

Howard County BRAC Task Force (HC-BRAC-TF)

Task Force Memorandum: 2008-12

For: Howard County BRAC Constituency
Subject: Task Force Update and 2009 Focus
Date: 19 December 2008
Originator: Kent Menser, Executive Director of the HC BRAC Office

PURPOSE: The purpose of this memorandum is to update our Fort Meade Growth/BRAC constituency on the latest actions, events and schedules related to this important effort. If you have better information, great ideas or if any of the following is incorrect, please send me an email at kmenser@howardcountymd.gov or call me at 410-313-6521.

HC BRAC TF Committees	Co-Chair	Co-Chair
<i>Housing</i>	Paul Revelle	Stacey Spann
<i>Public Safety</i>	Joseph Herr	William McMahon
<i>Education</i>	Diane Pelish	Ken Roey
<i>Transportation</i>	Ron Meliker	Carl Balser
<i>Infrastructure</i>	Wayne Wilhelm	Steve Gerwin
<i>Health and Human Services</i>	Vidia Dhanraj	Lois Mikkila
<i>Workforce Development</i>	Francine Trout	Patty Keeton
<i>Family Support</i>	Rosi Melendez	Aster Black
Lessons Learned	Dwight Hollenbach	David Faigenbaum
Plans and Analysis Team	Jean Friedberg	
Resource Partners	Theo Bell	
Executive	Sam Seymour	Mukesh Majmudar

KEY POINTS/DISCUSSION:

- Howard County BRAC Task Force Meeting:** We are strongly encouraging all of our members to attend our 2009 Kick-Off Meeting on 14 January at 3:30 PM in our Gateway Building. There will be an update, discussion of the modular organization and a recognition action.
 - Projected BRAC TF meetings:**
 - February 11th 2009
 - March 11th 2009
 - April 8th 2009
 - May 13th 2009
 - Scheduled Co-Chair Meetings:**
 - 21 January 2009
 - 4 February 2009
 - 18 February 2009
- Task Force Update:** We know that this has been as busy year for you as it has been for the Task Force Support Staff. Our primary focus has been on three areas; Task Force Realignment (Silo-crunching), regional coordination and grant management. Let us start with realignment.
 - SILO CRUNCHING:**
 - Over the past two years, our Task Force has focused on 7 functional areas in the county that we assessed would be most affected by Fort Meade growth.

They are; Education, Family Support, Health and Human Services, Infrastructure, Public Safety, Transportation and Work Force Development. During our analysis phase, each of the functional committees identified the impacts and opportunities that Fort Meade growth might have on their specific area. The committees did a great job and we reported our findings to the County Executive.

- The results we achieved during the analysis phase met our objectives at that time, but we intuitively knew that those results do not paint the full picture. We knew that understanding the dynamic interactions between the functional areas was also a critical piece of our planning environment. For example, we know if you want to work (workforce) in Howard County, you would like to be able to live (housing) in Howard County, but if you cannot afford to live in the county you would like to be able to drive (transportation) to Howard County. If you cannot accomplish the latter, then you will choose not to work in the county and that leads to unfilled positions (workforce)! This situation and others like it have driven the Task Force into Silo Crunching.
- Basically, we will be doing are crunching inside two modules; family support and business support. The Family Support Committee will transform into the Family Support Module and the Work Force Development Committee will transform into the Business Support Module. The remaining functional committees will become more consultative in nature and work issues jointly with whichever module that has an information requirement.
- The Executive Committee, Lessons Learned Committee, Resource Partner Committee and the Plans and Analysis Committee roles will remain unchanged, but they too will respond to module requirements as appropriate.
- More detailed plans and information will be made available to all members of the Task Force before our 14 January 2009 HC BRAC Task Force meeting.
- REGIONAL COORDINATION:
 - As most of you are aware, the Fort Meade Regional Growth Management Committee (RGMC) has grown to eight counties, two cities and now includes Fort Meade, the National Security Agency, The Defense Information Systems Agency and several non-governmental organizations. The primary focus of the RGMC will continue to be regional transportation, work force development and emergency services. We are in the process of staffing the Transportation and Work Force Development Committees and developing a grant request for a regional emergency services study.
 - Thanks to the efforts of our new regional transportation coordinator and his counterparts throughout the region and on Fort Meade, we are making real progress from the transportation planning standpoint. There is very little money available for steel and concrete to support BRAC driven requirements. But, we believe improved planning today will save all of us time and money in future years. We cannot let the lack of money undermine our drive toward increased regional cooperation, awareness and effectiveness.
 - On a related subject, the Local Government Subcommittee (LGS) of the State's BRAC Subcabinet met with Lt. Governor Brown and the Subcabinet at his invitation to give the LGS the opportunity to comment on progress of BRAC planning. The conduct and outcome of the meeting reinforced one of the great consequences to come out of BRAC and that is the strong

partnership that has developed between local and state BRAC coordinators and planners.

- GRANT ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT:
 - One of the real bright spots in working the BRAC process is the access of impact study grants from the Department of Defense's Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA). Most of you know that within our Fort Meade Region, we currently have ongoing studies in the areas of Transportation, Housing and Health and Human Services. This past fall, the eight counties and two cities of the RGMC agreed that that "major event" emergency services planning within the Fort Meade region should be reviewed in preparation for the new growth at the installation. In support of that conclusion, the RGMC agreed to develop a grant proposal focused on identifying the impacts of that growth on current Emergency Services capabilities. This week, we received a potential set back in this action, with OEA asking the RGMC to review the possibility of finding the grant money from other departments in the Federal Government. We will keep you updated on this critical action.
- OTHER HC TASK FORCE ACTIONS:
 - Certificates of Appreciation: We have certificates of appreciation for all of our members who have been with us through at least one entire phase. You will receive yours either through your committee or from me at our next TF meeting or I will track you down in your office to give it to you. More to follow on this subject.
 - Howard County Economic Development Authority (EDA) Strategic Plan. The staff of the Task Force is working with EDA on updating BRAC related sections of their strategic plan. BRAC plays a prominent role in this plan and up to this point we have been achieving our objectives!
 - Task Force assessment of the State BRAC Action Plan: During Phase III of our TF work, we conducted an assessment of the State BRAC Action Plan. In August of 2008, we sent our assessment to the Lt. Governor. It was attached to a cover letter from County Executive Ulman. We received the last of 5 responses back from the State last week. We have put those responses in a packet with our assessment and will be sending those out to you over the holidays. I know you were hoping for a better present, but this is the best we can do!
 - Department of Defense (DOD) Family Survey: As part of the great work of our Family Support Committee, soon to be module, we have sent a survey out to DOD families in the county asking them to identify any challenges or issues they encountered as they transitioned into the county. The results of this survey will help us prepare for the new families arriving in the county as part of Fort Meade growth.
 - Waste Water Capacity: We met briefly with our Infrastructure Committee Co-chair, Steve Gerwin, last month to make sure that this committee's excellent work was up to date with the latest growth in the county. Bottom line it is the work is up to date, but we need to continue to monitor growth and its effect on our report.
 - Fort Meade Numbers: We continue to work to keep up with the specific numbers of people who live and work on Fort Meade. They have over 80 tenants on the installation. Did you know that Fort Meade is the biggest employer of Howard County residents?
 - WE WISH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!