



## INTERAGENCY COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS

### CONTINUUM OF CARE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

#### Meeting Summary Notes

Wednesday, January 28, 2015

Attendees	Agency
Ball, Kim	DHHS/Special Needs Housing
Barnum, Ken	Veterans Administration Medical Center
Bird, Diana	Housing Opportunities Commission
Black, Sara	DHHS/Special Needs Housing
Blasco, Anna	National Alliance to End Homelessness
Dorsey, Bob	Montgomery Avenue Women's Center
Fuje, Ferework	Catholic Charities
Fox Morrill, Priscilla	Interfaith Works
Frazier-Bey, Jimmy	City of Gaithersburg
Frederick, Denise	Stepping Stone Shelter
Gandell, Miriam	Dwelling Place
Horton-Newell, Amy	American Bar Association
Huggins, Gloria	DHHS/Special Needs Housing
Jacobs-Odin, Sebilla	National Center for Children and Families
Khan, Nadim	DHHS/Special Needs Housing
Kirk, Susan	Bethesda Cares
Korona, Luann	Department of Housing and Community Affairs
Pope, Kamika	Community Ministries of Rockville
Sinclair-Smith, Susie	MC Coalition for the Homeless
Soni, Nili	DHHS/Special Needs Housing
Swartz, Kristy	People Encouraging People
Williams, Edith	Helping Hands Shelter

#### **Continuum of Care Governance Charter – Draft Discussion and Approval**

The conference call meeting on Monday, January 26 clarified that HUD requires the local Continuum of Cares (CoC) to have written governance charter or by-laws. The Interagency Commission on Homeless serves as the advisory body. The CoC Operations Committee's purpose is to oversee the day-to-day work of Continuum of Care Programs that promotes community-wide commitment to end homelessness and rehouse homeless individuals and families. The Governance Charter was reviewed and slight changes in text were made. The Governance Charter was adopted by the CoC Operations Committee unanimously. The Charter will be reviewed annually.

#### **The Strategic Plan – 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness**

The 10-Year Plan was distributed to the ICH at the orientation meeting on December 17. The document was formerly adopted by the CoC Leadership Group (now known as the CoC Operations Committee) and is approved and final. County Councilmembers are currently reviewing the document to give suggestions on implementation and prioritizing.

#### **Interagency Commission on Homelessness Committees Structure and Membership**

The ICH currently has four Committees:

- **Operations Committee** (formerly the CoC Leadership Group). This Committee will continue to meet on a monthly basis and will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the CoC.
- **Strategic Planning Committee:** Develop, monitor and update the CoC's Strategic Plan to end homelessness.

- **Performance Review Committee:** Review and monitor aggregate CoC-wide performance for all CoC programs
- **Education and Outreach Committee:** Provide education and outreach to the community on homeless issues.
- Operations Committee:  
Current memberships please see **Attachment 1**.  
The question was asked, “Who should have representation on the Operations Committee?” It was suggested that any homeless service provider agency that is funded by Montgomery County should have representation on the Operations Committee. There are 70 contracts with provider agencies (many agencies have multiple contracts).

➔ Discussion Tabled: Discussion will continue after reviewing a list of homeless provider agencies funded by the HEARTH Act and by Montgomery County.

- Strategic Planning Committee:  
Current Members:

<b>Sara Black, Vice Chair</b>	Priscilla Fox-Morrill	Denise Fredericks
Nadim Khan	Susan Kirk	Luann Korona
<b>Susie Sinclair-Smith, Chair</b>	Nili Soni	Fred Swan

The Montgomery County CoC Strategic plan (a/k/a the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness) was finalized October 2014. The Committee is beginning the work of rolling out the implementation of the plan. The Committee will reach out to ICH members to encourage Commissioners to attend the Strategic Planning Committee meetings and to help priorities the work.

