Welcome | Introduction | Approval of the June 16, 2016 meeting notes
Amy Horton-Newell convened the meeting and the June 16 meeting notes were approved after corrections.

Introduction and welcome to Amanda Harris
Uma introduced Amanda Harris as the new Chief of Special Needs Housing. Amanda comes to Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services from Pathways to Housing D.C. Amanda announced that she will be setting up one-on-one meetings with commissioners and housing providers to get better acquainted and build working relationships.

HUD Performance Measures (CoC) baseline
In 2009, the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act was updated and is now known as the HEARTH Act: Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act.

The Department will submit their 2016 HUD application on Monday, September 19 for $8.1 million.
The HEARTH Act changed the structure of Continuum of Cares (CoC) to measure their performance as a coordinated system, in addition, to analyzing performance by specific projects or program types.

The system-wide performance measures or goals are:
1. Length of time homeless
2. Returns to homelessness from permanent housing
3. Number of homeless persons
4. Growth in earned income and non-employment case income
5. Number of persons experiencing homelessness for the first time
6. Bed utilization
7. Successful placement and/or retention of permanent housing

**Measure 1: Length of time homeless** numbers are based on the HUD Fiscal year October 1-September 30. The data in today’s presentation are from 2015. The length of time a person stays homeless is a system-wide count (including those in the winter shelter and hotels).

The CoC showed an increase in the length-of-time homeless from FY14 to FY15. In FY14, a person stayed homeless for 119 days; in FY15 the stay increased to 143 days. In FY15, the CoC adapted to our new coordinated entry system and written standards. This may have contributed to the increase in the length of time homeless. Our goal is to reduce the length of time homeless in the coming years.

**Measure 2: The extent to which persons who exit homelessness to permanent housing returns to homelessness.**

System-wide the CoC saw an increase in individuals and families going from homeless programs to permanent housing destinations. This observation meets our goal.

Homeless programs are: SO=Street outreach
ES=Emergency Shelter
TH=Transitional Housing
SH=Safe Haven
PH=Permanent Housing

**Measure 3: Number of Homeless Persons**

3.1 Change in Point-in-time Counts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Point-in-time (PIT) is one snap shot.</th>
<th>FY14</th>
<th>FY15</th>
<th>FY16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PIT Count of Sheltered and Unsheltered Persons</td>
<td>891</td>
<td>1,100</td>
<td>981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsheltered Count</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The PIT is a snap shot count of one day. While the count shows some inconsistency, the numbers decreased in FY 16.

3.2 Change in Annual Count

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Sheltered Homeless Persons</th>
<th>Previous FY</th>
<th>Current FY</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Shelter</td>
<td>2,874</td>
<td>2,798</td>
<td>-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe Haven</td>
<td>2,572</td>
<td>2,477</td>
<td>-95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transitional Housing</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>-16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The annual count is a count of clients in the HMIS and the numbers are consistently decreasing which meets our goal.
Measure 4: Employment and Income Growth for homeless persons in the CoC program-funded projects.

Measure 4 is an exception and does not analyze the homeless system-wide but only analyzes programs that are funded through CoC NOFA.

“Stayers” are persons who stay in the system.
“Leavers” are persons who exit the programs for various reason such as those who:
- Leave one program for another (i.e. transitional to permanent supportive housing)
- Leave permanent supportive housing to live in the community

→ ACTION: To further define the leaver category, the CoC HUD application includes a request for funding for a HMIS specialist to create reports that capture why leavers leave, and what happens to them when they exit homeless programs.

Both stayers and leavers show an increase in both earned income and non-employment cash income. Non-employment cash income indicates the person qualified for eligible benefits such as Social Security, TDAP, etc.

Discussion—Are those moving to PH self-sufficient?

Measure 4 shows a movement toward self-sufficiency and increasing income, but the data does not show whether homeless persons and families have enough income to live on their own in Montgomery County. PH does not mean self-sufficient, but only says that a person is housed. There is no information on their financial wellness to retain the home without subsidy.

Measure 5: Number of persons who become homeless for the first time.

5.1 Change in the number of persons entering ES, SH and TH projects with no prior enrollment in HMIS
2,338 persons were determined to be in the ES, SH and TH programs.
1,606 persons were not in program in prior 24 months or “first time or new” to program.

