

AGENDA ITEM #11  
September 22, 2009

**Briefing/Update**

**MEMORANDUM**

September 18, 2009

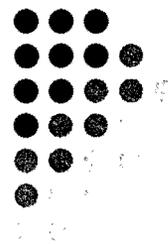
TO: County Council

FROM: Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst 

SUBJECT: **Briefing and Update:** The Continuing Impact of the Economic Downturn on our Vulnerable Residents (Neighborhood Network)

At this session, Department of Health and Human Services Director Uma Ahluwalia will be present to update the Council on the impact of the economic downturn on the county's vulnerable residents and their need for county support services. A briefing document is attached at © 1-10.

Last February, in preparation for the FY10 operating budget, the Council held a brown bag lunch with the Department of Health and Human Services, the Montgomery Community Foundation, and non-profit providers of safety net services to hear about increased demand for safety net services and the Executive's Neighborhood Network Initiative. In its FY10 budget decisions, the Council placed an emphasis on funding safety net services particularly in allocating Council grant funds. This past Wednesday, many of the needs articulated in today's briefing packet were emphasized by DHHS Boards, Committees, and Commissions in their annual breakfast with the HHS Committee. The HHS Committee is scheduled to have a worksession on patient demand and budget trends in the Montgomery Cares program in late October.

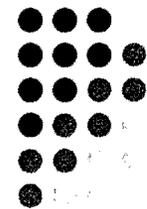


# **CONTINUING IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN ON OUR VULNERABLE RESIDENTS**

**FULL COUNCIL BRIEFING**

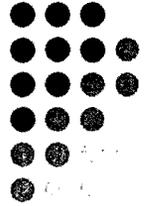
**SEPTEMBER 22, 2009**

# Some Shocking Facts:



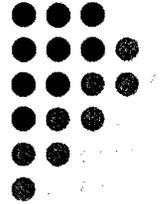
- **Public Assistance caseloads have grown every month in the year ending June 30, 2009 and are now at a high of:**
  - **Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA): 863 (34% growth)**
  - **Food Stamps (FS): 15,766 (34.1% growth); and**
  - **Medicaid (MA): 35,920 (17% growth).**
- **Total applications for above programs were higher in the 12 months ending June 30 2009: TCA increased by 21.6%; FS by 31.42%; and MA by 6%**

# More Shocking Facts:



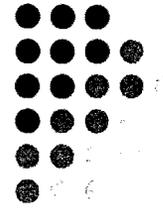
- **Many public assistance applicants don't qualify for federal assistance.**
- **In Silver Spring, Rockville and Germantown combined, the number of applications for HHS services increased by 8,903 (17.2%) from FY08 to FY09 and by 16,815 (38.3%) over two years from July 2007 through June 2009.**

# More Shocking Facts



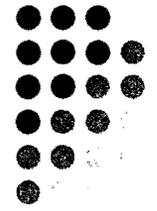
- **Countywide, home energy assistance recipients grew from 6,840 in FY08 to 8,077 in FY09, an 18% increase.**
- **At several points in the year all 95 family shelter and all single adult shelter beds were full. Emergency Assistance Grants for FY09 increased by 1,084 (18.3%) over the previous year. We had an all time high of 135 families in April 2009 in motels. In June, 55 families were on the homeless shelter waiting list.**
- **Patient load in Montgomery CARES is currently on a trajectory to hit 26,000 patients this year, a 20% increase over FY09 and a 55% increase over FY08.**

# More Shocking Facts



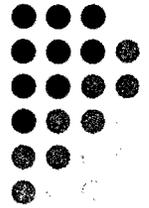
- **Manna gave free groceries to over 10,621 more households in FY09 than in FY08, an increase of 43% to 35,435.**
- **The number of child welfare investigations increased by 14% with a significant increase in neglect cases between FY08 and FY09.**
- **Mental Health Association's monthly suicide hotline referrals increased 313% between July 2008 and July 2009. A total of 222 suicide assessments were conducted from April through June 2009.**

# Caseloads Steadily Increasing FY07 through FY09



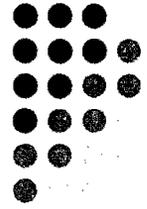
Caseloads	Base Year FY07	FY08	Increase (Decrease)	FY09	(Increase (Decrease)	Two – year Increase
TCA	694	644	-7.2%	863	34.0%	24.4%
SNAP	11310	11758	4.0%	15766	34.1%	39.4%
MA	29294	30582	4.4%	35920	17.5%	22.6%
TDAP	436	346	-20.6%	444	28.3%	1.8%
<b>Total Caseload</b>	<b>41,734</b>	<b>43,330</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>52,993</b>	<b>22.3%</b>	<b>27.0%</b>

# Application Volume Increases



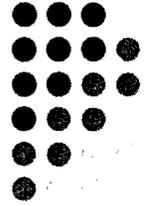
	Base Year FY07	FY08	%Increase (Decrease)	FY09	%Increase (Decrease)	Two – year % Increase
TCA	4,058	4,746	17.0%	5,771	21.6%	42.2%
SNAP	13,900	18,322	31.8%	24,082	31.4%	73.3%
MA	23,285	25,795	10.8%	27,352	6.0%	17.5%
TDAP	2,642	2,934	11.1%	3,495	19.1%	32.3%
<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>43,885</b>	<b>51,797</b>	<b>18.0%</b>	<b>60,700</b>	<b>17.2%</b>	<b>38.3%</b>

# Data on Serving the Uninsured Within Montgomery CARES



The escalating need further highlights extreme need in the community:

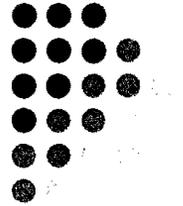
	# of patients	# of encounters
<b>FY 09</b>	<b>21,077</b> Original estimate was to serve 19,000 patients	<b>56,597</b>
<b>FY 10 (July 09 only)</b>	<b>4,941</b> On a trajectory to serve almost 28,000 patients	<b>5,827</b>



## WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT THIS:

1. Established 4 neighborhood safety net sites in partnership with non profit agencies
2. Developed a community organizing and community education effort with IMPACT Silver Spring to change the paradigm for community's response to neighbors in need. This partnership resulted in over 3000 door knocks in one four month period
3. Developed a partnership with the MC Community Foundation to increase charitable giving for vulnerable populations through the neighborhood safety net. This would increase our investment into ethnic and minority non-profits.

## OTHER STRATEGIES:



- More aggressive review and clean up of our policies to ensure that services are appropriately engaged and there is a standardization in service delivery.
- Support our staff through the most challenging economic recession of our times – additional customer service support; where possible offer overtime to catch up with work
- Advocate for greater resource investments to strengthen the safety net and apply aggressively for grants
- Build momentum to prevent erosion of the safety net
- Support our non-profits to ensure a seamless continuum of services for the vulnerable