Experiences

**7/2020
To
Present**

**Maryland Director
Share our Strength/No Kid Hungry**

Responsible for all operations related to Maryland's expansion of access to food and meals for children and families. Coordinating the national, regional, state and local priorities to ensure the children have access to nutrition's meals daily. No Kid Hungry shares best practices, advocates and provides grant funds to support the mission of ending childhood hunger.

- Provide daily management and oversight of operations for the No Kid Hungry Campaign in Maryland
- Set state specific goals and priorities for advocacy, promotion of best practice and focus of grants.
- Oversee grant making for Maryland related to school nutrition, government agencies and community organizations
- Partners closely community and government agencies to align goals to achieve lasting outcomes using a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion lens for all funded work.

**1/2017
To
7/2020**

**Executive Director
Grassroots Crisis Center, Columbia, MD**

Serving as Executive Director for a comprehensive crisis center located in Columbia, Maryland. Grassroots operates a homeless shelter, a Day Resource Center, a Mobile Crisis Team, a detox program as well a variety of services to support individuals and families as they move from crisis to self-sufficiency. During my tenure, the Center expanded from a mental health focus to offer a continuum of Behavioral Health services, including Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) as well as on-site Detox from opiates.

- Provided daily management and oversight to operations of Grassroots Crisis Center, including over 50 staff, and a \$4.5 Million dollar budget
- Developing and managing multiple funding streams to sustain and grow the organization
- Collaborating with residents, community members and partners to advance the mission of Grassroots
- Developed and launched in-house detox program to address community need
- Worked closely with State and Local Behavioral Health Departments to implement evidence based practices
- Worked with Coalition to End Homelessness, served as Chair of the Planning committee to revise and implement the Path Home, Howard County's plan to end homelessness
- Using Results Based Accountability as a framework developed and outcomes measurement for all programs
- Worked closely with a 20 person Board of Directors
- Participated on community boards for behavioral health, homelessness and poverty

**4/2012
To
12/2016**

**Founding Partner
STRATIGIX Consulting, LLC., Columbia, MD**

Founded a consulting company serving government and non-profit agencies as they implement expansions and changes within their organizations. Provide training and technical assistance in areas of Systems of Care development and implementation, grants writing, budget development, community partnerships as well as management and leadership development.

- Working with both Local and State Governments to expand and implement Systems of Care, Wraparound as well as Evidence Based or Promising Practices
- Providing technical assistance, coaching, management, and leadership development to government and private non-profit organizations to implement programs that achieve positive outcomes for youth and families.
- Worked closely with University of Washington to implement the Wraparound Fidelity Index (WFI)
- Trained in WFI implementation for community based project evaluation

7/2005 **State Director**
To **Maryland Choices LLC, Baltimore and Rockville, MD**
4/2013

Developed Maryland Choices from a single contract in Montgomery County to a Statewide operation serving 400 families daily using the Wraparound service delivery model within a Care Management Entity financial framework. This Statewide project includes two SAMHSA funded System of Care Grants and the 1915(c) Demonstration Waiver. Additionally, Maryland Choices continues to serve as the Care Management Entity, for

Montgomery County, Maryland, a former SAMHSA System of Care funded site that has sustained the grant through local funding. Maryland Choices earned COA Accreditation in 2011.

- Expanded Maryland Choices from a single contract local project to a statewide project in less than 7 years
- Continuously served as the Care Management Entity for Montgomery County since 2005 when they successfully sustained their SAMHSA System of Care Grant
- Provided Family Preservation Services using the Wraparound service delivery approach since 2009
- Worked to develop a well-integrated system of care that provides individualized, family centered, strength based, coordinated services to children, youth and families with emphasis on client empowerment, interagency coordination, systems theory and cross-cultural approaches
- Oversaw and managed all aspects of multi-county/statewide operations in Maryland, including partnership, community relations, provider network development, staff recruitment/training, managing and monitoring a budget and clinical consultations
- Participated in committees and meetings as they related to System of Care Development in Maryland
- Created and implemented external trainings to stakeholders and partners about Wraparound and Systems of Care
- Networked with local and state level partners and funders to develop an integrated process for services delivery for the most intensive youth
- Met with child serving system partners regularly to advance participation at all levels on behalf of youth with severe mental and behavioral health needs
- Provided reports to community agencies, partners and funders as requested
- Prepared and submit monthly, quarterly and annual reports
- Participated in internal and external evaluations
- Worked as part of a multi-state leadership team at Choices, Inc.

10/2003 **Coordinator**
to **Vocational Integration Project**
7/2005 **Glenwood Life Counseling Center, Baltimore, MD**

Lead a project to develop a continuum of care for individuals with chronic behavioral health needs with workforce development programs. Successfully developed a project linking prominent substance abuse and workforce development providers and convinced them to collaborate without additional funding.

