Montgomery County
Continuum of Care
Community-Wide Meeting Presentation

Montgomery County, Maryland
Department of Health and Human Services

Presentation by
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Kim Ball, Administrator, Homeless Services

Wednesday, January 22, 2014
Montgomery County Continuum of Care

The Montgomery County Continuum of Care (CoC) is our local homeless program planning network. It is a public-private partnership that includes County and other government agencies, non-profit service providers, landlords and others who have a role in the County’s housing market.

- US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has been encouraging communities to address the problems of housing and homelessness in a coordinated, comprehensive and strategic fashion.

- Montgomery CoC annually receives approximately $7.5 million in HUD funding.

- The purpose of the CoC is to encourage and support local organizations in coordinating their efforts to address housing and homeless issues and reduce homelessness.

- As the lead agency, the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) manages the homeless intake and assessment process, and the County-wide Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).
Montgomery County Continuum of Care

- The continuum also includes a range of homelessness prevention initiatives including emergency financial assistance, case management and shallow rent subsidies and energy assistance designed to prevent the loss of permanent housing.

- Full continuum of services includes housing programs and services to people who are homeless, including outreach services, emergency shelter services, and transitional and permanent supportive housing programs.

- Case management is provided at all levels with an emphasis on achieving housing solutions and linking homeless persons with housing, employment, disability entitlements and other services.

- The County continues to emphasize the creation of more permanent supportive housing while keeping the homeless safe during the winter season.
CoC Framework and Partners

**Funders**
- US Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Maryland Dept. of Human Resources
- Maryland Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene
- MC General Fund
- MC Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs

**IT Systems Development and Maintenance**
- Bowman Systems (HMIS)

**MC Department of Health and Human Services**

**MC Sub-Committees**
- Strategic Planning
- Single Adult Teaming
- Family Providers
- Housing Providers
- Allocation/Prioritization
- Performance Review

**Partners**

**Initiatives**
- Housing Initiative Program
- Housing First Model
- 100K Homes Campaign
- Homeless Resource Day

**Partners – Shelters**
- Catholic Charities
- Community Ministries of Rockville
- The Dwelling Place
- City of Gaithersburg Wells Robertson House
- Interfaith Works
- MC Coalition for the Homeless
- Mt Calvary Baptist Church
- National Center for Children and Families
- Rockville Presbyterian Church
- Stepping Stones Shelter

**Partners – Transportation**
- Barwood Taxi
- Regency Taxi

**Partners – Hotels/Motels**
- Holiday Inn
- Comfort Inn
- Bethesda Hospitality / American Inn

**Partners – Providers**
- Bethesda Cares
- Family Services Agency
- Jewish Federation of Greater Washington
- Lutheran Services
- Mental Health Association
- Mid-County United Ministries
- Ministries United of Silver Spring
- Takoma Park, Inc.
- People Encouraging People
- Shepherds Table
- St. Camillus Church
- and many more.

**Housing Opportunities Commission**

**Regional Services Centers**

**City of Gaithersburg Sheriff’s Department**

**CoC Sub-Committees**
- Housing
- Service Centers
Continuum of Care Responsibilities

- Hold meeting of full membership with agendas at least semi-annually
- Make an invitation for new members to join publically available at least annually
- Adopt and follow a written process to select a board to act on behalf of the CoC
- Appoint additional committees, subcommittees or workgroups
- In consultation with the CoC Collaborative Applicant and HMIS lead develop, follow and update a governance charter annually
- Consult with recipient and sub recipients to establish performance targets appropriate to population and program type
- Monitor recipients and sub recipients performance, evaluate outcomes and take action against poor performers
- Evaluate outcomes of Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and CoC program projects
- Establish either a coordinated assessment or centralized intake system
Continuum of Care Responsibilities

- Establish written standards with CoC program and ESG recipients
- Designate and operate a single Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
- Coordinate and implementation of a housing and service system which includes outreach, assessment, prevention strategies
- Coordinate the Point-in-Time count and annual gap analysis
- Provide information to complete the Consolidated Plan and consult with ESG program to report and evaluate ESG recipients and sub recipients
- Convene regular monthly meeting of sub-committees and workgroups
Established. The Executive must appoint, subject to confirmation by the Council, an Interagency Commission on Homelessness.

**Duties.** The Commission will:

- Serve as the Governing Board for the CoC as required by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Promote community-wide goals to end homelessness and develop strategic plans to prevent and reduce homelessness and minimize the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless families and individuals
- Review and monitor programs that are components of the CoC, 100,000 Homes Campaign, and Housing First Initiative including, but not limited to, permanent housing, transitional housing, supportive services, homeless management information system, and homelessness prevention
- Make recommendations to the County Executive and County Council for improvements to the CoC including process changes to reduce barriers to housing and minimize the time needed to move someone from homelessness to housing
Established. The Executive must appoint, subject to confirmation by the Council, an Interagency Commission on Homelessness.

