WUDAC Meeting Notes 4.11.2023

I. Call to order 7:02 pm
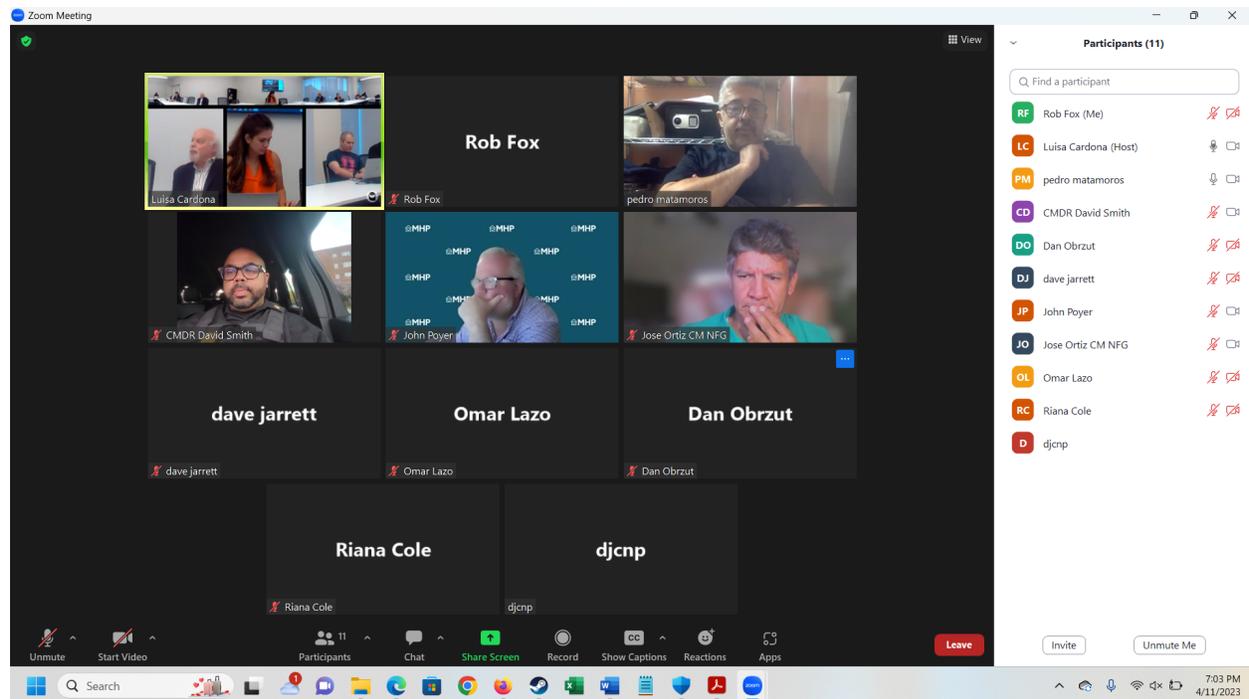
II. Review/Approve minutes (Pending New Members) 7:04 pm
Tabled due to quorum limitations

III. Community Concerns 7:05 pm
Limited to 2 minutes per speaker

Chip Py – Roads in the neighborhoods have recently been replaced, and now there's a piping company cutting them up and putting poor patches down. Dennis Ave for instance is having this.
Jim Epstein – we experienced this before, and the reality is that if the utilities have to do an emergency fix their only responsibility is to patch the street. If it's a planned project, they have to notify everybody, have public hearings, do all those things, and replace the street back curb to curb. Unless you complain to DPS nothing changes, because they have to get on the utilities to get the fixes.
Crystal Ruiz – There's a law in place that once a road has been restored it cannot be touched for three years, WSSC, PEPCO, or WGS replacement as an emergency, they can't touch it. There's a workgroup in place that meets quarterly or the utilities and DPS to determine if any additional work needs to be done. If failures are happening at a higher rate they'll coordinate and find out if each other's work is impacting it and what coordination with DPS and each other is needed.

IV. Reports/Updates 7:11 pm

a. Elected representatives in attendance
Jose Ortiz for Natali Fani Gonzalez – She's unable to attend due to council sessions. The council has approved the money for the A&E center, and now the next hurdle is the operating budget. She's in the

middle of hearings and this week is going to be very difficult. The first piece of the operating budget has been approved.

Chip Py – is this approved meeting for GA avenue going to be up near the library?

