



The MASSB Minute

Message from the Chair



Greetings, everyone. We are welcoming a new month. April is dedicated to celebrating the invaluable contributions of volunteers nationwide and especially within the context of our home communities. As volunteers, I know that we recognize the pivotal role volunteering plays within our local advisory board and beyond. Volunteers drive positive change and make a tangible impact on the lives of those around us. Let us make sure we celebrate their accomplishments and acknowledge them accordingly. In the spirit of advancing our positive impact and support your missions, we continue planning our annual MASSB conference centered around the theme of Poverty. We will share practical insights, offer opportunities for collaboration, and engage in a powerful Poverty Simulation activity. As we celebrate the importance of volunteering and are looking forward to your participation in this year's conference, I know that advisory boards can accomplish a great deal by collaborating with their respective Director of the Department of Social Services (DSS). By working together, we can identify needs, leverage resources, amplify our impact, and enact meaningful change in our communities. So, let us seize the opportunities before us and join hands to maximize our positive impacts on our communities.

Best,
Tony



****Save the Date****

Fall Conference October 3-4, 2024

Host: Kent County
 Location: Washington College
 Theme: "Poverty"

Stand by for registration and logistics in the coming months. Hope you can join us!

MASSB Winter Conference Recap

Thanks to everyone who attended our Winter Conference on March 2nd! We especially thank Rachel Sledge, Director, Office of Government Affairs, MD DHS, and her team for their presentation on [Legislative Initiatives important to DHS](#).

Wish your board had its own website? Now you do! The refreshed MASSBF website is full of resources for our Boards, including a page for each county to populate with their own information. Contact Tony at trustee@massfoundation.org to activate your page.

Our **improved metrics collection** allows us to describe the impact of our work state-wide which is useful for talking with potential board members, grantors and other stakeholders. The template has been tweaked based on your input and will be used quarterly for financial reconciliation. The template will be added to the website and e-mailed to Chairs and Finance Officers prior to the end of each quarter.

New Grant Opportunity! We're excited to announce grants up to \$2500 are now available for our local boards. Download the [announcement](#) and [application](#) here.



Quick Tip!

Keep board members engaged by working together to set goals. Allow time for discussion and consensus building when pursuing major initiatives such as fundraising or outreach events. Consider individuals' passions and interests when assigning tasks. Communicate on a regular basis to keep your board up-to-date between meetings and to request input for meeting agendas. Leverage the diverse knowledge and experience of your board members to achieve your goals. **Celebrate and appreciate one another during National Volunteer Week, 21-27 April!**

Community Connection

Cora Grishkot
 Director, Harford County Dept. of Social Services



"A Director's Perspective on Advisory Boards"

MASSB advisory board members play a crucial role in helping organizations make informed decisions. By providing guidance and advice, they help steer the organization in the right direction and ensure that it stays on track to achieve its goals. Advisory board members bring a wealth of experience and expertise to the table. They are typically professionals who have worked in the industry for many years and have a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities that the organization is facing.

Each board brings a different perspective to the table and can support the local department in different ways. The Harford County board had been an asset to the Department in many ways both financial and non-financial. The board has assisted us in purchasing luggage for our foster care youth, sleep sacks for our substance exposed newborns and care packages for our homeless customers. In addition, the board has assisted in the creation of our Strategic Plan and has provided us with connections in the county that may not have been possible, without their assistance.



DSS SERVICES

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES: Staff investigate reports of suspected child abuse and neglect. Provide services to families to prevent maltreatment.

FAMILY PRESERVATION: Represents a continuum of programs available within the Department of Social Services. These programs are geared towards addressing child abuse and neglect, protecting children within their homes, and assisting caregivers in providing proper care and attention to their children.



UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY • Community Meeting: Friday, 7/12, 12pm-1pm, Virtual

OCTOBER • Fall Conference: October 3-4, 2024
 ◦ Host: Kent County
 ◦ Location: Washington College
 ◦ Theme: "Poverty"

What's going on in your county?

Have an idea to share? We'd love to include your success stories in the MASSB Minute. Email trustee@massfoundation.org

www.massfoundation.org

Our mailing address is:
 MASSB Foundation
 P.O. Box 2351
 Annapolis, MD 21401

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