Regional Summit on Homelessness Overview

Presentation to the Interagency Commission on Homelessness

Wednesday, March 18, 2015
Regional Summit on Homelessness

Date Held: Tuesday, March 17, 2015
Location: Progress Place, 8210 Dixon Avenue, Silver Spring
Time: 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

Principals:
- The Honorable Rushern L. Baker III, County Executive, Prince George’s County, Maryland
- The Honorable Muriel E. Bowser, Mayor, District of Columbia
- The Honorable Isaiah (Ike) Leggett, County Executive, Montgomery County, Maryland
Homelessness is largely about

- the lack of access to affordable housing,
- a trained workforce with jobs that pay a living wage, and
- sustainable support networks.

We need to eliminate barriers that restrict people's access to opportunities and foster access to benefits and/or supports needed to make their mobile situation(s) work.

In addition, we need to provide a comprehensive safety network for those experiencing behavioral health challenges and for whom mainstream interventions are not effective.
Purpose / Overview

- Why Us?
  - Invisible borders
  - Shared Goals
  - Political Will

- Why Now?
  - Rising housing costs: The DC Metro region is one of the least affordable in the Country
  - Our residents are recovering from a long recession and many households have exhausted their resources and support networks, leaving them financially, emotionally and socially less resilient than ever before.
  - Opportunity to leverage and target resources around common issues facing all three jurisdictions
  - Heightened federal commitment and focus supporting this work
  - Collaborative local leadership including the chief executives and senior county staff
We cannot end homelessness without attacking its root causes and this summit paves the way for us to:

- collaborate regionally in four strategic areas, each offering opportunities
- for sharing of data and best practices,
- regional planning and development,
- collaborative client focused system of services and joint funding and fundraising.

We are committed to solving homelessness for every person and are laying the foundation to do that work.

**Four Cornerstones:**

1. Affordable Housing
2. Workforce Development (Livable Wage Jobs)
3. Economic Development
4. Supportive Services (both service coordination and benefit access include specialized chronic homeless and behavioral health responses)
A Regional Coordinating Council on Homelessness with Executive level membership from each of the three jurisdictions has been established and charged with the development and implementation of an actionable plan to work towards permanently ending homelessness in the Washington Metropolitan Area.
Continuum of Care Committee Reports

Presentation to the Interagency Commission on Homelessness

Wednesday, March 18, 2015
Continuum of Care (CoC) Organizational Chart

- Interagency Commission on Homelessness (CoC Board)
- Operations Committee
  - Performance Review Committee
  - Education & Outreach Committee
  - Strategic Planning Committee
  - Allocation Workgroup
  - Family Providers Workgroup
  - Adult Providers Workgroup
Community Outreach and Education Committee
Community Outreach and Education Committee

Jimmy Frazier-Bey  
Chair

Leslie George  
Co-Chair

Objective: Provide education and outreach to the community on homeless issues.

Responsibilities

- Provide education to the Community on homeless issues
- Providing research and national best practices to other committees and workgroups
- Publishing and disseminating an open invitation annually for persons within the Montgomery County CoC to join the Committee
- Identifying and addressing membership of key providers and vital stakeholders
  - Committee has identified additional stakeholders to invite

Next meeting: Monday, April 6 at 2:00-3:30p  
Rockville Memorial Library, 3rd Floor
Community Outreach and Education Committee

Accomplishments

1. Drafting the Homeless Services Guide Brochure.
2. A definition of a Veteran for use in the Zero:2016 Campaign to End Veteran Homelessness Eligibility for services depends on many factors and this definition is for the sole purpose of counting Vets that are housed within our system for the Zero:2016 campaign.

“A Veteran is any individual experiencing homelessness who has served on active duty in the United States Military, regardless of discharge status. The active duty requirement is not time restricted, which means that it applies to any length of service beyond training/boot camp.”
1. How are we defining someone homelessness in our community? Whom are we serving? What are the criteria to be served?

2. What it means to End Homelessness? Continue to develop our plan of action and coordinating with other committees.

3. How can we educate our community on the issues of homelessness and engage them in problem solving strategies?

4. Working on educating consumers on resources available to prevent homelessness; working to keep individuals and families housed before they become homeless.
Performance Review Committee
Objective: Review and monitor aggregate Continuum of Care-wide performance for all the Continuum of Care programs.

