

Prince George's County House Delegation

MINUTES

February 7th, 2014

Delegation Room
House Office Building Room 150
Annapolis, MD

Delegates present:

1. Delegate Jolene Ivey, Delegation Chair
2. Delegate Benjamin Barnes
3. Delegate Aisha Braveboy
4. Delegate Barbara Frush
5. Delegate Tawanna Gaines
6. Delegate Melony G. Griffith
7. Delegate Anne Healey
8. Delegate Marvin Holmes
9. Delegate Carolyn J.B. Howard
10. Delegate James Hubbard
11. Delegate Doyle Niemann
12. Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnyk
13. Delegate James Proctor
14. Delegate Michael Summers
15. Delegate Darren Swain
16. Delegate Veronica Turner
17. Delegate Kriselda Valderrama
18. Delegate Joseph Vallario
19. Delegate Michael Vaughn
20. Delegate Jay Walker
21. Delegate Alonzo Washington

Absent:

- Delegate Dereck E. Davis
- Delegate Geraldine Valentino-Smith

Staff:

Daniel Valentine, Legislative Director
Jodie Chilson, Delegation Counsel

Meeting convened approximately 9 a.m..

I- Speakers

Chair Ivey welcomed Lt. Governor Anthony Brown to the delegation, who offered greetings and discussed his views on the legislative agenda.

Discussion included:

-Efforts to expand Pre-Kindergarten. This year there is a proposal to allocate \$4.3 million to fund pre-kindergarten programs, which he said is “modest”. The plan is to spend \$141 million on the initiative over a five year period.

Minimum Wage: Brown spoke in support

Prince George’s County Hospital: was a “god news story” where the state and county continue to move forward.

\$30 million maintaining funds continue this FY. More funding is being put forward for capital costs.

Brown said Medicare Waivers will allow the state to save on costs.

Delegate Niemann asked Lt Gov Brown about problems experienced with the healthcare exchange as a “chance to address a big issue.”

Niemann said that Brown had “blown it.”

Brown said that the “should have done better.” But not to forget the progress made in signing people up since. “Made a lot of progress”

In October, the administration came in with immediate organized leadership, he said. Those efforts included reorganizing the vendors and a staff surge.

“Medicaid and Medicare also had these troubles,” he said. “We will continue to fix it.”

Brown said that he did not want an investigation because it would divert resources from the effort. He spoke of an audit in the summer.

Maryland Capital Area Food bank

Susan Topping and Dario Muralles made a presentation to the delegates. Began with thanks for the delegation, which approved a \$2 million bond bill to increase the size and capacity of the group’s food pantry.

The food bank serves 500,000 people in the region, though the number of people who require food is roughly 700,000.

Approximately 203 Food banks are collaborating on a study on Hunger across the nation and they are participants.

One new development is that the population needing services has shifted to the working poor.

As far as needs, their clients are looking for nutrition over junk food.

One new initiative is to create a Farmers Market in Glenarden, where people go and “shop” for fresh food to pick up in that setting. Also provides educational opportunity. The officials invited delegates to come visit.

Chair Ivey said she loved the idea of the farmers market.

Delegate Griffith credited the delegation for coming together to extend the bond bill for the food bank, noting that every delegate signed on immediately when the project was brought to them.

Members asked about the funding formula and how it determines funding for the food bank. The Capital Area food bank is not directly funded by the state, though 25 percent of the state population is served by them.

Members said they would follow up with the budget committee for future consideration.

Delegate Niemann noted that his son runs a food bank in Oregon and encouraged the food bank to work on building partnerships with area grocery stores, which could be a good source if the organization can follow through.

Delegate Healey asked about resources for getting people who may need help or organizations who may want to help involved.

Megan Lucy with the Advocates for Children, Youth and Families provided Delegates with an overview of the delegation’s appointed work group on Juvenile Diversion and School Safety. Emphasizing school behaviors that should be subject to diversion before referral to police or juvenile services for further action.

County Councilwoman Karen Toles came forward and said that the county was working with the work group to craft legislation on the issue in a future year. Copies of her suggested legislation were passed along.

II - Subcommittee Reports /Bills For Discussion:

1. County Affairs: Delegate Jay Walker, Chair

No report

2. Bi-County Affairs: Delegate Joseline Pena-Melnyk, Chair

No report

3. Law Enforcement & State-Appointed Boards: Delegate Kriselda Valderrama, Chair

- **PG 303 – Charitable Organizations**

Members Special ordered bill after questions from Delegate Howard about possibly expanding the raffle privilege to other charities in the county.

- **PG 310 – State’s Attorney – Salary**

Special Ordered without discussion.

Meeting concluded at approximately 11 a.m.