Jose – this is for how they'll allocate the money in the CIP and how they'll approve the budget in the operating forum, and once that's done we won't know how much pushback there will be from the community as far as location is concerned. The location appears to be a fixed fact.

Chip Py – the meeting discussing the A&E district before was focused on the site planning, and wasn't determined to be appropriate for the A&E siting concerns. Where are we on scheduling the appropriate meeting on that?

Jose – I don't want to get ahead of myself, but the relocation of the A&E center is going to be very difficult.

Luisa – Natali has moved forward with her part and is waiting for the county executive to schedule the meeting. From my conversations, the site is set. But due to an oversight, it's not in the language of the CIP amendment. They didn't put the site in the language but that's what was approved.

Chip Py – I do not feel that the community was engaged with the community on the site location and am disappointed in that.

Jim Epstein – I understand it that the council member has requested the meeting and that we're now waiting for the chief executive's folks to schedule something and we're dependent on them to do that and for the chief executive to be involved as well.

Chip Py – That's not what I'm concerned about, we were mislead about this meeting happening, the original scheduled meeting wasn't about addressing our concerns, and I'm upset about that.

Jim Epstein – I think it's time for us to continue on in the schedule, particularly since an extended conversation about this wasn't on the agenda.

Chip Py – But I haven't gotten to state my concerns, I keep getting cut off from doing it.

Jim Epstein – You've been able to state your concern multiple times, and it's being recorded by our secretary so it's being captured.

Chip Py – I have not been able to speak to my concerns and I'm being silenced!

Jim Epstein – You are not being silenced, you've been recorded and we're moving on because this entire focus is not on the agenda for discussion, and the agenda rules what we're supposed to focus on and talk about today.

b. Wheaton & Kensington Chamber of Commerce, Ali Oliver-Krueger
The Wheaton and Kensington COC will be meeting next week. There will be a networking happy hour on 4/26 at Babycat from 5:30 to 7:00. It's before the CIP forum.

c. MCCAB, Rob Fox
Luisa

d. Mid-County RSC, Luisa Cardona
MCCAB wanted to table at GreenFest event in order to increase recruitment and attendance and would welcome WUDAC's involvement as well.
Summer concert series including it being powered by Chuck Levin.
CIP forum is 4/26 at the Rec center that starts at 7:00. It is only in person. Luisa has a list of projects she will send out that are part of the CIP moving forward. This year it has also been requested if anyone wants to moderate at the specific topic tables. Transportation, education, recreation, libraries, general government, environment and parks. This is for the next 6 years of time, so medium term projects.
Crystal – OMB likes to do things really far in advance, and so they're asking us what we'd like to do now to help develop next year's CIP budget.

Crystal Ruiz – Update on the fencing – risk management is reviewing and accepted that it's a risk management issue. They've accepted the claim, and now we're waiting for a quote on the manufacture of the fencing, it takes 5-6 months. It has to get fabricated, and I have to wait for the quote for the replacement, and wait for a second quote for the replacement of anything I have in stock. Brand new install from fabricator in Atlanta and a separate contractor for the temporary.

Luisa – farmers market update, the new director of the office of food system, Heather Bruskin, resilience is helping her review what the farmer's markets are out there, including the Milk Lady's proposal. $40k is what's needed to keep a farmer's market operational in a single location. That has to come from a sponsoring body. Giving the space for free isn't adequate. They have to pack up, bring their truck, and there's costs to it that make it a challenge. Luisa will ask if Ms. Bruskin can attend our May meeting.

Pedro – I've been a part of a few markets, in Silver Spring when it was really tiny. Some markets are privately owned and they were nice enough to let us be a part of it. Using their own space so it's free for the vendors, so if we can find a place that the county owns especially if it's seasonal where those $40k would go.