Responsibilities and upcoming projects

Overview of HUD Performance Measures by monitoring:

- Program Bed Utilizations
- Exiting Clients to Permanent Housing from Emergency and Transitional Shelters
- Increasing income via employment
- Increasing income via entitlement
- Obtain Non-cash benefits

Subcommittee will focus on:

- Development of a Logic Model
- Review each program outcomes and identify any program vulnerabilities and/or barriers for improvement
- Review Shortfalls within the service system

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 7 at 3:30-5:00p-Rockville Memorial Library, 3rd Floor
Performance Review Committee

Accomplishments

- Held two meetings with representation from Outreach, Emergency, Transitional and Permanent Supportive Housing Providers;

- Discussed gaps in representation including a former homelessness person and auxiliary service providers - recruitment for these underway;

- Aggregate data around the HUD Performance Measures should be appropriate to program type; ES would have different measurements than Permanent Supportive Housing.

- Prioritize data points that impact client success.

- Reviews will include both extracting data from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and program analysis (an understanding of service delivery).
Future Projects

- Solidify project type performance measurements and baselines
- Set reasonable targets for data quality maintenance
- Determine frequency and methodology of measurement (quarterly, semi-annually or annually, as part of contract monitoring or independently by the committee, etc…)
- Educate Providers on measurements and expectation
- Determine service-gaps and success models
Strategic Planning Committee
Objective: Develop, monitor and update the Continuum of Care’s Strategic Plan to end homelessness.

Responsibilities and upcoming projects

- Implement, monitor and update the Montgomery County Strategic Plan to end homelessness.
  - Strategic Plans are expressions of dreams and visions of successful results
  - Strategic Plans function as the blueprint of “how” to build something

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 15 at 2:30-4:30p
Rockville Memorial Library, 3rd Floor
Strategic Planning Committee

Montgomery County 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness

Populations Goals Overview

- Prevent and End Homelessness among Veterans by 2015

- Finish the job of ending chronic homelessness by 2017

- Prevent and end homelessness for families, youth and children in five years by 2020

- Set a path for ending all types of homeless
# Strategic Planning Committee

## Two Tracks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. How will Strategic Planning Committee will operate and connect to Commission and Committees:</th>
<th>2. Develop Implementation ACTION PLAN with immediate and longer-term priorities:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>o Submit annual report to Commission each November that will include:</td>
<td>o Conduct survey to identify first-year ACTION PLAN priorities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Annual Gaps Analysis based upon Point In Time Census Data</td>
<td>o For each priority, identify needed:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ First-year Progress on Strategic Plan Implementation</td>
<td>✓ Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Action Plan for Next Year</td>
<td>✓ Collaboration between government agencies, non-profit providers and other partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Identify Commission Members to Serve on SPC, Assign SPC Liaison to each Committee, Request Data/Information from other Committees to Advance Plan’s Implementation</td>
<td>✓ Action steps to achieve goal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Strategic Planning Committee

Accomplishments

- Established Strategic Planning Committee’s:
  - role,
  - accountability framework, and
  - membership needs

- Compiled information to identify first-year priorities of ACTION PLAN to implement Montgomery County’s Strategic Plan to End Homelessness

Future Projects

- Identify first-year priorities and the resources and collaborations needed for each.

- Develop draft year-one Action Plan

- Expand Strategic Planning Commission membership to include key stakeholders from the Commission, and develop subcommittees / workgroups for key priorities with broader membership
Operations Committee
Continuum of Care (CoC) Organizational Chart

Interagency Commission on Homelessness (CoC Board)

- Allocation Workgroup
- Performance Review Committee
- Education & Outreach Committee
- Functional Providers Workgroup
- Adult Providers Workgroup

Operations Committee

Strategic Planning Committee
# Operations Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nadim Khan</th>
<th>Priscilla Fox Morrill</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Vice Chair</td>
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</table>

- **Objective:** Responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Continuum of Care.

