

Montgomery County Interagency Commission on Homelessness Meeting

Technical Assistance Collaborative
September 16, 2015



Discussion Topics

- Introduction
- HEARTH Act and CoC Program
 - Performance Measurements
 - Coordinated Entry
- Housing Scan
- Q&A from Commission members

Introduction: HEARTH Act/CoC Program

- HEARTH Act amended the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act in 2009
- CoC Program interim rule implements the HEARTH Act
- Establishes regulations for CoC Program including;
 - CoC Governance charter
 - CoC-wide written standards
 - CoC-wide policies and procedures for performance standards
 - CoC-wide policies for coordinated entry system
 - Annual gaps analysis

Performance Measurements: HUD requirements

- Continuums of Care (CoCs) are charged with designing a local “**system**” to assist people experiencing homelessness in their area
- System performance creates **accountability** for how well the **entire CoC** serves people experiencing homelessness

Performance Measurements: Purpose of system

- Ensure common understanding of **system intent and goals**, along with the projects that make up the CoC's system
- Focus on measuring the **cumulative impact** of programs, not just their individual impact
- Help **CoCs gauge their progress** toward preventing and ending homelessness
- Identify areas for **improvement**

System Performance Measurements

- 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

Coordinated Entry System (CES)

- HUD requires that CoCs establish and operated a CES for their entire geographic area
- CES increase the efficiency of local crisis response systems, improve fairness, ease access to resources, and increase the accuracy and effectiveness with which persons are prioritized for community resources

Coordinated Entry System

- HUD published documents outlining the regulatory and policy considerations
 - *Coordinated Entry Policy Brief*
 - *Notice on Prioritizing Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness and other Vulnerable Homeless Persons in Permanent Supportive Housing and Record Keeping Requirements for Documenting Chronic Homeless Status*
 - *Establishing Additional Requirements for a Continuum of Care Centralized or Coordinated Entry System (forthcoming)*

Montgomery County Gaps Analysis

- CoCs are required to conduct an annual gaps analysis of the homeless needs and services available within the geographic area
- States and communities use a housing scan to determine housing gaps
 - Provides an overview of states/communities existing local affordable and deeply affordable housing resources
 - Should include all housing options (local, State, and Federal)

Montgomery County Gaps Analysis

- Discussion of Maryland Housing Scan (copies provided)
- Discussion of Montgomery County specific housing resources from scan (copies provided)

Montgomery County Gaps Analysis

- Discussion of system map
 - Table 1: Current System - HIC & PIT Estimates
 - Table 2: Current System - Estimated Monthly System Turnover

Questions and Discussion

Continuum of Care (CoC) Action Plan Update for Year 1



3. Support rental subsidies targeted to those experiencing or most at risk of homelessness

3.1 Explore new sources of public and private funding, not just subsidies, for all aspects of support necessary for stable, affordable housing

Lead: **Interagency Commission on Homelessness Resource Development Committee**

Team Members: **Ethan Cohen, Toby Halliday, Louise Kauffman, Susan Kirk, Linda McMillan, Bridget Newton, Susie Sinclair-Smith, Clarence Snuggs, Stacy Spann and Brian Tracey (chair)**

Milestones:	Start Date	End Date
<p>1) Identify and map sites – land, buildings and air rights held by both private and public entities – suitable for development as supportive housing. The following questions must be addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What criteria should be used to determine which sites to include? • How will the information be used? What is the audience? • What technology is available to manage the data and create the map? • What organization(s) will be responsible for long-term ownership of the data and the map? 	August 2015	December 2015 (planning) 2Q 2016 and ongoing (implementation)
<p>2) Raise awareness of New Markets tax credits as a funding source. Homeless shelters, health clinics, job training centers, and facilities which provide other services to low- and moderate-income people are qualified uses for this tax credit. New Markets tax credits have not been used in Montgomery County.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify census tracts which qualify for New Markets tax credits • Determine audience which would benefit from knowledge of this federal program • Develop and implement communication plan to reach this target audience 	August 2015	December 2015 and ongoing
<p>3) Explore use of Medicaid savings as a financing source for housing or services. Identify other markets in which this has been implemented.</p>	December 2015	2Q 2016
<p>4) Raise awareness of homelessness in Montgomery County and the work of the Commission with the goal of creating new sources of support and funding. Plan public event targeting community organizations, potential funders, and government officials. All of the non-profit organizations which are part of the Commission would be featured. Event would include a small group reception, a film which addresses the issue of homelessness, and a Q&A session to follow. Site of the event would be the AFI Silver.</p>	August 2015	November 2015
<p>5) Plan convening of funders, a Montgomery County specific event similar to what is planned later in 2015 for the District of Columbia.</p>	1Q 2016 (planning)	3Q 2016 (hold event)