- Lead a new project focused on developing a continuum of care between substance providers and workforce development providers
- Developed a process for implementing a coordinated services delivery system between a consortium of substance abuse treatment and workforce development providers in Baltimore City
- Managed all aspects of project including program development, coordination of efforts among the six participating providers, data tracking and program evaluation
- Worked closely with a steering committee to develop solid relationships among starkly different organizations with varying missions
- Provided technical assistance to 6 substance abuse programs and 6 workforce development programs to build consensus leading to project integration

6/2001 Director
to Young Parent Support Center
10/2003 Baltimore County Department of Social Services, Baltimore, MD

As part of the Maryland Statewide Network of Family Support Centers, served as the Director of the Young Parent Support Center in Baltimore County. The center provided childcare to young parents while they worked on their GED. During my tenure, the center became a licensed child care center; the only to serve children under age 2 in southeastern Baltimore County. Also lead the center through accreditation through the Council on Accreditation.

- Managed adult education, job readiness, child development, and fatherhood initiative programs in a family focused setting
- Oversaw, implemented and managed all aspects of program development, staff supervision, fiscal management, and client enrollment/retention
- Managed and provided oversight of staff, including recruitment, team building and leadership development
- Coordinated efforts and requirements of funders and sponsoring agency

7/1998 Deputy Director/Program Director (promoted from Intake Specialist in 2 months)
to Washington Village/Pigtown Neighborhood Planning Council, Baltimore, MD
6/2001

Washington Village/Pigtown was a designated site working on a three prong community development approach as part of the Empowerment Zone initiative in Baltimore. The focus was Human Services, Business Development and Public Safety. Lead and participated in all aspects of managing the organization successfully.

- Administered and evaluated workforce development, substance abuse and community mobilization programs and services
- Supervision of all staff, including recruitment, training, oversight and performance evaluation
- Operated center within annual budget and long-range fiscal plan
- Maintained strong relationships with community associations, neighborhood schools and other service providers/vendors
- Worked closely with Board of Directors

Program Director:

- Administered and evaluated all career center program activities to ensure goals were attained
- Supervised career center staff, including recruitment, training, oversight and performance evaluation
- Built relationships with key partners
- Managed and reviewed client records to ensure compliance with professional standards

Presentations at Conferences

7/2006	Georgetown University Training Institutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented as part of a panel on the Implementation Factors of Wraparound in Systems of Care
10/2006	MARFY Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented to Statewide audience about Wraparound and Provider Development
10/2007	MARFY Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented to Statewide audience about Wraparound and Systems of Care – focused on three communities – Montgomery County, Baltimore City and St. Mary’s County.
3/2008	University of South Florida Systems of Care Research Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented on access to care and outcomes using the Wraparound Fidelity Index (WFI) and the Child Adolescent Needs and Strengths Assessment (CANS).
7/2008	Georgetown University Training Institutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented a poster session on “No Wrong Door” in Montgomery County. Highlighted access to care and the development of the system of care
10/2008	MARFY Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented to Statewide Audience with DHR, DJS, CSA and Innovations Institute about Systems of Care, Wraparound and Evidence Based Practices
3/2009	University of South Florida Systems of Care Research Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented a poster highlighting the synergy between program management, evaluations and marketing/communications.
7/2010	Georgetown University Training Institutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented in a panel about the WFI and the Family Journey tools and how they are used to drive practice and improve outcomes for youth.
2/2011	Systems of Care Institutes – Brevard County Florida <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented in a panel about supervision, staff development, and partnership with evaluation and families.
7/2014	Georgetown University Training Institutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented a poster session “Wraparound 24:7” showcasing an innovative technology platform to enhance wraparound facilitation.
4/2015	Virginia Children’s Services Act Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented workshop “Establishing a Framework for Successful Implementation of High-Fidelity Wraparound”

Committee/Board Participation

- 2020 – Present – Howard County Racial Equity Taskforce
- 2019 – 2020– Howard County Charter Commission
- 2018 – 2020– Howard County Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force
- 2018 – 2020 – Howard County Opiate Intervention Committee/Fatality Review Team
- 2017 – 2020 – Howard County Board to Promote Self Sufficiency
- 2017 – 2020 – Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition, Delegate
- 2017 – 2020 – Howard County Coalition to End Homelessness Board Member/ Planning Committee Chair
- 2014-2017 – Board Member - Center for Adoption Support Services (CASE)
- 2014-2105 - Howard County Executive Kittleman’s Transition Team
- 2014-2015 - Howard County Behavior Health Taskforce
- 2012-2013 - Rural Cares Governance Board (SOC Grant)
- 2010-2013 - Baltimore City Implementation Group (SOC Grant)
- 2009-2013 - Care Management Entity Implementation Workgroup
- 2007-2008 - 1915(c) PRTF Waiver Development Committee
- 2005-2013 - Montgomery County Children with Intensive Needs
- 2005-2006 - Board Member – Recovery In Community
- 2004-2005 - Board Member – Chesapeake Center for Youth Development