



INTERAGENCY COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS

**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Summary Notes**

**Wednesday, May 25, 2016**

<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Agency</b>
Anderson, Chris	DHCA	Sinclair-Smith, Susie	MCCH
Ball, Kim	DHHS/Special Needs Housing	Matthews, Stacey	DHHS/Special Needs Housing
Black, Sara	DHHS/Special Needs Housing	Soni, Nili	DHHS/Special Needs Housing
Blasco, Anna	NAEH	Spencer, Eugene	Housing Opportunities Commission
Ferework Fuje	Catholic Charities	Todd, Chapman	Zero:2016
Fox-Morrill, Priscilla	Interfaith Works	Williams, Edith	Helping Hands Shelter
Frazier-Bey, Jimmy	City of Gaithersburg	Whitted, Jonathan	Friendship Place
Horton-Newell, Amy	ICH Chair	Wellington, Janice	NCCF
Kamara, Fatmata	Dept of Veteran Affairs		

**Introductions**

Sara Black convened the meeting and opened with introductions. New Attendees Are: None

**Approval of April 27th Meeting Notes**

The committee voted unanimously to accept the minutes into record as written.

**PIT/ HIC 2016**

Kim Ball gave an update on the 2016 PIT count that was conducted in the January. The number of persons experiencing homelessness decreased from 1,100 in 2015 to 981 in 2016 (10.82% decrease from 2015), this can be attributed to the decrease in family homelessness. Families with children needing emergency shelter decreased from 110 in 2015 to 67 in 2016 (39.09% decrease). Overall numbers went down due to a reduction in the family count. This was an anomaly in comparison to last year. Singles went up. Sub-population numbers are generally down, however, physical disability count went up. There were also decreases noted among the homeless subpopulations:

Homeless Subpopulations	FY14	FY15	FY16	% Change 2015-2016
Chronic Substance Abuse (CSA)	93	76	74	-2.63%
Severe Mental Illness (SMI)	165	204	183	-10.29%
Dually Diagnosed (CSA & SMI)	123	144	114	-20.83%
Chronic Health Problem	164	194	198	2.06%
Living with HIV/AIDS	5	15	7	-53.33%
Physical Disability	99	80	91	13.75%
Domestic Violence Victims *	187	291	127	-56.36%
Limited English Proficiency	85	73	85	16.44%
U.S. Veterans	35	24	17	-29.17%
Chronically Homeless	181	164	151	-7.93%
Unsheltered Chronically Homeless	95	49	44	-10.20%
* Any History of Domestic Violence				

- Consistent decline in the CH number due to the Coordinated Entry and Assessment process
  - Progress Place PLQ will be going on line in winter
  - MCCCH Key First will be starting FY 16.
- The self-report Vet count is 17, however, the actual number once vetted is 6 (we are not able to put this in the report as HUD requires that the self-report data be collected)
- The count was impacted by the blizzard and this may have impacted the count including those who may have come in and would have otherwise not been counted and those who used shelter because they could not get to their other housing options in the blizzard weather.
- Kim Ball shared that there has been an increase in prioritization of Chronically Homeless persons (CH) and that is reflected in the HIC

### **Maryland ESG Funds**

Sara Black shared that Montgomery County has applied for the Maryland State Emergency Solution Grant. Montgomery County gets ESG directly from the federal government as we are an entitlement community (large enough population that allows us to get direct funding). The funding is awarded to Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA) and they turn it over to Special Needs Housing (SNH). The State of MD also gets funding that has been traditionally for the "balance of state" (those other than entitlement communities).

- State of Maryland has issued an RFP that allow entitlement communities to apply for up to \$80k for youth households with no one over the age of 25. This is being applied for and we are looking at how these funds could be used within our existing provider structure including compensating for the gap in services created by the loss of funding in the NoFA. A 50% match is required and HHS will provide the Case Management and the funds will only be used for security deposits and full first month's rent as well as 11 months of a medium size housing subsidy (\$400 for singles, \$600 for families) - this project will allow for up to three months of renewal funds after the year for up to 6 months as youth tend to need longer to stabilize.
- The Grant will provide funds to serve 8 homeless unaccompanied youth households (16 to 24 years old) whether individuals or families (4 families and 4 singles).
- Once a family exceeds 30% of AMI, they are no longer eligible for RRH.
- CoC expressed interest and support to apply for this grant
- Application due June, and funding will be available October 1.

### **HUD's CoC Competition – Status of 2015 NOFA Award**

Sara Black shared that the application for the annual CoC completion was submitted in November. Highlights of the application process are:

- HUD awarded Montgomery County \$8.1 million.
- The Montgomery County Continuum of Care (CoC) HUD's collaborative application ranked 176.75 in HUD's scoring system (Highest Score possible 203; CoC Scored: Highest Score 188; Lowest Score 49.5; Median Score 149.75).
- HUD determines funding based on a ranking system (Tier I and Tier II).
- HUD awarded new funding that will assist about 28 residents experiencing homelessness.
- HUD utilized a new, more competitive award process which resulted in Transitional Housing projects to fare poorly nationally.
  - In 2015 HUD awarded \$170 million for Transitional Housings compared to the \$325 million awarded in 2014.
  - Part of the rationale for not funding Transitional Housing (Tier II) is that research shows that the transitional housing projects are resource intensive without strong outcomes.
  - HUD feels that Transitional Housing is productive when used for youth, people in recovery and people fleeing domestic violence.
- The 2016 Competition is approaching and the Department will convene an allocation committee to prepare for our next collaborative application.
- Wells Robertson and NCCF Family Stabilization programs were not renewed.
- HUD encouraging CoC's to form relationships with public housing authorities. Many continuums lost points because of their relationship with the Housing Authorities. The most points went to those PHAs that prioritized homeless and could demonstrate via data this in the percentage of those who were housed.
- HUD has said they will provide more guidance and support on this in the near future.

- HUD stated that they would directly communicate with the projects that were not funded in Tier II with information on how to appeal and the reason the project was not funded. HUD has issued guidance to the field offices on options given that this may result in a "rug pulled out" sudden change. There are two clear criteria for appeal – not considered in CoC application which was not the case for our Projects. The other one was if HUD said that something wasn't happening that was or vice versa.

### **FY17 County Budget**

Sara Black shared that this isn't out as we thought it was going to be – more to come.

### **Outreach List**

- Nili Soni and Chapman Todd shared that the HPC pulls data from Project Entry on Clients who have a VI-SPDAT. There is a need to include those who either are not currently engaged with and E/E or who have an E/E but will not take the VI-SPDAT.
- The outreach list is to make sure we are not missing anyone who is difficult to engage.
- Thus far we have identified ~58 such persons. This number will likely increase then decrease as we engage and work with them.
- If there is anyone that a provider thinks should be on the list and is not, please contact us with that information.
- The result of this is that the Street Outreach projects are working together more closely with an increase in collaboration and resource sharing.

### **Documenting Chronic Homelessness** (*distributed document: three forms*)

Nili Soni, Kim Ball, Stacey Matthews distributed the following forms to be used to document chronic status;

1. Chronic Qualification Status
2. Disability Documentation Form
3. Chronic Self Statement Form
4. Third Party Verification Form

These forms were approved and adopted by the CoC.

**Other Business:** No other business presented.

### **Next Meeting:**

There will be no June meeting due to the Interagency Commission on Homelessness. It was noted that if the NoFA comes out, there may be a need to meet.

Date: Wednesday, June 15th

Time: 3:30-5:00pm

Location: Rockville Memorial Library-21 Maryland Avenue, 1st Floor Conference Room, Rockville