

**AHEC West**  
**Washington County Social Work Caucus**  
**Minutes**  
**May 22, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by Kamala Lyn at approximately 11:45 a.m. The meeting was held at the Washington County Department of Social Services Multi-Purpose Room. Everyone introduced themselves. The following members were present:

|                        |                 |                |
|------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Kathryn Boyd-Mansfield | Judith Brown    | Melissa Clark  |
| Karin Escalante        | Mary Ann Freysz | Kay Higgins    |
| John Kenney            | Kamala Lyn      | Carol Suker    |
| Angela Bennett         | Nikki Snider    | Tammie Campher |
| Carolyn Fleenor        | Joe Randall     |                |

Kamala asked all members to review the attached minutes from the January 23, 2017 meeting. They were approved as written.

AHEC West Changes

The federal funding for AHEC's across the nation has become more specific. Due to these changes, AHEC West will be unable to support any individual caucus. After August 31, 2017 AHEC West will not be involved or maintain our caucus activities.

A small group of the Caucus membership met and discussed the future of the Washington County Social Work Caucus. Several caucuses have dissolved but others such as Allegany/Garrett County have decided to continue without any support from AHEC West. It was decided that the Washington County Social Work Caucus would like to continue; the larger group which gathered today agreed with that as well.

AHEC West is offering to assist in the transition and train us on how to go about forming an independent group. There will be a need to have more of a commitment for Caucus members to take over the duties which AHEC West has always done. For example, we will be responsible for the bank account, copying of agenda packets, finding CEU presenters, arranging for CEU's, sending out invites, maintaining a listserv, etc.

A specific issue of concern is that AHEC West can only give the treasury money over to another non-profit agency. John Kenney stated that he has reached out to several non-profits and has been turned down; no one is stepping forward to assume the funds. Melissa Clark stated that an option is to pursue getting an EIN. With an EIN the Caucus can get its own bank account. Other caucuses are choosing this route.

Another option is to pay for the annual March conference now. The catering cost would take the money in the treasury, leaving no balance to need to transfer. Today a vote was taken and it was decided to go forward with pre-paying for the food for the March 2018 conference.

Not offering lunch as part of the monthly meetings and going to a brown bag lunch gathering was discussed as a possibility.

Kamala and a subgroup will continue to work on these issues. Kamala asked members to provide any feedback to her. Melissa will field questions as well. Kamala stated that more information and a clearer plan regarding the future of the Washington County Social Work Caucus will be discussed at our next meeting on July 24, 2017.

#### Treasurer's Report

Melissa Clark reported that as of April 30, 2017, the balance in the Caucus account is \$2,203.16.

#### **COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

##### Continuing Education

Melissa noted that our caucus may want to collaborate with the Allegany/Garrett Social Work Caucus for speakers, meaning that the same speaker may be willing to speak at both caucus meetings.

John reminded members to be thinking of future topics for our meetings. Please provide him with any suggestions.

At the next Caucus meeting on July 24, 2017, the American Red Cross will do a presentation.

##### Social Work Month Committee Update

Kamala announced that the March Social Work event on March 30, 2017 was a great success. There was a lot of positive feedback. If you have any topic ideas for next year, please let Kamala know.

#### **REPORTS:**

##### Board of Directors

Kamala noted that there is nothing new to report.

#### **PRESENTATION:**

The business meeting was adjourned and Kamala welcomed Jesse M. Ketterman, Jr., PhD for his presentation - "University of Maryland Extension – Financial Literacy Programs for Social Service Workers".

Next Caucus Meeting will be Monday, July 24, 2017, 11:30-1:30pm @ DSS.

Respectfully Submitted by Nikki Snider