5.2 Change in the number of persons entering ES, SH, TH and PH project with no prior HMIS enrollment.
2,570 persons were determined to be in the ES, SH, TH and PH programs.
1,649 persons were not in program in prior 24 months or “first time or new” to program.

Measure 6: Homeless prevention and housing placements of persons defined by Category 3.

HUD provides no funding for prevention. HUD did not require prevention data in 2016. The CoC reviewed bed utilization for APR’s and COC NOFA.

→ ACTION: After further discussion, it was agreed that prevention be measured on the local level with the creation of a HMIS report.

Measure 7: Successful placement from SO and successful placement in or retention of PH

7a.1 Change in exit from SO to PH destinations
261 persons exited SO (49% successful exits)

A successful exit means a person is no longer in SO but where they end up is unknown.

7b.1 Change to exit from SO to other homeless programs
2,139 persons exited ES, SH, TH, PH-RRH (32% successful exits).

7b.2 Change in exit to or retention of PH
1,886 persons in all PH except PH-RRH.
1,842 persons remained in PH and those who exited PH destinations.
Percentage of successful exits/retentions = 98%
Discussion—How is HUD funding affected by the measures?
When the number fluctuates it effects HUD funding. Unless the CoC scores high enough to justify, document and prove that programs are serving the homeless population, HUD will cut funding for programs.

Last year, both the National Center for Children and Families Family Stabilization Program totaling $600,000 and the Wells Robertson Transitional Housing Program totaling $130,000 lost HUD funding. Susie Sinclair Smith stated that HUD had a policy change that contributed to HUD cutting the programs. Transitional Housing is no longer a HUD priority. Low scores and the policy change led to the two programs losing HUD funding.

Discussion—Youth Homelessness
There is an increase in young families experiencing homelessness. Young people are being put out by families for various reasons. For example, young mothers (19-24-year-old) with children are sometimes put out by their families -including those living in HOC housing. HUD is currently prioritizing all their policies which includes a youth homelessness project.

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP)
Amanda asked the Commission about their interest in the CoC applying for the NOFA YHDP, which is a new initiative to reduce the number of youth experiencing homelessness in 10 participating communities (4 communities must be rural). The initiative will set aside $33 million and each selected community can apply for $1 to $15 million. The deadline for submission is November 30 through www.grants.gov website.

ACTION: CoC agreed to participate in a collaborative application (partnering with Prince George’s County and possibly the entire region). Providers were encouraged to send numbers on the youth they plan to provide to Amanda.

Update on Chronic Homelessness
The CoC submitted a report on homelessness to the County Council today. Montgomery County’s goal is to end chronic homelessness by 2017. The target set by the Federal government is to have no more than 3 unhoused chronically homeless individuals and/or families to qualify as a jurisdiction that has ended chronic homelessness.

For six months, the CoC has been working to compile a by-name list. The list is based on the HMIS data and information collected by outreach providers. We have discovered that homeless people who are extremely vulnerable are not in our HMIS system. The CoC is working on creating policies to better capture these unknown individuals.

The CoC has housed 57 chronically homeless by August 31 (no veterans are included in this number).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated number of chronically homeless (CH) persons</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of CH individuals as of September, 2016</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPC List with VI-SPDAT scores of 10+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPC List with VI-SPDAT scores of 5-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPC List with VI-SPDAT scores of 0-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach List</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The numbers are captured from the HMIS and include clients who are being served. The full VI-SPDAT is not initially being used because it is cumbersome. An updated version of the full VI-SPDAT is being explored to capture better numbers.

Available housing resources in the next 15 months were 72 PHS units (through turnover of existing units - 4.85 per month). Some reasons for the turnover are homeless persons moving into PH, obtaining HOC vouchers, or due to deaths.

New units are available through the CoC PSH - MCCH Key First (28 units and the new Progress Place (21 units).

There are 121 possible units to house the chronically homeless.

**Action:** Track specific reasons for PSH turnover to share with the ICH in future meetings. This is difficult because the data is not currently captured in HMIS. It must be gathered from the program level, which means case managers must add a note in the system documenting where the client moved to when exiting the system. As a result, data must be entered correctly and completely.

