



INTERAGENCY COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS

**Meeting Summary Notes
Wednesday, June 15, 2016
Approved September 14, 2016**

Members (Present)

Ahluwalia, Uma S.
Black, Sara
Brissett Chapman, Sheryl
Crowel, Raymond
Davis, Betsy
Emerson, Kim
Fox-Morrill, Priscilla
Horton-Newell, Amy
Kaufmann, Louise
Kirk Susan
Leventhal, George
Roynestad, Brian
Seidel, Stan
Sinclair-Smith, Susie
Snuggs, Clarence

Spann, Stacy

Thames, Jeffrey O.

Tracey, Brian

Wilds, Moses

Member (Excused)

Berner, Debra

Members (Absent)

Bohorquez, Marta

Green, Robert

Newton, Bridget

Staff

Ball, Kim

Childress-Harvell, Aneise

Frey, Leslie

Jones, Tanya

Kelly, LaSonya

Matthews, Stacey

McMillan, Linda

Rickford, Eric

Sierra, Sharon

Soni, Nili

Subin, Michael

Guests

Afework, Endrias

Barker, Kacy

Bowman, Betsy

Cooper, Holly

deLeon, Rachelle

Gibbs, Adam

Grinnel, Jennifer

Hager, Christine

Helmuth, Chris

Hong, Christine

Todd, Chapman

Nelson, Sadie

Schuchman, Abe

Spencer, Eugene

Wellington, Janice

Welcome | Introductions | Approval of March 16 meeting notes

Amy Horton-Newell convened the meeting and the March 16 meeting notes were approved as written.

Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Updates

Uma Ahluwalia provided an update on the Special Needs Housing (SNH) budget.

Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Overview
Special Needs Housing Total Budget: \$36,575,083

County General Funds:	19,227,116	52%	State HB669 Grant Funds:	1,773,591	5%
Housing First Initiative:	14,581,867	40%	Other State Grants:	\$992,505	3%

County General Funds Budget by Program Area			Operating Budget by Program	
Program Area	Amount	%	Amount	%
Service Area Administration	\$419,213	2	\$13,310	0
Shelter Services	7,085,648	37	6,622,321	51
Permanent Supportive Housing Services	2,737,160	14	1,633,995	13
Rental and Energy Assistance Program	3,467,663	18	2,683,322	21
Housing Stabilization Services	5,517,434	29	\$1,944,272	15
Total General Funds Budget	\$19,227,119			

Special Needs Housing: Budget Highlights	
Increase to enhance Zero:2016 Veteran's Homelessness	\$150,000
Increase to enhance Zero:2016 Chronically Homeless	\$250,000
Increase to Case Management for Permanent Supportive Housing	\$242,000
Increase to Security for Shelter Services	\$50,000

Point-in-time Count 2016

Kim Ball gave an update on the 2016 PIT count that was conducted in January. The number of persons experiencing homelessness decreased from 1,100 in 2015 to 981 in 2016 (10.82% decrease from 2015), and 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). 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				

Montgomery County achieved The Zero:2016 goal to end Veteran Homelessness by reaching functional zero which means we have enough shelters for our veterans once they come into our system. Currently, there are 6 veterans self-reporting as homeless.

Dr. Sheryl Chapman inquired about the fluctuation in numbers of people fleeing from domestic violence. Kim Ball responded that the reasons are unknown as to why there are times when the Betty Ann Krahnke Center has a low number of clients and at other times they are at full capacity and need to utilize motels as overflow shelter. It is important to note that domestic violence victims typically remain in the homeless system for extended periods of time because after receiving protective orders, many have difficulty securing housing because they are unemployed or lack job skills to obtain employment.

Ms. Sadie Nelson asked what determines homeless persons being put back on the streets and what does the County provide when the weather is rainy and inclement. Kim explained that during the winter months (November to February), the County opens emergency shelter for people experiencing homelessness to avoid hypothermia. Uma added that during extreme weather conditions (freezing cold or heat wave), the County provides emergency shelter for those needing a safe place to shelter.

HUD's Continuum of Care 2015 Competition

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 Housing 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.