- Performance Review Committee:  
Current Members:

<b>Kim Ball, Vice Chair</b>	Diana Bird	Anna Blasco
Priscilla Fox-Morrill	<b>Denise Fredericks, Chair</b>	Miriam Gandrell
Jen Schiller	Nili Soni	

The Performance Review Committee has not met for 18 months and is made of HUD recipients but the committee wants to ensure there is a mixture of consumers. HUD dictates application ranking and CoC performance measures as a whole. The challenge is how to align outcomes using HUD framework.

The suggestion was made to hold training on outcomes and annual reporting for homeless providers and develop a process that will increase income and performance. TAC consultants will write standards for CoC service which will include different levels of care and measure compliance. Developing a coordinated assessment tool would be helpful.

- Education and Outreach Committee:  
Current Members:

<b>Jimmy Frazier-Bey, Chair</b>	<b>Leslie George, Vice Chair</b>	Sue Kirk	Nili Soni	Nikki Stanaitis
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Jimmy will convene an Education and Outreach Committee meeting.

Committee Projects:

- The four committees will schedule meetings in the next two weeks to reenergize the committee, to designate membership, meeting times, and finalize selection of chair and vice chair.
- Develop a membership application and present the application to ICH for approval and encourage Commissioners to join committees.
- Pull together policy and written standards which will help develop performance measures.

**Point in time Survey:**

The Point in Time Survey is scheduled tomorrow morning, Thursday, January 29 at 4 a.m. Volunteer trainings were done on Wednesday, January 21 and Sunday, January 25 and teams are formed to start counting and surveying homeless residents.

**Zero2016 Project:**

Once we get the numbers from the PIT, the Zero2016 Project will begin.

**Survey to collect data on need for summer shelter program for February 26 County Council Session:**

Data collection data is currently being done by all programs.

**Winter Overflow Plan:**

The Crabbs Branch winter overflow shelter will not open on January 31. Due to construction delays, the building will not be ready for occupancy until early Spring. The building will not be used for shelter until November 2015.

**Program Updates:**

Issues with Motel Census: There are currently over 70 families in motels. The program is running out of money and we are attempting to limit family motel capacity to 60. Intensive teaming meetings are being held with families to work to find housing options and move them out of the motels. The process has been successful in finding several alternative placements for homeless families. The Family Teaming meetings help residents to learn and explore the whole system including the 200 units of permanent supportive housing.

Most of the homeless families are not residents who have lost their lease in the County. Sixty-five percent of the families in motels are residents who have been put out by family or friends. Susie Sinclair-Smith reported that there is a 35% rise in homeless mothers with children and the Coalition has a 26% increase of young residents 18-24 from last year.

The question was asked about diversion and rapid rehousing of residents. The program does attempt to divert residents but these residents have exhausted their housing alternatives with families and friends. The residents in the motels do not have sufficient income for rapid rehousing. Due to the high cost of living in Montgomery County and many of the homeless residents lack of job skills obtaining and retaining housing is difficult. Added to this is the fact that the 60 rapid rehousing rental subsidies are full.

The discussion highlighted the fact that singles, veterans and the chronically homeless are not the only ones needing funding, services and programs. Family Providers Meetings are needed to explore the needs of homeless families and single mothers with children. The suggestion was made to look at motels being used to match young mothers with roommates and housemates.

100,000 Homes: Pricilla Fox-Morrill reported that 13 persons have been identified and housed through the 100,000 Homes campaign. The 14<sup>th</sup> persons will move in to permanent housing on February 4. Susie reported that 120 people have been housed by the campaign since the program began.

Kristy Swartz reported that People Encouraging People will move into the Dorothy Day space and their facility will include showers for the unsheltered population.

Pricilla Fox-Morrill reported that the Progress Place building project is coming along well and will be completed by January 2017.

Susie Sinclair-Smith announced that the Montgomery County Coalition of the Homeless Home Conference is scheduled for April.

**Next meeting** will be Wednesday, February 25 at 2:30p at Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Avenue, Lobby Auditorium, Rockville, Maryland.