



## **INTERAGENCY COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS**

### **Meeting Summary Notes Wednesday, March 8, 2017**

#### **Members** (Present or Represented)

Crowel, Raymond  
Emerson, Kim  
Frazier-Bey, Jimmy (for Louise Kauffman)  
Garcia-Villegas, Riccardo (for Senator Zucker)  
Harris, Amanda  
Horton-Newell, Amy  
Kirk Susan  
Leventhal, George  
Malagari, Suzy (for Robert Green)  
Rock, Shane  
Roynestad, Brian  
Schuchman, Abe  
Seidel, Stan  
Shea, Dan (for Jonathan Brice)  
Snuggs, Clarence  
Tracey, Brian  
Wellington, Janice (for Sheryl Chapman)

#### **Members** (Excused)

Ahluwalia, Uma

#### **Members** (Absent)

Davis, Betsy  
Newton, Bridget  
Sinclair-Smith, Susie  
Spann, Stacy  
Thames, Jeffrey  
Wilds, Moses

#### **Guests**

Afework, Endrias  
Bhatia, Richa  
Blackwell, Jennifer  
Bowman, Betsy  
Copeland, Patrice  
Ezrin, Debbie  
Garvey, Charlotte  
Leonard, John  
Mayo, Cliff  
McMillan, Linda  
Schiller, Jen  
Spencer, Eugene  
Swan, Fred  
Thompson, Ace  
Todd, Chapman

#### **Staff**

Ball, Kim  
Black, Sara  
Childress-Harvell, Aneise  
Dickson, Tia  
Huggins, Gloria  
Kelly, LaSonya  
Leslie, George  
Matthews, Stacey  
Rickford, Eric  
Sierra, Sharon  
Soni, Nili

#### **Welcome | Introductions | Approval of December 15, 2016 meeting notes**

The December 15 meeting notes were approved.

#### **Update on Chronic Homelessness Initiative**

Montgomery County's **goal** is to provide permanent housing to all County residents experiencing chronic homelessness by December 31, 2017.

The **metric for measuring** the end to chronic homelessness is different from the Functioning Zero measure for Veterans' homelessness. The number is determined by HUD and for Montgomery County the number is to have no more than 3 individuals or families meeting the definition of chronic homelessness. The Department is compiling a list of people who meet the definition and those at risk of becoming chronically homeless.

The **definition** for chronic homelessness is basically two criteria:

1. A disability diagnosed; and
2. A 12-month length of time experiencing homelessness

In October, an **outreach** Blitz count was conducted to increase the accuracy in the Homeless Managing Information System (HMIS). Another outreach Blitz count is scheduled for May 17 and 18 to increase outreach, to build structure for the new outreach resources and for improve of how areas are separated.

The current count is **274 individuals who are chronically homeless** in Montgomery County. This number is high due to gaps in outreach. The Department and local Housing Providers are increasing their outreach coordination. Tia Dickson is the Department’s new Outreach Coordinator. Bethesda Cares has increased staffing for outreach. Interfaith works has increased staffing for in-reach. In addition, a Hospital Outreach position will soon be filled.

	Target
Confirmed by HMIS Records and/or Staff Reports as of 12/31/2016	160
At-Risk, pending verification of disability + length of time, OR determined likely to meet the definition by 12/31/2017	114
<b>TOTAL INDIVIDUALS</b>	<b>274</b>
<b>TOTAL FAMILIES</b>	<b>0</b>

The “At-Risk” total include both sheltered and unsheltered individuals; the additional outreach staffing resources are focused on engaging with all unsheltered individuals, and with a priority on getting chronic homelessness status documented.

Move up Strategy

Housing stabilizes people and allows them to focus on other goals. The “**Move up**” strategy is a means to allows people to “graduate” when their needs improve or they are receiving needed case management. The goal is to use a tool or measure to help determine when an individual can “move up.” The VISPDAT is good tool at accessing vulnerability but not acuity. There is a need to determine the services people need, how often they need the services and what is the intensity level of the services.

Calgary in Canada uses an acuity scale that determines the frequency and level of service by looking at 4 major dimensions:

1. Economic indications
2. Demographics
3. Social and emotional indicators
4. Extreme vulnerabilities (mental health, substance abuse, medical conditions cognitive deficits)

After conducting assessments, the distribution of acuity for the 852 households in permanent supportive housing was:

Level of Acuity	Percentage	Frequency of Case Management Visits	
Extreme	2%	Daily	Once
High	12%	Weekly	1 to 2 times
Mid	70%	Monthly	2 to 3 times
Low	16%	Monthly	Once

After the following filters were applied to the 852 households, **47 households** were determined able to “graduate” from support services to a subsidy program:

- Filtered out all low-acuity scores
- Filtered out households scoring a 3 or above on any of the extreme vulnerabilities (economic, demographic, social and emotional indicators and extreme vulnerabilities)
- Filtered out households with low scores on money management
- Filtered out scores below 3 on all dimensions except those related solely to income.

