

I. Welcome

A. Opening, Lt. Governor

1. Good morning, Thank you for joining us today for the Two-Generation meeting here at the Maryland Association of Counties Summer Conference.
2. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes from 6/28/2017
3. For the assembled guests the Two-Generation approach is a change in philosophy in which services are wrapped around the family rather than family going out and seeking the services with a focus on Education, Family Engagement and Economic Security.
4. I recently took a tour and met with participants at the Shirley Grace Center
5. On this tour the program participants kept saying it is common sense and it is; if you are addressing someone's substance abuse you need to address what brought them to that.
6. In this Commission we are going to look at these programs on the state level and that will likely bring us to the federal level and we will have to approach our federal partners.
7. Executing the Two-Generation approach will be much easier and better when we have MD think. I spoke with the Attorney General earlier today about how we can use data to save people's lives from opioid abuse. The state has data and what we need from this commission is to know how to use that data. Right now there are legal hurdles with how we share this data for example we can share opioid abuse data with the health department but we cannot share that with social services. At least not for now.

II. Presentation

B. Ann Flagg

1. Garret County and Duane Yoder are recognized as a national example of what the Two-Generation approach looks like in practice.
2. This has been done with universal intake for Head Start, housing and homelessness, Weatherization, aging services. Previously someone would need to go to multiple desks and different people. Then be asked the same questions by three case managers.
3. The programs are providing family self sufficiency tools then using new metrics that show how the family is progressing. Connecting the systems so that they can take in the information and have it go across systems has allowed for data that shows the program if they are offering the right types of services and if they are meeting the needs of the customers.
4. Another large change has been an increase in home visiting.
5. It is important the states link these programs as there currently exists an 80% common customer between The Department of Human Services and The Department of Health that are currently not linked.
6. Duane Yoder- The change in mindset and attitude has been important in Garret County we have taken to calling receiving services coaching and that the social workers are there to coach the customer. The theory of change driving this in Garret County is that the community itself reorganizes itself around the outcomes.
7. Duane Yoder – Programs were doing these things but not tracking outcomes. We must remember the services are there for the outcome.
8. Lt. Governor - We are really attempting to get to a point where we are not just moving people through these programs but that we are getting successful outcomes.

III. Comments and Questions – Facilitated by Ann Flagg

1. Secretary Padilla - The question is why didn't we do this before? I hope we take some time as a commission to really figure that out because it is common sense. Some of the reasons I know of is because of compliance with our federal partners. For example TANF feds only care about is the parent involved in workforce so that is what the program becomes about and we get blinders.

2. Lt. Governor- In asking that we are also not assigning blame; it really starts at the federal level. Programs are funded for very specific things. So if they are trying to comply. In doing so they have little to no room to use the money for things outside
3. Secretary Padilla - We are having this conversation at the perfect time because of what MD think will allow us to do. It can be utilized to break the silos because the data will be shared across agencies.
4. Karen B. Salmon – While we are discussing this we must remember that we have had wonderful partnership models like Judy centers etc. but when funding runs out the program ends. So we don't need to be starting from scratch when looking for pilot programs that we know can work.
5. Senator Salling – What I hear from a lot of my constituents is that people just don't know what is out there.
6. Lt. Governor- Our own people don't know. It is because of the stovepipe. They have trained that way. It is not their fault. They know and do what they have been told to focus on. So when there is an employee that comes across a substance issue while working with a family they say 'well that is a different window.' These employees are finding that they are also slightly above the ground level in terms of their interaction with the clients. For that reason we cannot be afraid to work with the nonprofits because they are the ones on the ground filling the gaps.

IV. Homework Responses – Facilitated by Ann Flagg

1. Outcomes members are hoping for: Family centric programs, partnerships with schools, co-location, seamless coordination between agencies and a no wrong door approach
2. Identified issues: Lack of inclusions of fathers, services are fragmented, lack of childcare for nontraditional work hours.
3. Policy barriers: Compliance
4. Dr. Branch – As a Director when funding comes down we are told to do it certain way and if we don't use it in that certain way we get in trouble. We have an example of a self sufficiency program for Section 8 vouchers where if you go above the income threshold that would normally disqualify you for the program we don't take the voucher and instead enroll you in a 5 year planning program where we set the money from the voucher aside and match it so that that person after working with us and those 5 years they can buy a house. That home purchase then touches 3 generations to break the cycle. The voucher program the other way the person ends up no better in the end. They had the voucher and used it for housing but are no better at the end when they no longer qualify.
5. Lt. Governor- Most of the compliance issues comes from federal restrictions they become a negative. They started as well intentioned programs but they have created a cliff when the person reaches a level of income where they no longer qualify then the person falls off the cliff.
6. Secretary Fielder - Why can't the state of Maryland give a proposal to the federal government rather than the reverse.
7. Lt. Governor- I have experienced serious frustration in attempting to work with our federal representatives when I bring up this issue. They give the excuse that that is not my committee. I don't care they should take it to their colleague then. In my experience testifying on the federal level it was only the Ranking Member and Chair that stayed for the duration of the testimony. The others just came and gave their talking points and left.
8. Senator Salling- That is the vast majority of constituent calls I get on this issue. They need help but they make too much money. They say they are trying to better themselves by making more but in doing so they become the ones being left out.
9. Secretary Schultz – Secretary Padilla and I recently spent several days in DC. On this very issue I met with HUD and Secretary Padilla with HHS. They are very much in the process of attempting to find what a better way looks like. When we are doing Two-Generational programs as discussed we are on the fringe nearly breaking the rules a little bit because of the compliance issues which is a problem. I found that the key component in DC was the committee staff members. They are the ones rewriting those rules etc. not the members themselves.
10. Delegate Valentino-Smith – We also need to recognize that a lot of these programs and things we are talking about the gaps that need to be filled are known but because of the fiscal note in doing so they go nowhere. We can have great communications and break the silos but if the benefit

isn't adequate there's nothing that can be done. I asked legislative services about the last time a lot of these programs got a cost of living adjustment and they haven't received one in decades. So the benefits are no longer tracking to the need.

11. Brandon Butler – I can absolutely speak to the fact that the focus is on the compliance and not the customer. Recently my wife was unemployed and we received a letter about a workshop the department was putting on and directly in the letter in large bold letters is said that childcare would not be provided. That alone is a barrier for many people and shows that we know and identify that there is a need for childcare but are not looking to resolve it.
12. Acting Secretary Schrader- It is clear we need to change the culture within the agencies so that something like that is seen as an issue and can be identified as something that needs to be resolved.

IV. Next steps

1. Discussion of the next meeting location and that it will possibly be a site visit.
2. Reminder that an interim report will be submitted on or before December 31, 2017
3. Conclusion and announcement that further homework will be sent out in the coming weeks via email.