4. Preserve and expand supply of affordable rental homes through federal, state, local efforts

4.1 Identify additional resources to reduce housing development costs in order to facilitate development of rental units affordable to lower income households.

Lead: **Interagency Commission on Homelessness Resource Development Committee**

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Milestones:	Start Date	End Date
1) Research possible savings in health care costs from screening homeless individuals when they enter a shelter, rather than providing emergency care after a medical incident. Identify grant funding to test this premise.	August 2015	1Q 2016
2) Encourage construction and preservation of affordable housing through changes to building codes, permitting processes, and planning and zoning practices.	December 2015	2Q 2016



Strategic Planning Committee (SPC)

Montgomery County 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness

Action Plan – Key Updates

Strategic Plan Committee

- HOC approved limited local preference

Performance review

- Developing performance standards
- Data analytics expertise

Community Engagement/Outreach

- Resources to print/disseminate homeless resource guide
- Communications Expertise



ZERO:2016 UPDATE



Take Down Number

- Our goal is to house 56 Veterans who are Montgomery County residents experiencing homelessness into permanent housing by December 31, 2015.
- This does not mean that there will never be a veteran experiencing homelessness but, rather, that the community has reached sustainable functional zero.
- Functional Zero = Homeless Veteran \leq Veteran Monthly Housing Placement Average



Take Down Number

The goal or “take down number” is based on the following:

1. the current number of homeless Veterans who have been identified in the County’s Homeless Management Information System (HMIS),
2. the 2015 annual Point-in-Time Survey, (24 veterans identified)
3. by the Department of Veterans Affairs staff working at the Veterans One-Stop Center located in the Montgomery County Crisis Center, and
4. by the staff of the regional Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) contractors as being connected to Montgomery County.

In addition to the number of homeless Veterans in the County who have previously been identified through these sources, a projection of the number of Veterans who will become homeless during the course of 2015 has been developed using both national trends as well as past experience specific to Montgomery County.



Current Status of Housing Placement for Homeless Veterans

Target for December 31, 2015	56
Housed as of August 31, 2015	23
Remaining to be Housed	35



Master List

- Using this definition, a master list of all persons identified as Veterans and are currently homeless in Montgomery County has been developed.
- The list is updated regularly – in most cases, daily in order to ensure it has the most up-to-date information on veterans in our community.
- The Master List is not a waiting list; veterans on this list may already be accessing programs, waiting for a housing unit, or may self-resolve their homelessness.
- This list is meant to get the key partners involved in ending veteran homelessness in our community.
- As of September 15, the updated Master List currently includes 21 individuals and 4 families.
- In addition, there are 20 individuals whom we have moved to our inactive list because they have not been in contact with County homeless services for an extended period of time.



Federal Housing Resources

HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program (VASH)

The HUD-VASH, which is a Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) which provides long-term rental assistance vouchers and social services specifically targeted to homeless veterans.

Supportive Service for Veteran Families Program (SSVF)

The SSVF which provides time-limited financial and supportive services to individuals and families who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness to enable them to quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis and/or homelessness.



New Resources

- As part of Montgomery County's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget, an appropriation in the amount of \$500,000 was approved to provide housing and supportive services to homeless Veterans in the County. This will be funding two new programs, a permanent supportive housing program to be operated by the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless (MCCH), and a rapid re-housing program to be operated by Bethesda Cares.
- The Housing Opportunities Commission has committed 10 Housing Subsidy Vouchers to be used by the MCCH program.