RENEWAL FUNDING	
Project Name	Amount
MCCH Cordell Place	\$139,635
MCCH Seneca Heights PLQ	370,078
HOC McKinney XII	551,417
IW Carroll House	240,396
IW Interfaith Homes	294,150
MCCH Home First 1	141,519
MCCH Hope Housing	531,698
MCCH Home First 2	280,535
The Dwelling Place New Opportunities	144,961
MCCH Safe Haven	842,321
HOC McKinney X (Funding for part of project falls into Tier II)	2,918,794
HOC McKinney III	81,048
NCCF Rapid Re-Housing Demonstration	\$184,126

RENEWALS NOT FUNDED	
Project Name	Amount
NCCF Family Stabilization Program	\$652,878
City of Gaithersburg Wells Robertson	\$130,690

NEW FUNDING	
Project Name	Amount
MCCH Keys First – New PSH Project	\$825,587
MD-601 Montgomery County Planning Grant	\$44,250

Update: Strategic Plan Year 2

Strategic Plan Overarching Goals:

1. End Veteran Homelessness in 2015
2. End Chronic Homelessness 2017
3. End Family Homelessness by 2020
4. Set a path for ending all types of homelessness

The Commission discussed the year 2 priorities with the following highlights:

- Increasing the availability of housing continues to be a need.
- The goal is to reduce housing costs; not just providing subsidies, but reducing building costs so that homes are affordable.
- HUD encouraging CoCs to form relationships with public housing authorities.
- Stacy Spann emphasized that Housing Opportunities Commission's Federal-funded voucher program is limited. The practicality of taking vouchers from families that are poor to provide to someone who is homeless is not solving the homeless problem in Montgomery County. The problem requires not a simple voucher solution but a continuum housing solution. The HOC wait list is currently open and has 33,000 applications from all over the country. The Montgomery County HOC is reluctant to establish priorities for serving families needing vouchers except that the families be Montgomery County residents.
- The Strategic Planning Committee is exploring what needs to be done to include the proposed Medicaid-funding services for those experiencing homelessness.
- The Committee will continue to look at the assignment of the priorities and action plans.

ICH Committee	Purpose
Community Outreach and Education:	Provide education and outreach to the community on homeless issues.
Jail and Hospital Committee:	To address medical needs of homeless individuals discharging from hospital and jails and creating a process to coordinate appropriate resources to ensure a safe discharge.
Operations Committee:	Responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Continuum of Care.
Performance Review Committee:	Review and monitor aggregate Continuum of Care-wide performance for all the Continuum of Care programs.
Resource Committee:	Explore sources of funding and create information that is valuable is to generate new ideas. Creating information will involve education and outreach which will overlap the other committees.
Strategic Planning Committee:	Develop, monitor and update the Continuum of Care's Strategic Plan to end homelessness.

Zero 2016: Action Camp

Adam Gibbs of Community Solutions led the discussion and explained that the Action Camp is a day and a half quality improvement workshop to identify and tackle barriers to ending chronic homelessness. The Action Camp is scheduled for July 19 and July 20 (location to be determined). The strategies that were used to end Veteran homelessness will be reviewed and incorporated in the work-plan to end chronic homelessness.

The camp will have the following objectives:

1. Create a work-plan with strategies for improving the Coordinated Entry System and By-Name List Process
2. Create a work-plan for strategies to accelerate housing placement rates of people experiencing chronic homelessness
3. Establish an organizational structure for carrying out the work-plan
4. Agree on tools that will be used to measure progress – how are we tracking data?
5. Re-energize the engagement throughout the community about the effort to end chronic homelessness in Montgomery County

Adam encouraged all to consider attending the Action Camp. It is important to have the right people at the table. Adam also stressed the importance of collecting and tracking data. Community Solutions focuses on the following five key data points:

1. Number of chronically homeless people actively homeless
2. Number of housing placements from month to month
3. Newly identified chronically homeless individuals
4. Chronically homeless individuals who were inactive and have returned to active
5. Number of the people who have been moved to inactive from month to month

➔ **ACTION:** Nili Soni and Chapman Todd will send out a “hold the date” to potential Action Camp participants and asked Commissioners to suggest additional participants.

Zero:2016 Chronic Homeless Initiative

The goal is to house:

- Anyone who is currently chronically homeless by December 31, 2017
- Anyone who becomes chronically homeless in the future within 90 days or their first being identified.

