

Baltimore County Commission for Women Retreat

Attendees:

Rosalyn Berkowitz
Amy Blank
Sarah Curry
Sheila Derman
Robin Harvey
Yvette Hicks
Sharon Kehnemui
Cylia Lowe-Smith
Cherie Peay
Helene Waranch
Nitsa Stakias Zdziera

On the phone:

Audrey

Vision board exercise recap

Things we are passionate about/would like to work on:

- Vine - take time for self
- Zero to hero
 - Helping women to be able to become a hero in their own eyes
- We are here to help
- Mark Walberg - would not be able to sleep at night if I did not help
- Close the Gap
 - Genders
- Self-love/mental help
- Feminism
 - Should not be a liability
- Helping disadvantaged women
- Feeding each other
 - Helping hand
 - Feed our souls (commission) as well as others
 - Escape the hurt for everyone
 - Community and outreach
- Be an effective leader
 - With an open heart
 - Trust and love

- Both threads the needle
 - Make things happen
- Follow us around
 - Out stretch our hands
 - Keep balance
- Women should not just do what men do, they do what men can't
- Quiet struggle. -o
- leader of the pack
- Grace
- Safe spaces to women
- There is always something missing - work in progress
- Women are the center of everything
- Dreaming
- Curiosity
- Let them eat Steak
- May we help you
- Complete control
 - Not to be controlling
 - Women do no
- Advocate for things that give us control
- Suit up
- Change rarely happens by cooperation
- Master the omelet
- Break expectations, policies and standards
- What do you stand on
 - About what you do
- Planting the seed
- For every shade of you
 - Specific to ethnicities
- Never take no for an answer
- Impact - friends, community
- Get it done - set a goal
- Healthy
- Confidence
- Living your best life - vacation
 - Kick ass
- Respect, connect and collect
- Flights - where we will go
- Season - life
- Baltimore -passions
- Caring
- Finding your passion

Goal Setting

Where do we want to go?

Biggest Issue -brainstorming

- Education, across the board
 - Lifestyle
- Adults
- Quality of life
- Public school system
- Economic opportunity
- Career building
- Healthcare and access to healthcare
 - Hungry children cannot learn
 - Pregnant women not getting healthcare
 - Vaccinations
 - Reproductive choice
 - Choices are limited without
- Involvement amount young women
 - Corrupt politicians
 - Discouraging involvement
 - Build up the next generation
- Another Domestic violence shelter in Baltimore County (Under 1 roof)
 - Homeless shelter will not take them (unhoused)
- Family justice center
 - 1-stop shopping
 - Sexual assault exam
 - Police
 - Domestic violence support
 - Montgomery county has one
- Post Roe v Wade
- Mental health and substance addition
 - Resource guide
 - Stable parents create stable households
- Maryland Family support center
- Liaise with other boards to make an impact
- Resource guide
 - Add to the Website
 - Wealth of information
 - Wonderful but fall off the cliff
 - Needs to be a living document
 - 13 areas of care are addressed

- Transportation
- Health
- Services exist
- Tool to use to connect
- Organizations have requested to be in the guide
- Access to transportation

Reflections

Bring outside groups together to share information

- We (BCCW) should farm out and embed ourselves in other groups to bring information back
- Weight of sitting on others committees is heavy
- Use our commission to formulate ideas and farm them out

Hotline setup

- County # for women to farm out calls to each 24hour hotline
- Turn the Resource guide into online
- Create a phone-in, zoomed in, triage calls for resource guide information
- Connect all of the dots
- How do we Connect women to the Resource guide data?
- How do people get immediate access?
- Create a polled entity
 - Out of county line items to fund
 - Commission members should sit at the table
 - Way to serve people in the moment
 - Separate and apart from brick and mortar
 - Women's center - Centered around women's needs
 - tele-health
 - Take what is there and build it out and 1 year from now see where the voids are

Questions/Concerns

- How to get support from the County Council
- How is this different from the United Way's 211?
- 311- county's number for help with housing/snap and other agencies

Ensure that our Resource guide had all of the information that 211 and 311 contains.
Rollout a campaign to education people about the resources that are available to them.

Ensure that we have support front the county to go forward with the effort

\$4000 worth of copies- Never materialized due to lack of funds

Strategies to tease out getting a process to the work done:

Reach out to the commission with a proposal.

-White paper

-Statistics

Go to County council and ask each about the single most import issue facing women.

- Resource deserts

We should work with the County council to get information out to people.

Issues:

-Lack of sharing of information

-Needs of the women are not being heard

-Information hoarding

Concerns:

Getting county to agree on ways to disseminate information

Current modes of providing information - Carmen

1. Press releases have information

2. Sign up for county newsletter!

Are there ways to do this differently so that it can be done better because concerns that information is not getting to everyone who needs to get it - Robin.

Strategy

- Provide a briefing to the county council
 - There are available resources but they are not provided to the constituents.

What are we deciding to get behind?

- road trip to Montgomery Count to visit the resource center – Roz.

Agenda for next meeting

1. Everyone should check out the boards and commissions prior to the meeting to see where they have interest and would like to serve.
2. Creation of a Subcommittee to work on a process to better disseminate the resources

Goals

1. Go to the 211/311 sites to ensure that their data is up to date and matching the resource guide. Get it more widely distributed
2. Create a Baltimore County Women's center
 1. Briefing to the county council and executive
 1. Cost
 2. Proposal
 2. Economic Development

Get a list of commissions that are applicable
Get a seat on the commissions

Meeting adjourned at 9:05.

Next meeting October 20, 2022