**Duties.** The Commission will:

- Review the funding application and response to HUD’s CoC Program Notice of Funds Available (NOFA) for homelessness assistance resources

- Educate the community about homelessness, best practices to reduce homelessness, the resources needed to reduce homelessness, and long-term savings that are achieved by providing permanent, stable housing

- Recommend and promote partnerships with private organizations, businesses, corporations, philanthropic organizations and foundations, and municipal, state, and federal government agencies to improve the County’s ability to prevent and reduce homelessness
Montgomery County’s CoC – 100,000 Homes Campaign

- Montgomery County COC has unanimously approved and signed up for the National 100,000 Homes Campaign

- Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services is co leading the campaign with Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless (MCCH), along with many other government agencies, nonprofits, and organizations

- **The Goal** – is to end homelessness through community engagement and high rates of placement of the chronically homeless and vulnerable population in permanent supportive housing

- **Continue to implement the Housing First model** – offer most vulnerable and chronically homeless person priority to permanent housing combined with available support services
Approximately 300 volunteers using the Vulnerability Index survey, interviewed 369 homeless individuals including those on the streets, in the woods, and in shelters during the Campaign’s Registry Week in November 2013.

The Vulnerability Index gathers information based on research findings that certain medical conditions place homeless individuals at a high risk of death while experiencing homelessness.

- Further research indicates that persons experiencing homelessness have a 25 year shorter life expectancy than those who are housed.
- The 369 individuals surveyed in Montgomery County reported a total of 677 inpatient hospitalizations in the past year; and 159, almost half, were identified as medically vulnerable and will be at risk of death if they stay homeless.

December 2013, the Montgomery County Council approved a FY14/15 special appropriation of over $640,000 to provide permanent housing with supportive services for 15 additional homeless individuals, identified as the most vulnerable. This funding will provide subsidies for rental assistance and utility costs as well as intensive services such as case management.
CoC Initiatives

Homeless Resource Day

- The Homeless Resource Day (HRD) is designed to be a “one-day, one stop” opportunity for individuals and families experiencing homelessness to access needed benefits, medical care, and counseling, in addition to a variety of other community services that can help promote self-sufficiency and resolve housing crises. The community support has been, and will continue to be, an important part of our effort to address the issues confronting homeless residents.

- This event has been so successful for the past three years that now it has become one of the largest annual DHHS events in the county.

- During the past three years HRD has served over 920 individuals and families to access services and resources.

- We had 68 Vendors in 2011 and 86 Vendors in 2012 and 67 Vendors in 2013.

- We had over 250 Volunteer each year.

- On November 7, 2013 we had over 300 Volunteers to assist with the event.

- Next HRD will be held on Thursday November 13, 2014 at the Activity Center at Bohrer Park, Gaithersburg.
## Montgomery County Homeless Count

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>% Change 2012 to 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL HOMELESS PERSONS</strong></td>
<td>1,132</td>
<td>982</td>
<td>1,004</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Individual Adults</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Unsheltered</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>10.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Emergency Shelters</td>
<td>392</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>2.74%</td>
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<tr>
<td>o Transitional Housing</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>11.27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Total Individual Adults</td>
<td>758</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>638</td>
<td>6.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Families with Children</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Unsheltered</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-4.35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Emergency Shelters</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>-10.53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Transitional Housing</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>-7.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Total Families</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>-4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Total Persons in Families</td>
<td>374</td>
<td>381</td>
<td>366</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fiscal Year Households Served in Emergency Family Shelter</strong></td>
<td>357</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>388</td>
<td>-4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Persons in Permanent Supportive Housing Programs (PSH)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Individual Adults</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>598</td>
<td>636</td>
<td>6.35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Families with Children</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>0.65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Total Persons in Families</td>
<td>937</td>
<td>1,042</td>
<td>1,059</td>
<td>1.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Total Persons in Families</td>
<td>1,442</td>
<td>1,640</td>
<td>1,695</td>
<td>3.35%</td>
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</table>
## Montgomery County’s Homeless Sub-populations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-population</th>
<th>FY11</th>
<th>FY12</th>
<th>FY13</th>
<th>Change 2012 - 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chronic Substance Abuser (CSA)</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>21.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe Mental Illness (SMI)</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>-12.57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dually Diagnosed (CSA and SMI)</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>-10.07%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic Health Problem</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>22.83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Disability</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>3.07%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Violence Victim</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>3.07%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited English Proficiency (new)</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>-1.89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Veterans</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>-16.22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronically Homeless</td>
<td>348</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>12.72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Homeless Parents (18-24)</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>-.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MONTGOMERY COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE
TEN YEAR PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS

DRAFT PLAN GOALS

• Finish the job of ending chronic homelessness in 5 years.

• Prevent and end homelessness among Veterans in 5 years.

• Prevent and end homelessness for families, youth, and children in 10 years.

• Set a path to ending all types of homelessness.
MONTGOMERY COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE
TEN YEAR PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS

DRAFT PLAN GOALS

• Provide/ Promote Collaborative Leadership

• Strengthen Capacity of Organizations by Increasing Knowledge about Collaboration, Homelessness, Best Practice

• Increase Access to Stable Affordable Housing

• Provide Permanent Supportive Housing

• Improve Access to Education and training and Increase Employment
MONTGOMERY COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE
TEN YEAR PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS

DRAFT PLAN GOALS

• Improve access to “mainstream” programs/services in order to reduce financial vulnerability
• Integrate Primary and Behavioral Health Services with Homeless Assistance and Housing Programs
• Advance Health and Housing Stability for unaccompanied and youth aging out of systems
• Advance Health and Housing Stability for people experiencing homelessness with frequent contact with hospitals and criminal justice
• Continue to ReTool Crisis Response System to Prevent and End Homelessness