INTERAGENCY COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS
Meeting Summary Notes
Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Members (Present)		**Staff**	**Guests**
Ahluwalia, Uma S.	Spann, Stacy	Anderson, Chris	Cooper, Holly
Berner, Debra	Thames, Jeffrey O.	Ball, Kim	Nelson, Sadie
Bohorquez, Marta	Tracey, Brian	Boyd, Cynthia	Stanaitis, Nikki
Crowel, Raymond	Wilds, Moses	Hochron, Jean	Todd, Chapman
Emerson, Kim		Huggins, Gloria	
Fox-Morrill, Priscilla	**Members** (Excused)	Kelly, LaSonya	
Horton-Newell, Amy	Green, Robert	McMillan, Linda	
Khan, Nadim, A.	(DOCR Staff representation)	Murphy, Shannon	
Kirk Susan		Sierra, Sharon	
Leventhal, George	**Members** (Absent)	Soni, Nili	
Roynestad, Brian	Brissett Chapman, Sheryl	Subin, Michael	
Seidel, Stan	Davis, Betsy		
Sinclair-Smith, Susie	Delegate Craig Zucker		
Snuggs, Clarence	Kaufmann, Louise		
	Newton, Bridget		

Welcome | Introductions | Approval of June 24 meeting notes

The June 24 meeting notes were approved.

Presentation by the Technical Assistance Collaborative, Inc. (TAC)

Performance Measurements
In July 2014, HUD published the System Performance Measures Introductory Guide to assist Continuum of Care (CoC) understand the calculation and use system-level performance measures. HUD guide was updated in May 2015 to clarify the measures.

The HEARTH Act Performance Measures are:
➢ Length of Time Homeless
➢ Returns to Homelessness
➢ Number of Homeless Persons
➢ Employment and Income Growth for Homeless persons in CoC Programs
➢ Homeless for the First Time
➢ Successful Placement from Street Outreach (SO)
➢ Successful Housing Placement to or Retention in a Permanent Housing Destination

The Performance Committee is reviewing the System Performance Measures Introductory Guide to understand the performance measurements and each specific measure.

Coordinated Entry Systems (CES) Policy and Procedure
HUD requires that CoCs establish and operate a CES for their entire geographic area. CES increases the efficiency of local crisis response systems, improves fairness and eases access to resources. The system also increases the accuracy and effectiveness with which persons are prioritized for community resources.

The CES will apply to all who enter the system whether they are coming from an emergency shelters, the street, or through the Crisis Center they are going to enter the homeless systems and be matched with the appropriate resources. This system-wide approach will assist in prioritizing and matching client with the services they need as well as ensure that the limited resources are distributed appropriately. The system entails not serving the first client that comes through the door; but, looking at the length of homelessness and the needs of the specific client. Those who need limited resources will be in the system for a short amount of time.

Montgomery County Gap Analysis
- A Housing scan is used as the first steps to gaps analysis because gathering information about who is in the system will determine where the gaps. The resources that the housing scan encompasses, focuses on clients that are at 30%, 50% of AMI. Many resources focus on who we are serving in our system: homeless with disability, homeless with low-income. The scan provides information that helps to match resources with people

- Example: 2014 Point in Time (PIT) Count: The PIT count done every January counts the homeless in your system to determine how many people are in the system and how they system is turning over. Topics for the committee to explore are:
    o Where is the system going?
    o How many clients are self-resolved?
    o Will the trend continue?
    o We have a lot of transitional housing in our system but do we need more permanent supportive housing because that the population we are seeing?

Question: Is the total number of 2,748 representing the number annual household served accurate in representing Montgomery County?
Answer: The number includes estimates from a difference community and assumptions of the national trend (3 months) regarding those entering the Rapid Rehousing system.

➔ **ACTION**: Add Qualifiers to explain the assumptions and better reflect the true picture for Montgomery County.