There are 209 individuals identified as chronically homeless. This is a high-end estimate of people who meet the definition.

**New Staffing Resources**
- **HMIS Support Specialist** to assist in developing a more data-driven system
- **Outreach Coordinator** to help establish system-wide protocols for identifying and engaging homeless individuals and families who are either minimally connected or not currently participating in any social services programming
- **Housing Coordinator or locator** to help strengthen relationships with landlords and housing developers to create additional and better opportunities for affordable and sustainable housing placement

**Update on the Action Camp**
Community Solutions lead the discussion at the Action Camp which was a day and a half quality improvement workshop to identify and tackle barriers to ending chronic homelessness. The conversations brought into focus many of the opportunities and challenges that are ahead as we work to be one of the first places in the nation to reach the goal of ending chronic homelessness by December 31, 2017.

Below are some ideas on how to meet the gap:
- Expanding existing housing options by engaging landlords
- Exploring new housing options by creative financing and exploring new sites
- Exploring short-term RRH models used by other jurisdictions
- Refining or fine tuning existing programs to ensure that they meet the true need of the case management services for homeless persons in the programs
- Anticipating at-risk persons to prevent and/or divert the person meeting the definition of chronic homelessness.

**Outreach Blitz**
The purpose of the Outreach Blitz is to develop and complete the comprehensive by-name list by identifying all individuals experiencing chronic homelessness in the County. The Outreach Blitz is a key component necessary to achieve our goal. There will be 18 to 20 teams checking 260 hotspots (up and down county) over 2 days. The blitz is scheduled Wednesday and Thursday, October 19-20. Friday, October 21 will be our “clean up” day for outreach agencies. The volunteers will be professional outreach workers who know the population and have experience working with the homeless.
Volunteers will be trained to conduct short surveys. This helps to establish our commitment to turn around the data in 3 days.

**Landlord and Property Management Engagement**
The Landlord Recruitment Collective Committee has been established to get landlords on board with our efforts to end homelessness. Housing locators who work with landlords are being recruited and encouraged to work together and adopt our common message that the County’s goal is to end chronic homelessness.

The Landlord Recruitment Collective Committee is represented by agencies such as DHHS, Interfaith Works, MCCH, Veteran First Friendship Place, Stepping Stones Shelter, City of Gaithersburg and HOC. The Department of Housing and Community Affairs and Corner Stone’s Shelters will be joining the group.

There is a great deal of engagement and commitment to connecting with landlords. We have scheduled a Landlord Event called a “Mix and Mingle” on October 27 at 3:00-5:00p at the Matchbox Restaurant in Rockville. Councilmember Leventhal volunteered to participate in the event to thank the landlords. Uma suggested that the Committee meet with DHCA Landlord and Tenant Affairs prior to the event. Brian Tracey suggested a meeting to prepare for the event and discuss incentive options.

**Medical Respite Project**
Kim Emerson and LaSonya Kelly reported that they are continuing to meet with the Medical Respite Subgroup (subgroup of the Hospital and Jail Committee). There is a need for representation for Montgomery General Hospital. Currently, the group is collecting data. On the hospital side, efforts are focused on determining the numbers and costs of homeless encounters, admissions and readmissions. On the shelter side, efforts are focused on determining why the shelter was not able to assist the client when there is a re-admission.

**Announcements**

Uma shared that the Medicaid Homelessness Program application was submitted. The application submission prompted questions from the Feds and the State. The County responded to those questions and is presently waiting for a response. Our hope is that by July 1, 2017 we will have a Medicaid Homelessness Program. Medicaid coverage of case management and care coordination will free up funding for the County to use to provide other programs.

Uma also reported that the Pay for Success Project was awarded to Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties for a planning grant. HUD has not sent the lead agency the contract for signature (deadline is November 30). The contract will provide funds to hire a staff person who will be split between with Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties with the intent of helping to compile information necessary to assemble the final proposal.

Brian Tracey shared that the Community Foundation will host a philanthropist luncheon on October 6 for potential funders. Susan Kirk, Susie Sinclair-Smith and Brian Tracey will be representing the ICH at the luncheon. The purpose of the luncheon is to provide information to educate funders on innovative models from other communities.

**Adjournment**

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