New Housing Resources

MCCH's Operation Homecoming (Permanent Supportive Housing Program)

Operation Homecoming is targeted to 20 Veterans, who may or may not have documented disabilities, but have significant behavioral health, medical, or other significant barriers that will require ongoing rental assistance and social services support.

Bethesda Cares' Veterans Rapid Re-Housing Program

Bethesda Cares' program is targeted to 15 Veterans who need assistance in obtaining housing, short or medium term assistance with rental payments, and some time-limited social services support.



Action Steps

Action Steps that are currently in process or have been completed:

- Change Assessment Process - Uniform adoption of the Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization and Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT)* as the referral tool, and use County's assessment as a case management tool- Completed
- Adding the Department of Veterans Affairs to Montgomery County's HMIS.
- MCCH and Bethesda Cares are working with faith community to provide move-in kits and supplies for all Veterans moving into housing.
- Engagement with A Wider Circle and other groups on providing all required furnishings for Veterans moving into housing.
- Call for Action for Landlords and PSH providers to work to provide housing for individuals identified through the updated Housing Prioritization List.

** The VI-SPDAT is a pre-screening, or triage tool that is designed to be used by all providers within a community to quickly assess the health and social needs of homeless persons and match them with the most appropriate support and housing interventions that are available.*



FAMILY ISSUES IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY



Family Shelter Statistics

Family Shelters	Year Round Capacity	Total Beds Available
Greentree Shelter	13 Families	42
Helping Hands	8 Families	23
Stepping Stones	6 Families	21
Total Year Rounds Capacity	27 Families	86 Beds
Motels	30 Households	100 Beds (average)



Family Emergency Shelters

- 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.
- Homeless families who have lost their permanent housing in Montgomery County may be eligible for hotel placement as shelter overflow and have the capacity to house 30 additional 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.

Point-in-Time	FY13	FY14	FY15
Families with Children	117	91	159
FY Family Household Total (unduplicated)	449	404	409
Young Homeless Parents (18–24)	97	87	99



County Services Added to Help Families

- 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.
- FY16—County awarded Rapid Re-Housing contract for to serve an additional 20 Young Adults households to NCCF.
- FY16 County Rapid Re-Housing Program to serve 5 additional family 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 30 days.



HOMELESS RESOURCE DAY



Homeless Resource Day 2015

Homeless Resource Day is a one-day, one-stop opportunity for individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness to access services, resources and information. Montgomery County, Maryland and the City of Gaithersburg partner to sponsor the Homeless Resource Day on:

Fifth Annual Event scheduled:

**Thursday, November 19, 2015
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

The Activity Center at Bohrer Park
506 South Frederick Avenue
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877



Homeless Resource Day

Final Totals	2014	2013	2012	2011
Intake Forms submitted:	462	321	302	274
Guest Exit Surveys submitted:	445	319	300	278
Reporting as Veterans:	29 (7%)	9 (3%)	10 (3%)	4 (1%)
Service Providers Vendors Exhibitors:	74	67	62	57
Donors and Sponsors:	14	38	24	13
Volunteers-Registered	377	324	258	284



Homeless Resource Day-Opportunities

Service Providers needed to help by providing needed services, resources and information

Volunteer Opportunity – Volunteers help as guides to assist guest to navigate the over 60 service providers

Sponsorships or Donor Opportunity –

What your monetary or in-kind donation could provide:

- Medical Care Doctor Visits
- Doctor Visits with a Specialist e.g. Podiatrist
- Prescription medications, flu shots
- Rolling suitcases and backpacks
- Eye Exams and Glasses
- Fee for State Issued Photo Identification Cards
- Personal care items such as toothbrushes, deodorant, etc.
- Socks, diapers and blankets
- Gift cards for basic needs and food at local eateries
- Cold weather gear e.g. winter coats, clothing, boots, hats and gloves



Homeless Resource Day-Contact Information

For more information or to sign up to participate as a Sponsor, Service Provider, Donor or Volunteer

- Please leave your information with Gloria Huggins

- Visit our website at:

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HRD

- Contact us by email at

HSHRD@montgomerycountymd.gov

- By US mail at:

Homeless Resource Day Planning Committee

401 Hungerford Drive, 5th Floor

Rockville, Maryland 20850

Attention: Gloria Huggins