Update on Continuum of Care Action Plan for Year 1
- Brian Tracey (Chair-Resource Development Committee): The focus of the Resource Development Committee is to raise money and create information that is valuable is to generate new ideas. Creating information will involve education and outreach which will overlap the other committees. The Committee efforts will be creating new ideas, such as:
    o Identifying and mapping sites suitable for supportive housing or transitional housing. This a longer term project scheduled for the end of the 2016 year.
    o Utilizing market tax credit as a funding source. Montgomery County has several census tracks that are eligible for this Federal funding source. The use of tax credits has been used throughout the Country to fund projects such as job training centers, health centers and homeless shelters using this funding source (San Francisco, Montana, the Bronx, and Seattle, Washington). The tax credit is an application process by a Qualified Institution (QI) and could provide a significant source of funding.

- Exploring the benefit of funding screening and/or providing preventive care for those experiencing homelessness living in shelters to reduce long-term costs.
- Examine building codes and permitting process and planning the zoning practices to accommodate and encourage developer to build and increase supportive and affordable housing.
- Increase awareness of homelessness in Montgomery County by holding a public event. The purpose of the event would be to ask for funding and to increase awareness so that residents do not oppose housing for the homeless in their neighborhoods.

- **ACTION:** Uma will schedule a meeting to start a conversation on Medicaid savings with the State Medicaid Director, the CMS Medicaid Deputy Secretary and other interested parties.

- **ACTION:** Brian Tracy will plan an April 2016 meeting to invite local philanthropic foundations and to identify specific funding opportunities.

- **ACTION**: Schedule a showing of a documentary that focuses on homelessness at the Silver Theatre in Silver Spring. The National Alliance of Homelessness is distributing a film on homelessness featuring Richard Gere. Mr. Gere and the Alliance have indicated interest in supporting and facilitating local showings. Brian Tracey will follow up.

- Dr. Raymond Crowel (DHHS-Behavioral Health and Crisis Services): The starting point will be to determine the number of homeless individuals who have behavioral, substance abuse and/or mental health issues. Many presenting with these issues are from the streets, the jail system, local hospitals as well as from military personnel. The goal is to identify their short and long term needs. Secondly, there needs to be an expansion of the capacity to address the behavioral health needs of individuals who are experiencing homelessness. One of the challenges is that many have co-occurring issues (such as substance abuse and a behavior health issues). There are limited co-occurring resource continuums and many housing units are not equipped to support clients with mental health issues. The need is to find the gaps are and partnership with local providers to adjust the guidelines for operating properties and eligibility for housing. Thirdly, there is a need to identify barrier access, transportation, substance use disorder problems, things that create problems for clients as they go through the continuum preventing stability and level of support. It is important that we create short-term, low-cost, no-cost strategies to improve and identify access to care.

- **ACTION**: Raymond will reconvene the Committee in October and work through March and update the Commission with a completed assessment of where we stand and prepare to present recommendations.

- Kim Emerson (Adventist Healthcare): The Hospital Committee will be meeting on September 29 at 10:00-11:30 a.m. at Adventist Healthcare Center, 820 West Diamond Avenue, Gaithersburg to discuss how we can work together to address the homeless population with medical conditions that are discharging from the hospitals. Our objectives would be how we can develop a Medical ResCare model. The discussion will be a brainstorming opportunity to explore how a Medical ResCare model could work in Montgomery County. Perhaps a skilled nursing facility or a house where people reside for up to 90 days and receive care instead of discharging to shelters or the street (i.e. step-down project). The need is to discuss what the challenges would be trying to face this population and then try to develop an approach.

- Sara Black (DHHS, Special Needs Housing):

  - The Strategic Planning Committee is continuing to monitor and looking the action plan. We approached the HOC to look for a limited local preference to homeless folks. As a result of the 100K Homes campaign is isolating 10 HOC slots to house those who met the criteria medically vulnerable and chronically homeless. The Committee asked HOC to continue to align with our strategic plan by supporting 10 veterans, either adults or in families, who need ongoing supportive housing and who are also homeless. HOC has approved the request and the 10 slots will now target veterans who are homeless.