Most of the households will be able to keep their housing units unless they are project-based unit. Those in scattered site with voucher will be able to remain in their units. Five individuals can “move

up” from single-site PSH to receive vouchers for housing. Seven of the 47 identified as chronically homeless with a low-acuity score are seniors (of the 274 chronically homeless 40 are seniors).

Strategies to meet the target to house those ready to “move up.”

AGENCY / PROGRAM	ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL UNITS
Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) - Expansion of the McKinney Program	10-15 units
HOC - New vouchers currently under review by the Board	10 units
HOC - Possible dedication of Recordation Tax resources (DCHA review in process)	10-15 units
Housing Unlimited	5-6 units
HHS – Possible dedication of Recordation Tax resources	80 units
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONAL UNITS</b>	<b>115-126</b>

HOC provides subsidies and case management for individuals who are chronically homeless in scattered sites through the private market. HOC also owns properties that can be subsidized to provide housing. Housing Unlimited has units and does not require people to have deep vouchers. DHHS has enhanced services by offering housing to those in the high and mid acuity level with supportive services and HHS has added additional housing in scattered sites.

In December, a gap of 174 individuals were identified as chronically homeless **and in 3 months Montgomery County has housed 126 individuals**. The gap is closing due to the efforts of the community and the additional outreach resources. Housing the last 47-50 households is doable. The “move up” strategy reduces or stops payment for services which allows reinvestment of funds and increases the number of people we serve.

- Nationally, the cost to a community to care for a homeless individual is \$48K
- The cost to house one chronically homeless household is \$23K (\$15K subsidies and \$18K for supportive services).
- For every 3 households, where only the housing subsidies are provided, we can add 1 additional PSH slot.
- For every 3 households, where only services only are provided, we can add 2 additional PSH slots.

The *Inside (Not Outside)* campaign is focused on dedicating the PSH units to singles. This is because currently singles are costing the system the most money. Thirty PSH units are being reallocated from housing families to house singles to reach the goal of ending chronic homelessness in 10 months.

Amanda Harris asked for potential units and suggestions for meeting the goal of housing the 47 mid-acuity households:

- Susie Sinclair-Smith of MCCH offered 5 units
- Shane Rock of Interfaith Works offered 2 units
- George Leventhal shared that the County Council will help with negotiations with DHCA on the Recordation tax
- Clarence Snuggs will help by exploring current construction projects and approaching owners to ask if there are units that could be set aside to house the chronically homeless
- Susan Kirk suggested asking nursing homes or assisted living to house the 7 seniors

- Linda McMillan suggested that when MPDUs come on line, we could identify homeless individuals from a priority list to house in the MPDU before the unit goes out on the market.
- Brian Tracey suggested contacting the private sector and philanthropic organizations to help to meet the goal

At the June ICH meeting, Darlene Mathews will present her findings on the environmental scan gap analysis which looked at our entire system.

### **Communication Committee Update**

The Interagency Commission on Homelessness (ICH) Communication Strategy Committee is made up of communication professionals, clinical and policy members from the DHHS staff and the CoC non-profit members.

### The Goals

- To increase awareness of the County's efforts to end chronic homelessness by December 2017
- To create a communications strategy to facilitate awareness
- To increase community engagement in support of the goal to end chronic homelessness
- To provide the ICH with tools to evaluate and work toward the goal

### Creating the Plan

- Communicate the goal of ending chronic homelessness in the community
- Recognizing the efforts of previous community successes
  - 100,000 Homes
  - Zero: 2016 to end veteran homelessness
- Plan for future campaigns to end homelessness for specific populations
  - Families and children
  - Unaccompanied youth

### Building Awareness and Branding the collaboration

- Created an umbrella communication strategy – “Housing for all = A Stronger Montgomery”
- Montgomery County's brand *Inside (Not Outside)* | Community Solutions' brand *Built for Zero*
- Created a logo for the campaign
- In process of building a website, social media presence and hashtags for messaging
- Engaging community support:
  - Landlords to provide units
  - Community to provide household items

### Increasing Visibility

- ICH members were asked to use every opportunity to promote *Inside (Not Outside)* in their communications to internal and external stakeholders
- Seek County Executive and County Council resolutions in support of *Inside (Not Outside)*
- Create at least one media event this spring with high level elected officials to promote the campaign
- Encourage op-eds by elected officials and other relevant County leaders in support of the campaign

### Next Steps

Advertise the campaign through T-shirts and buttons

Amanda asked that members help get the word out at meetings, community events, etc.

Montgomery County will continue to participate with the National efforts of Community Solutions with the focus and our branding of *Inside (Not Outside)*.

**Announcements:**

Homeless Person Representative Project (HPRP) approached DHHS to expand their services to Montgomery County. HRRP's mission is to end homelessness in Maryland by providing free legal services, including advice, counsel, education, representation and advocacy, for low-income persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The County is excited to partner with HPRP. They are willing to come to us from Baltimore to provide services to our clients.

**Next Meeting**

Wednesday, June 14, 2017, | 3:30-5:30 p.m. Location Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room.