The target:

- The number of individuals that continue to experience chronic homelessness does not exceed 0.1% or the total number of individuals reported in the most recent Point-in-time, or 3 persons—whichever is greater (for Montgomery County, this would be 3).
- The target criteria for families will be released by HUD and the USICH later in year.
- The 2016 PIT survey identified 149 chronically homeless individuals and 2 chronically homeless families

Definition

- For Individuals:
 - Must have a disability, and
 - Live in a place not meant for human habitation, or a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; or
 - Live in an institutional care facility if the individual has been living in the facility for fewer than 90 days and had been living in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter immediately before entering the institutional care facility, and
 - Have been homeless continuously for at least 12 months or on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years where the combined occasions must total at least 12 months. [Each period separating the occasions must include at least 7 nights of living in a situation other than a place not meant for human habitation, in an emergency shelter, or in a safe haven.]
- For Families:
 - Head of household meets the above definition.

Steps and Strategies:

Short-term:

- Working with the By-Name-List, estimate the number of individuals and families who will become chronically homeless during 2016 and 2017
- Utilizing the Housing Prioritization Lists and the By-Name-List Process to give prioritization to current and future chronically homeless residents housing placements
- Identifying the size of the gap between available permanent housing resources and what is needed to reach the goal of ending chronic homelessness by December 31, 2017

Long-Term:

- Explore whether increased prioritization or reallocation of existing housing resources to target chronically homeless individuals and families might expedite reaching goals
- Consider how preferences for existing vouchers or the addition of new project based vouchers through collaboration with HOC could increase the supply of permanent supportive housing (PSH)
- Consider how tenants in existing PSH units who might need decreased social services supports might “move up” into less intensive rent subsidized programs and therefore free up PSH for incoming chronically homeless individuals and families.
- Continue to develop the planning to link Medicaid funding to pay for services in PSH, and tie this effort into the goal to reach functional zero for chronic homelessness by December 31, 2017.

Zero: 2016 Veterans Initiative—Sustaining the Efforts

Montgomery County achieved The Zero:2016 goal to end Veteran Homelessness by reaching functional zero which means we have sufficient shelter for our veterans once they come into our system. Highlights include:

- In 2015, there were 55 veterans that moved to permanent housing
- From January 1-June 1, 2016, there were 18 homeless veterans housed in PSH
- Functional Zero target goal is 6. As of June 1, there are 5 homeless veterans (4 individuals and 1 family).
- The average length of time for individuals on the By-Name-List is 90 days
- Fiscal Year 2017 Budget includes an appropriation of \$150,000 for permanent supportive housing, rapid re-housing, and one-time grants to re-establish housing for Veterans
- The County received 7 new HUD VASH Vouchers for 2016

New Initiatives:

The Medicaid Waiver application has been submitted. The application process is open to the entire State of Maryland. The State funds must be matched by the local jurisdictions (50% match). The waiver slots are not limited as long as there is a 50% match.

Montgomery County applied for **the Maryland State Emergency Solution Grant**. The Grant will provide funds to serve 8 homeless unaccompanied youth households (16 to 24 years old) whether individuals or families.

The Collaboration Council has applied for funding for a drop-in center through the Governor's Office for Children. Locations will be determined upon further discussion and review. If funding is secured, the center will provide a wraparound service delivery for youth.

The State of Maryland is going for **the P3 grant** application (the Public Private Partnership Grant). This grant will serve children from Central American who have become homeless. This will build upon the drop in center. The total budget submission is over \$600,000. Many children in this age group have Medicaid or are eligible for Medicaid.

New Contract on **Youth Workforce** through Workforce Montgomery is another resource that is accessible.

Amy shared that **youth homelessness** is being discussed on a national level through initiatives like "A Way Home America." Amy proposed convening a meeting in September that would include the Executive Director, Darla Bardine, of the National Network for Youth and others to discuss homeless and at risk youth in Montgomery County. The purpose of the meeting will be to develop concepts and proposals as to what we can do to help homeless youths from emergency response to transitional and permanent housing.

Homeless Resource Day is scheduled Thursday, November 17.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, September 14, | 3:30-5:30 p.m. Location Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Avenue, 1st Floor Conference Room.