

Interagency Commission on Homelessness Presentation

Montgomery County, Maryland
Department of Health and Human Services

Presentation by
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Wednesday, December 17, 2014



Interagency Commission on Homelessness

- **The Interagency Commission on Homelessness (ICH) is an advisory body to act on behalf of county residents experiencing homelessness.**
- **ICH provides advice, counsel and recommendations to the Government of Montgomery County Maryland in general, the County Executive and the County Council in particular.**
- **It's responsibilities involve those matters influencing provisions of services, County government policies and procedures, development and implementation of State and Federal laws, and any other issue affecting the lives, rights and welfare of the people it represents.**
- **The ICH is composed of 25 members who are appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council.**

Interagency Commission on Homelessness CoC Board of Governance

Established. The Executive must appoint, subject to confirmation by the Council, an Interagency Commission on Homelessness.

■ **Duties.** The Commission will:

- **Serve as the Governing Board for the Montgomery County Continuum of Care (CoC) as required by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**
- **Promote community-wide goals to end homelessness and develop strategic plans to prevent and reduce homelessness and minimize the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless families and individuals**
- **Review and monitor programs that are components of the CoC,**
 - **100,000 Homes Campaign (Zero:2016 Campaign), and**
 - **Housing First Initiative including, but not limited to,**
 - **permanent housing,**
 - **transitional housing,**
 - **supportive services,**
 - **homeless management information system, and**
 - **homelessness prevention**

Interagency Commission on Homelessness CoC Board of Governance

Established. The Executive must appoint, subject to confirmation by the Council, an Interagency Commission on Homelessness.

■ **Duties.** The Commission will:

- **Make recommendations to the County Executive and County Council for improvements to the CoC including process changes to reduce barriers to housing and minimize the time needed to move someone from homelessness to housing**
- **Educate the community about homelessness, best practices to reduce homelessness, the resources needed to reduce homelessness, and long-term savings that are achieved by providing permanent, stable housing**
- **Recommend and promote partnerships with private organizations, businesses, corporations, philanthropic organizations and foundations, and municipal, state, and federal government agencies to improve the County's ability to prevent and reduce homelessness**

