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Two-Generation Family Economic Security Commission and Pilot Program Meeting Minutes 6/28/2017
10am-12 am
Governor's Reception Room

I. Welcome

A. Opening, Lt. Governor

1. Good morning, Thank you for joining us today for the Two-Generation meeting.
2. Breaking the cycle of multi-generational poverty is critical for enabling families. This commission is meant to develop recommendations that allow opportunities for family and children.
3. Breaking the cycle means finding solutions that address the needs of an entire family.
4. A child simply cannot be the change agent for a family in poverty. The two-generation approach is designed to provide meaningful support for the goal of self-sufficiency.
5. Early intervention that provides parents with tools, are a paramount to a family's success. A parent knows what is best for their child and family, therefore it is vital to include parents in our discussion. This commission's finding will help influence trends and opportunities for intervention and assisting families, with state of the art technology. This will not be an easy task and I appreciate your dedication.

B. Secretary Padilla, DHR

1. My name is Secretary Padilla for DHR. For many families, parents are not seeing aspirations become a reality for kids. This is very unfortunate. Safety nets are being used a means for day to day assistance. This is being passed down between generations.
2. A child should not be sent down a path that leads to a same destiny as an adult in poverty. That is why this commission exists. We want to provide the best service possible. As the Lt. Gov mentioned, we want to know that service extends to all parts of our population. This technology platform will help transform our services and this commission will aim to execute this right 2-generational approach. We can provide services simultaneously for an adult and child.
3. We are working with government agencies and non-profits to collaborate on this two-generational approach. DHMH, DLLR, and Governor's office are expediting services, coordinating care, and providing solutions to dismantle poverty. I thank Garrett, Allegany, and Montgomery county for their efforts.
4. All of us here today are here to make a decision that makes a difference. Thank you for being the driving force behind the 2-gen initiative.

C. Committee Member Instructions

1. Bomani Johnson - Born in a working class neighborhood in Chicago. The predominant narrative out of Chicago is about violence. That is my neighborhood. I saw a neighborhood turn from working class to trouble.
2. 4 years ago, I wanted to have numbers tell the story. 9 individuals that I grew up with did not succumb to drugs and violence. I bring people with me into this because this struggle is real for me. It is not work, it is life. If you are not directly impacted by struggles, then you do know people who are. They could be friends, relatives, acquaintances. Data and information is good, but we can also put faces to that to help us move forward.
3. Invites other members in the room to introduce themselves. Individuals share their stories and experiences with fighting poverty.

II. Data Walk - Bomani Johnson

- A. As we begin to do this work, we have a few slides to share with you about information that will help the two-generation commission.
- B. We have information from four major categories related to health and economic stability.

- C. What does the future look like for Maryland children? **Data indicates that children at risk of remaining in poverty are struggling in key educational indicators. There is a lot of different ways to look at this problem. 8th grade math is a predictor of graduation, college completion and success in adulthood. Children eligible for free and receiving free or reduced school lunches are 1.7 times more likely to score below proficient reading status. The data behind school enrollment indicates a strong correlation between the age of enrollment and family economic status.**
1. **Black youth are 3 times more likely to be incarcerated than their White and Hispanic peers.**
 2. **The number of Maryland children living in poverty would fill 2,434 school buses.**
 3. **We begin to talk about employment and economic data. The employment status of parents is important since no able bodied parent has full time, year round employment. This is 24% of all Maryland families and 54% of all Maryland families living below 200% FPL (Federal Poverty Line).**
 - a) **Children in families living below 200% FPL are more likely to have parents who have below an associate's degree and struggle to secure and keep full time, year round employment.**
 - b) **74% of children in low-income households live in a home with a high housing cost burden.**
 - c) **Maryland is ranked 30th in the Nation for children's health. We have seen a yearly decline since 2012 when we were ranked 7th.**
 - d) **45% of Maryland children receive free or reduced lunch.**
 - e) **Women of color are twice as likely to give birth having received late or no prenatal care.**
 4. We are at a time where people have the opportunity to move things forward.
 5. We have to look at funds and the return on investment with how resources are being allocated and utilized.
 6. Lt. Gov - There are schools where many kids have not met state proficiency and are still going to graduate. What is that saying? We are misleading this kids and families and condemning them to struggle for the rest of their lives. There are two places where this starts - the family and education process.