  - The Performance Review Committee has been exceptionally active in redeveloping itself and looking at standards to access different levels of housing with in our system consistently. There is a need to recruit those who have experience doing data analysis to help us with future work.

  - Community Engagement and Outreach Committee wants to look at options to format and shrink down the Homeless Resource Guide to make it easily foldable for clients on streets. The Committee wants to develop a more strategic plan to reach out to the community at large. There is a need to recruit any who have expertise in communication and outreach

Update on Zero: 2016
- Nili Soni (DHHS-Special Needs Housing): The Zero: 2016 campaign's goal is to house 56 veterans by December 31, 2015 by developing a sustainable system on an ongoing basis. Then number of 56 veterans that we are targeting is from the Point in Time data, Homeless Management Information System and the department of veteran affairs. The campaign has developed an ongoing master list. We actually have 21 individual veterans and four families that we plan on house this year. From January to August, we have housed 23 veteran families. We have funding from various sources (Federal, NCCH, etc.). We recently received $500,000 dollars awarded to the County. The County will contract with Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless (Outreach and Homecoming) and Bethesda Cares (Rapid Re-housing) to provide programs to assist homeless veterans.

  - **ACTION**: Amy Horton-Newell shared that the Commission is exploring an initiative to identify and engage landlords to join us in eliminating veteran homelessness in Montgomery County. The initiative would be to organize an engagement event perhaps in the form of a breakfast with an invitation from the County Executive or County Council to invite landlords to build relationships and directory that will lead to their renting to veterans.

Credit Barriers: After a discussion of the credit challenges that prevent veterans who are homeless to rent housing which include bad credit and debts to previous landlords, it was determined that many landlord want a strong commitment from the County which means 2 months' rent up front ($3,000 per apartment). Stacy Spann stated that HOC can be helpful with credit enhancements to eliminate credit barriers to get the 35 veterans housed by December.

Criminal Records: Landlords avoid housing to those with criminal records. Jeffrey Thames shared that advocacy can be helpful to help landlords overlook minor offences. Amy Horton-Newell reiterated that the Landlord Engagement Event could help to educate landlords on the situation of veterans' homelessness producing positive reporting and relationship building.

Ending family Homelessness in Montgomery County
There are three emergency shelters in Montgomery County: Greentree Shelter, Helping Hands and Stepping Stones. The shelters have a capacity of serving 27 families (86 beds). Motels are used when shelters are full increasing capacity to 30 households (100 beds). Domestic Violence shelters provide housing for 15 families.

Montgomery County's homeless point in time indicated a 36% percent increase in the overall number of homeless households with children from 91 households in 2014 to 159 households in 2015.

Exploring Housing Initiatives for Homeless Families:

o   Pay for Success Project: Uma updated the Commission on the project which would address family homelessness. The County was unable to do two things 1) to show cost-cut submission which would satisfy the funder that we would have monies to pay back and 2) our numbers were too small. The County gave four to five difference options to show that the model can work. The Project is interested in one of the options—a partnership with Fairfax County. Fairfax and Montgomery County would provide families to the project. This is an exciting prospect because of the multi-jurisdictional aspect but also proposes problems because of cost and conflicting rules and regulations.   The County will continue to explore the opportunity.

o   Escrow Account: Another initiative is exploring 5-year escrow accounts for families to enable homeless families to improve their capacity. Uma expressed that there would be funder in the Montgomery Moving Forward Workforce Development and the Kennedy Foundation Family of Funders who may be interested in the workforce development aspect. This initiative could help families redefine their financials enabling them to secure housing, pay for childcare, etc.

Next Meeting
Wednesday, December 16 | 3:30-5:30 p.m. at the Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, 1st Floor Conference.