Montgomery County Continuum of Care

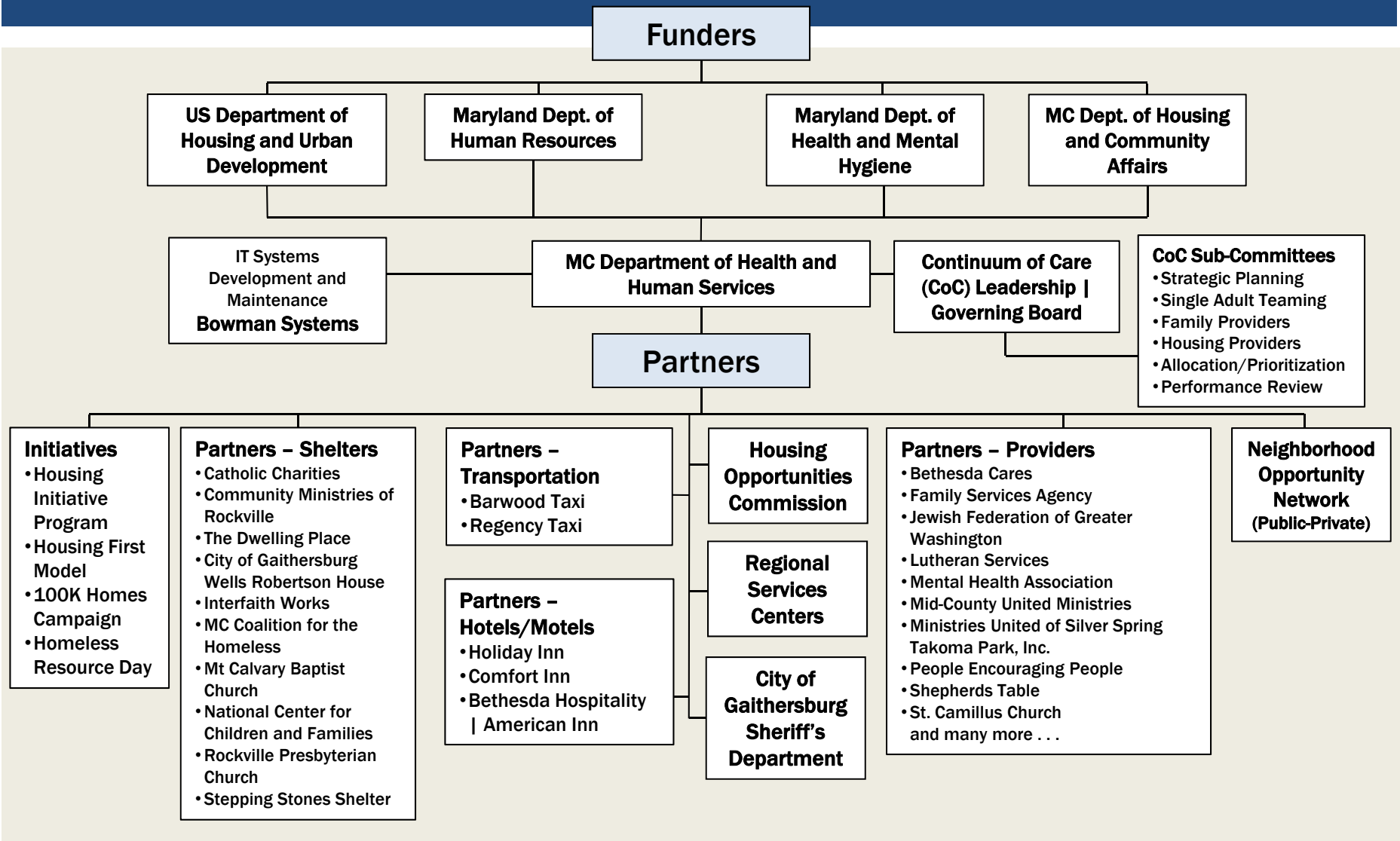
The Montgomery County Continuum of Care (CoC) is our local homeless program planning network. It is a public-private partnership that includes County and other government agencies, non-profit service providers, landlords and others who have a role in the County's housing market.

- **US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has been encouraging communities to address the problems of housing and homelessness in a coordinated, comprehensive and strategic fashion**
- **Montgomery CoC annually receives approximately \$7.5 million in HUD funding**
- **The purpose of the CoC is to encourage and support local organizations in coordinating their efforts to address housing and homeless issues and reduce homelessness**
- **As the lead agency, the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) manages the homeless intake and assessment process, and the County-wide Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)**

Montgomery County Continuum of Care

- **The County continues to emphasize the creation of more permanent supportive housing while keeping the homeless safe during the winter season**
- **Its full continuum of services includes housing programs and services to people who are homeless, including outreach services, emergency shelter services, and transitional and permanent supportive housing programs**
- **Case management is provided at all levels with an emphasis on achieving housing solutions and linking homeless persons with housing, employment, disability entitlements and other services**
- **The CoC also includes a range of homelessness prevention initiatives including emergency financial assistance, case management and shallow rent subsidies and energy assistance designed to prevent the loss of permanent housing**