III. What is the Two-Generation Approach

- A. Presentation by Marjorie Sims, Ascend at the Aspen Institute
- B. Two-Generation Approach in Maryland - Duane Yoder, Garrett County Action Committee, Inc.
 1. Good morning, I am Marjorie Sims and I am impressed about how you opened up with your experiences, that will help ground you in this work. I am going to give a broad overview of what the Aspen Institute is and what two-generation is.
 2. The Aspen Institute is 65 years old, founded in Aspen, Colorado. We bring people together across the political spectrum to discuss difficult societal issues. We focus on two-generation solutions. There is a lot of data that supports the two-generation approach, that has been around since the 1800s with immigrant families. In the mid-1960s, the war on poverty had started. Since then, this program has focused on children and adults (primarily single moms). We want to make certain that we are doing this work well, deeply, and right.
 3. This approach is about taking the entire family into consideration. On one side, you see programs focus on specifically children and adults. More efficiency is key. There are core components: social capital, early childhood development, post secondary employment, economic assets, and health/well-being. Social capital is important because it helps to get people out of isolation. This includes focusing on peer & family networks, coaching, & cohort strategies. They call it the "secret sauce".
 4. We have main principles that guide 2Gen efforts

- a) Measure and account for outcomes for both children and their parents - **Extremely important, if you're not doing this, then you're not doing two-generation**
 - b) Engage and amplify the voices of families
 - c) Ensure equity
 - d) Foster innovation and evidence together
 - e) Align and link systems and funding streams.
5. We have polled the public to gain bipartisan information. This level of support in the American public is almost like an “ingrained value”.
 6. The Ascend Network is designed to incorporate fellows from across the country to help join in on the effort. This fellowship program has leaders on large platforms that reach massive amounts of people. There have also been Democrat and Republican governors using 2Gen policies as well as federal investments in 2Gen.
 7. The Department of Labor made a \$54 million investment into these programs.
 8. Ascend was pursuing Maryland for a while. This is where magical things started to happen. People are watching the work of this commission. This is the only state that has taken this to the next level. People are anxious to see how you all are doing this, since it's a “game changer”.
 9. **Duane Yoder** - What I am going to talk about is getting this down to a model of what is happening at the ground-level. We want to make sure what this looks like at an operational level. Our example will be Garrett County. The rural impact initiative also involves Allegany County.
 10. This starts with the family and the child. The family starts the process by doing an assessment of where they think they are. From that, they develop a plan. We then look at eligibility of services, that is a part of our strategy to make this a seamless, integrated effort. Anyone can enter this process, through the doors of our partners.
 11. We are talking about outcome, not just the process but eventual outcome. This is not a program, it is about changing the way we do business. We had to get an information system that tracks services and outcomes. This is a pillar that helps us to do this effectively.
 12. Let me dig deeper into the Universal Intake Process. This process has families rate themselves across different dimensions. They then state what their goals and aspirations are. One of the biggest issues in Garrett County is getting access to a career pathway. We had to build that up by relying heavily on the community college to develop career pathway programs. Partners all share the cost of doing that. Families do not see a program, they see how we as a community strive to support their plan.
 13. Preliminary outcomes - increases of career advancement and financial management services, consistent pattern of improvement in all dimensions of assessment scale 2016, reduction in number of repeat crises.
 14. Thank you for having us here and please feel free to use us as a resource.
 - a) Questions - How do we get people motivated? **The start point is to have a plan. This aims to get them into the program. The shift in the attitude of our own workers is essential. It allows them engage with these families, showing them that they actually matter. We can coach them and collaborate with them. There are so many cases across the country where families were never asked what their goals were. We need to focus on leadership and culture change, reforming organizations that show families they have avenues.**
 - b) Comments - Much of the comments that were made focused on meeting people where they are. An emphasis is placed on evidence-based programs that create outcomes using the two-generational strategy.

IV. What is the Commission's role? - Facilitated by Bomani Johnson

- A. What is the charter - This commission was formed by executive action. We are designed to investigate policy changes and providing services for families and children.

- B. Expectations - Lt. Gov Rutherford - I want to focus on health outcomes, returns on investments, and opportunities for job growth.
 - 1. Secretary Padilla - I think this is an excellent opportunity for us to individualize Maryland's two-generation approach. There are many ways that we can do this. Different states have different versions. We need a version to match the needs of the people of Maryland.
 - 2. Lt. Gov Rutherford - From an operational standpoint, commission work involves learning all of the aspects associated with intergenerational poverty. The course will serve as a blueprint with recommendations to the legislature. Once legislation is drafted, then there is implementation of the law that actually takes place in agencies and in local communities.
- C. Timeline and Interim Report - There is a timeline that outlines the future process of our two-generation meetings.
- D. Homework
- E. Next meeting

V. Questions or announcements

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