## Responsibilities and upcoming projects

- Coordinate the system of care
- Develop and recommend policies and procedures for approval by Commission
- Plan CoC activities in coordination with appropriate groups including all other committees, subcommittees and work groups
- Review summary reports from all activities of committees, subcommittees, and work groups;

- Approve all membership applications,
- Responsible for holding meetings of the full CoC membership, with published agendas, at least semi-annually
- Coordination of the full CoC to adopt, follow, and update annually a governance charter in consultation with the collaborative applicant and HMIS lead

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**Next meeting:** Wednesday, April 22, 3:30-5:00p, Rockville Memorial Library, 1st Fl. Conference Room
Accomplishments

- We have received Approval of the CoC Governance Charter from the CoC Community Wide Meeting held on February 25, 2015.

- Point-in-Time Survey was conducted on January 28, 2015.
  - Numbers are being tabulated and report is being developed.
  - COG Board will receive the final report on May 13, 2015.

- We are in the process of developing Written Standards for CoC Operations
The CoC (and ESG) Program interim rules requires a CoC to consult to develop written standards for administering assistance, in order to:

- Establish community-wide expectations on the operations of projects within the community
- Ensure the system is transparent to users and operators
- Establish a minimum set of standards and expectations in terms of the quality expected of projects
- Make the local priorities transparent to recipients and sub-recipients of funds
- Create consistency and coordination between recipients’ and sub-recipients’ projects
The written standards must include policies and procedures for:

- Evaluating **eligibility** for assistance
- Determining and prioritizing which eligible individuals and families will receive "**what assistance**" in "**what order**"
- The projected target date for completion and approval of written standard by May, 2015

Examples are:

- We must be specific and use detailed language
- Address any unique eligibility requirements for assistance (e.g., disability or subpopulation)
- Reflect the homeless population and subpopulations within the CoC (i.e. veterans)
- Reflect the housing and service resources available within the CoC (i.e. Permanent Supportive Housing)
- Reflect local and national targeting priorities (local and USICH/HUD populations)
Family Homelessness in Montgomery County

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Wednesday, March 18, 2015
Family homelessness is caused by the combined effects of:

- lack of affordable housing,
- unemployment,
- limited access to resources and supports,
- health and mental health challenges,
- the challenges of raising children as a single parent, and
- experiences of violence.

As the gap between housing costs and income continues to widen, more and more families are at risk of homelessness.

Even a seemingly minor event can trigger a catastrophic outcome and catapult a family onto the streets.
Families experiencing homelessness are under considerable stress.

Homelessness is a devastating experience that significantly impacts the health and wellbeing of adults and children.

Often, members of homeless families have experienced trauma.

These experiences affect how children and adults think, feel, behave, relate, and cope.
## Family Shelter Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Shelters</th>
<th>Year Round Capacity</th>
<th>Total Beds Available</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greentree Shelter</td>
<td>13 Families</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helping Hands</td>
<td>8 Families</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stepping Stones</td>
<td>6 Families</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Year Rounds Capacity</strong></td>
<td><strong>27 Families</strong></td>
<td><strong>94 Beds</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motels</td>
<td>60 Households</td>
<td>150 Beds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Montgomery County continues to provide emergency shelter to households with children through three family shelters with the capacity to serve 27 families.

An additional 15 families can be served through the County’s domestic violence shelter.

Local motels are utilized as Family Shelter overflow and have the capacity to house 60 additional families.

- During the month of January 2015, 88 households were served in motel overflow shelters as compared to January 2014, there were only 55 households served (60% increase).
- The average length of stay in family shelters was 86 days during January 2015 as compared to 72 days in January 2014.
- The family shelter waitlist remained high at 45 during January. Families continued to have multiple housing barriers, including previous evictions, poor credit, large utility debt, medical complications, and no to low income.

- Number of young adults households (18-24 year old) served has increased during recent years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>FY13</th>
<th>FY14</th>
<th>FY15 as of January</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>72</td>
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</table>
FY14—Federal Emergency Solution Grant provided Rapid Re-Housing for 15 family households.

FY14—Housing Initiative Program served 5 additional families.

FY15—County Rapid Re-Housing Program served an additional 20 family households.

FY15—Rapid Re-Housing Request for Proposal was out and proposals are being reviewed to serve an additional 20 Young Adults households.

Special Needs Housing initiated Intensive Team Meetings with participation from Child Welfare Services, Behavioral Health, and other vendors to staff families in hotel over 90 days. There were 8 meetings in January.