CoC Framework and Partners



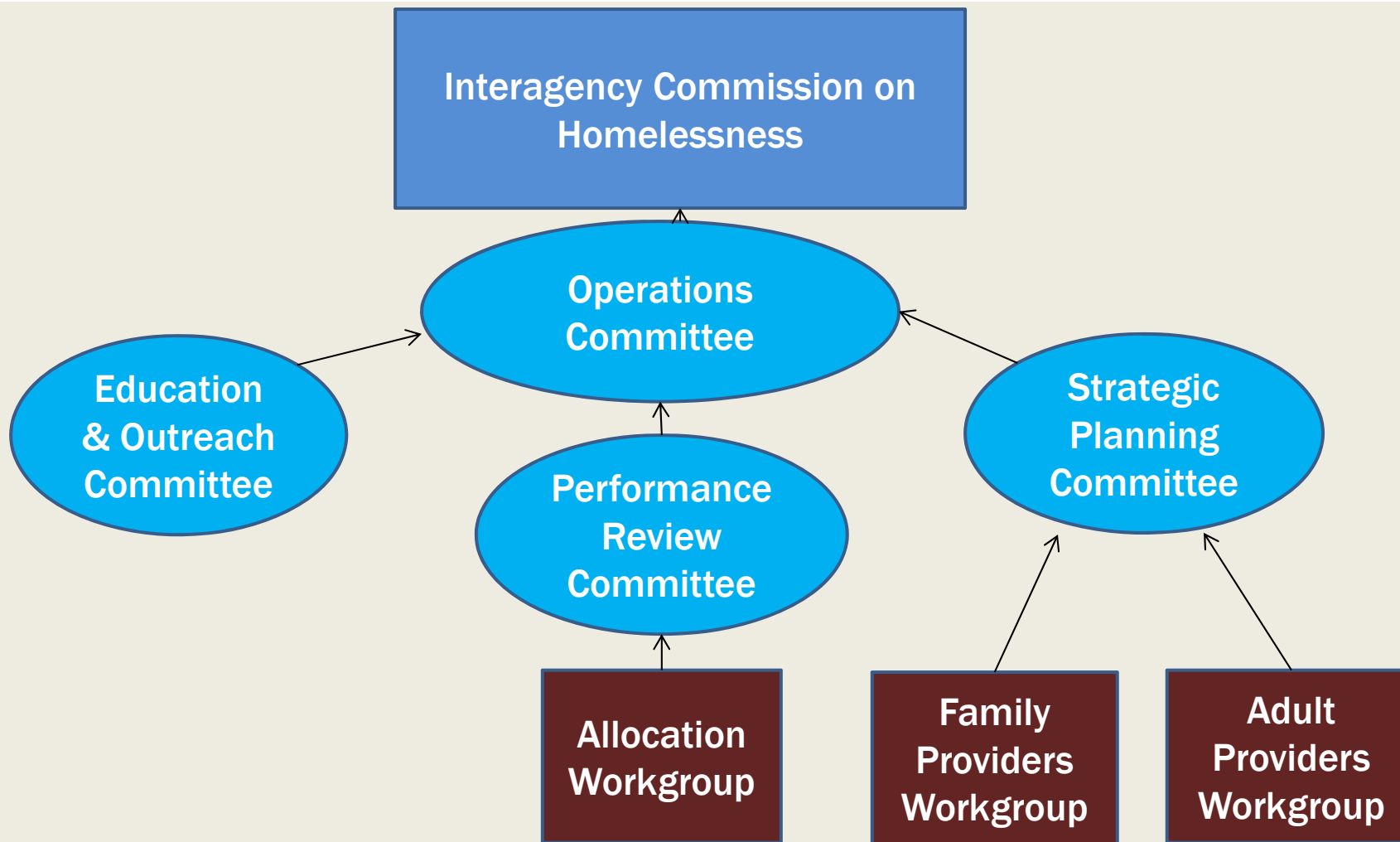
Continuum of Care Responsibilities

- Hold meeting of full membership with agendas at least semi-annually
- Make an invitation for new members to join publically available at least annually
- Adopt and follow a written process to select a board to act on behalf of the CoC
- Appoint additional committees, subcommittees or workgroups
- In consultation with the CoC Collaborative Applicant and HMIS lead develop, follow and update a governance charter annually
- Consult with recipient and sub recipients to establish performance targets appropriate to population and program type
- Monitor recipients and sub recipients performance, evaluate outcomes and take action against poor performers
- Evaluate outcomes of Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and CoC program projects
- Establish either a coordinated assessment or centralized intake system

Continuum of Care Responsibilities

- Establish written standards with CoC program and ESG recipients
- Designate and operate a single Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
- Coordinate and implementation of a housing and service system which includes outreach, assessment, prevention strategies
- Coordinate the Point-in-Time count and annual gap analysis
- Provide information to complete the Consolidated Plan and consult with ESG program to report and evaluate ESG recipients and sub recipients
- Convene regular monthly meeting of sub-committees and workgroups

CoC Organizational Chart



CoC Sub-Committees

A. Operations Committee—Oversee the day-to-day operations of the CoC including:

- Coordinating 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 workgroups;
- 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