Captain David Smith of the 4th District
Most pressing thing is the homicide that occurred in front of parking garage 45, which is under active investigation. In the early afternoon hours we responded to a stabbing there, where an altercation occurred on a metro bus there. An adult male victim that was stabbed, our officers and fire and rescue rendered aid and he did pass away. I appreciate the response of all of our officers and had great coordination. Those buses have great video surveillance systems, so that'll help us. We're working in partnership with that agency. The parking garage there, there's no other nexus there, so I appreciate all your partnerships whenever we have an incident. Our CBD team has increased patrols in the area. We're hoping our detection work can be brought to a close successfully.
In the aftermath of the incident at Wheaton mall with the serial carjacker, we immediately began to look at how we can create better visibility and presence down there. An overtime detail in Wheaton mall and Wheaton plaza. Having overlapping shifts coming down from other sectors to increase coverage. Also have the police camera we've deployed down there. We're going to be increasing our visibility in the downtown area. For our late night restaurants, we want our restaurants to be able to operate safely. We've had several shootings in the area of the Rumba restaurant. We've really focused on the restaurant area of the Triangle to have a high visibility presence. Had an arrest with the recovery of a firearm by a bike patrol, which allows us to engage better and get different places than we do in a car. We're working hard to recover guns. At the Glenmont shopping center we've been working hard to address issues there, talking with McDonald's risk management there, focused on juvenile delinquent behavior there. One of my passions is taking community engagement to communities where people don't necessarily attend community engagement meetings. We had a really successful Easter egg hunt back on 4/1, we had over 100 kids there. Two things related to automobiles for auto thefts. We're continuing to use things like license plate identification systems to identify stolen vehicles. Over half of those resulting in an arrest were dealing with a juvenile. For thefts of auto parts, that's a big challenge, with a new program of etch and catch, to etch catalytic converters, and capture trackable information. Hopefully that deters a criminal when they see that and they move on.

V. Presentations 8:00 pm

Services to End and Prevent Homelessness (SEPH), Rozina Adhanom

Pathways to Housing, Sheku Kef-Kamara

	Making homelessness RARE	Making homelessness BRIEF	Making homelessness ONE-TIME ONLY
Our Programs	*Preventing homelessness by providing:*	*Rapidly connecting households to permanent housing by providing:*	*Ensuring households get the right intervention at the right time for the right duration through:*
	• Covid Rent Relief Program • Emergency Financial Assistance • Short-term prevention case management • Energy Assistance • Shelter Diversion	• Housing location services • Short-term housing subsidy and intensive case management (Rapid Rehousing) • Permanent shallow rental subsidy • Housing focused emergency shelter and street outreach	• Coordinated entry and housing placement • Housing First permanent supportive housing • Healthcare for the Homeless • Connection to mainstream services (entitlements, behavioral health, childcare subsidies, workforce development, etc.)

Emergency financial assistance meant to prevent people from becoming unhoused

Big, Bold Goals

01	02	03	04	05	06
End homelessness among Veterans by 2015. - Achieved!	End homelessness among chronically homeless individuals by 2019. - Achieved!	End homelessness among families with children by the end of 2020.	End homelessness among youth (ages 16-24) by the end of 2021.	End homelessness among seniors by the end of 2022.	End homelessness among everyone in Montgomery County by the end of 2023.

Goal of fewer individuals coming in than going out, were able to achieve the elimination of chronic homelessness by 2019, shifting our prioritization to those that are vulnerable.

Every December have a big meeting discussing the continuum of care and set 6 month goals for each sub population.

How do we get there?

Working Group	Goal	Baseline (12/15/2022)	1/1/2023	2/1/2023	3/1/2023
Youth	A fully operational Coordinated Entry System for Youth	No data for this measure but CES sub-committee is meeting regularly and this measure is on track.			
Families	An average length of time from ID to Move-in of 45 days	61	102	53	30
Seniors	Decreased the number of seniors entering homelessness by 50% (from 6 to 3)	6	3	8	2
Vulnerable Adults	An average length of time from Assigned to Housed of 45 days	48	No vulnerable adults housed	52	No vulnerable adults housed
Veterans	No more than 7 Veterans experiencing homelessness	10	11	11	11
Other Adult-Only Households	Housed 350 individuals (Cumulative from 12/15/2023. *Exits to housed destinations*)	Starting at 0	82 (+82 since baseline)	191 (+109 since prev month)	282 (+91 since prev month)