CoC Sub-Committees

B. Strategic Planning Committee

- Develop, monitor and update the CoC's Strategic 10-Year Plan to end homelessness
- Develop recommendations for review of implementation goals and achievements
- Coordinate implementation of a housing and service system
- Conduct an annual gaps analysis of homelessness needs and services
- Provide information required to complete the CoC Plan(s)
- Consult with ESG recipient/s on the plan for allocating ESG funds and reporting/evaluating performance of ESG programs

CoC Sub-Committees

C. Performance Review Committee

- Review and monitor performance of all CoC and ESG programs through HMIS data and reports
- Establish performance targets appropriate for population and program type in consultation with recipients & sub-recipients
- Monitor recipients and sub-recipients performance, evaluate outcomes and take actions against poor performers
- Evaluate project outcomes of ESG and CoC programs, and report to HUD

D. Community Outreach and Education Committee

- Provide education to the community on homeless issues;
- Provide research and national best practices to other committees or work groups;
- Publish and disseminate an open invitation annually for persons within the Montgomery County CoC area to join as new CoC members;
- Identify and address membership gaps from key providers and vital stakeholders

Point-In-Time Count

Montgomery County Homeless Count	2012	2013	2014	% Change 2013 to 2014
Total Homeless Persons	982	1,004	891	-11.25%
Individual Adults:				
• Unsheltered	130	143	95	-33.57%
• Emergency Services	328	337	352	4.45%
• Transitional Housing	142	158	156	-1.27%
• Total Individual Adults	600	638	603	-5.49%
Families with Children:				
• Unsheltered	0	0	0	0%
• Emergency Shelters	69	66	48	-27.27%
• Transitional Housing	57	51	43	-15.69%
• Total Families	126	117	91	-22.22%
• Total Persons in Families	381	366	288	-21.31%
FY15 Family Shelter/Hotel Households (7/1/13 - 4/22/14)	415	388	343	-11.6%
Total Persons in Permanent Supportive Housing Programs (PSH):				
• Individual Adults	598	636	646	1.57%
• Families with Children	310	312	324	3.58%
• Total Persons in Families	1,042	1,059	1,125	6.23%
• Total Persons in PSH	1,640	1,695	1,771	4.48%
Total Persons HSS Rapid Re-Housing and NCCF RRH DEM			55	

Member Orientation

1. Orientation Outline, Attachments and Forms

- ICH will meet at least four times each year – (March, June, September and December). ICH has one allowed absence.
- State Open Meetings Act applies
- Written Minutes of all meetings are kept
- At least annually each committee must report to the County Executive and County Council.
- Each member is a voting member. The term of non-ex officio members is three years.
- Representation
- Reasonable Accommodations
- Photo Identification Cards and Parking Permits
- Mileage/Dependent Care Reimbursement
- Staffing

Member Orientation

2. Meeting Schedule, Membership Lists and Acronyms List

- Review Meeting Schedule
- Alphabetical Listing and Member List by Positions
- CoC Membership List
- Frequently Used Acronyms

3. ICH Legislation, Ethics and By-Laws

- County Bill # 34-13
- Appointment Memorandums
- Public Ethics Laws – Conflict of Interest
- ICH By-laws (Are being drafted and will be emailed for your input)

Member Orientation

4. Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness/Reports

- Montgomery County CoC has approved and updated the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness that is aligned with the Federal plan to end homelessness, *Opening Doors*, which was developed by the U.S Interagency Council to End Homelessness. The Plan's overarching goals are as follows:
 - Ending Veterans Homelessness by 2015
 - Ending Chronic Homelessness by 2016
 - Ending Family Homelessness within 5 years
 - Ending all types of Homelessness in 10 years
- Annual Report 2014
- Homeless Resource Day 2014 Report

Member Orientation

5. Information on Montgomery County Government, County Council, Department of Health and Human Services and Special Needs Housing:

- County Council's Responsibilities
- County Council: Contact List
- Montgomery County Government – Organizational Chart
- DHHS Mission, Vision and Organizational Chart
- Special Needs Housing Organizational Chart
- Special Needs Housing Programs and Services Overview

6. For questions and comments, please contact:

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