Days from coming into the system (ID) to going out the system

Montgomery County- CoC
Singles Inflow and Outflow

Annual Homeless Point-in-Time Count: 10 Year Review

41% Decrease in Homelessness since 2013

36% Reduction in the # of Adult-Only Households

50% Reduction in the # of Households with Children
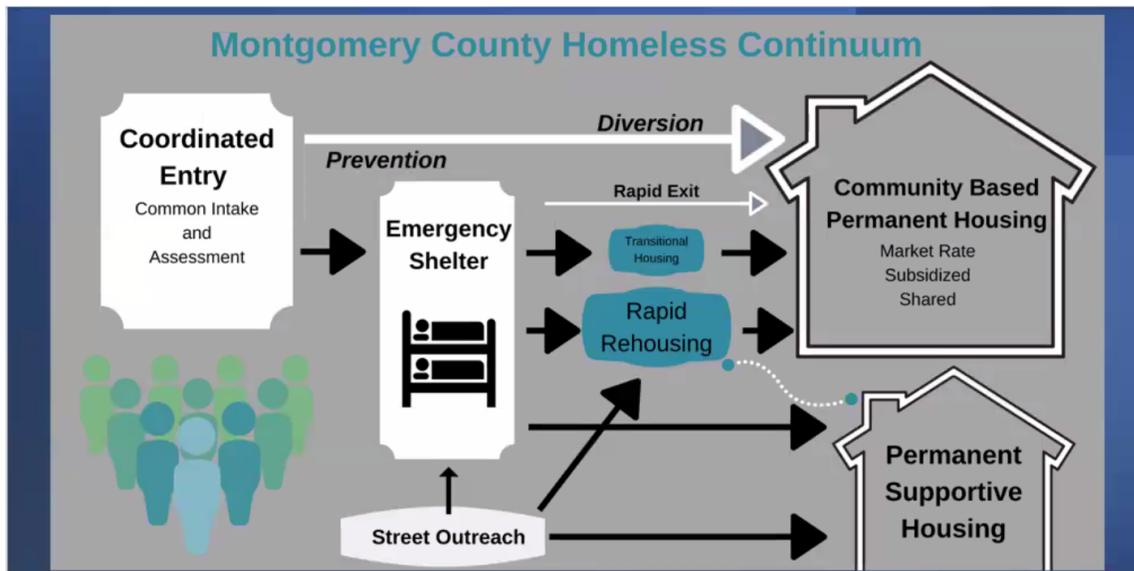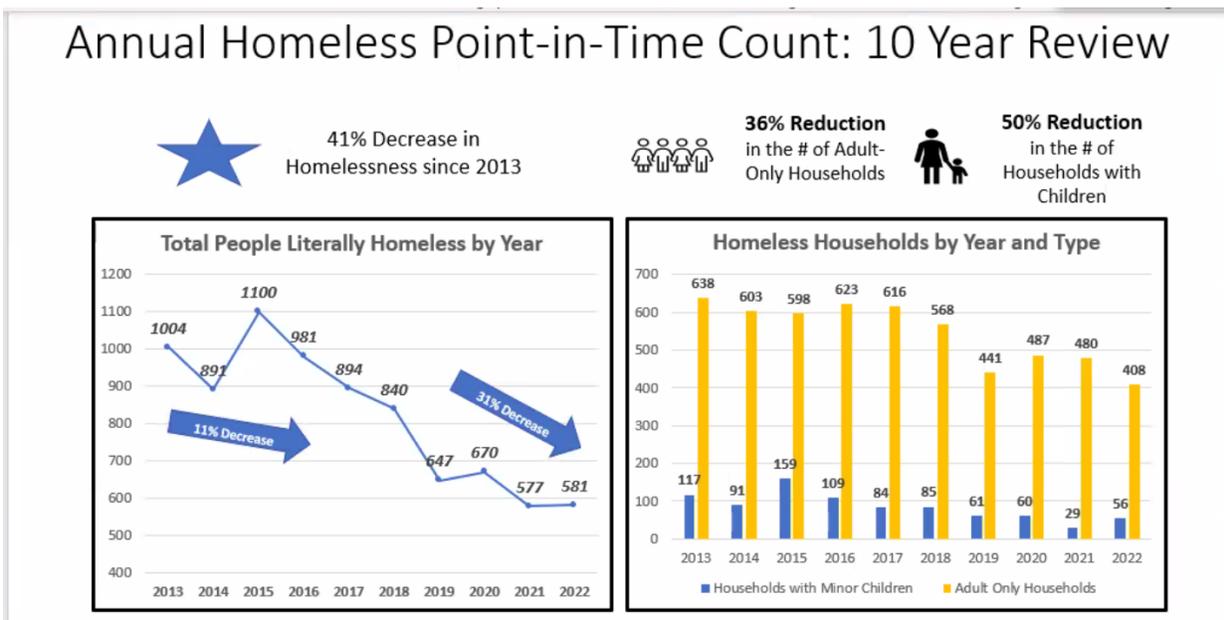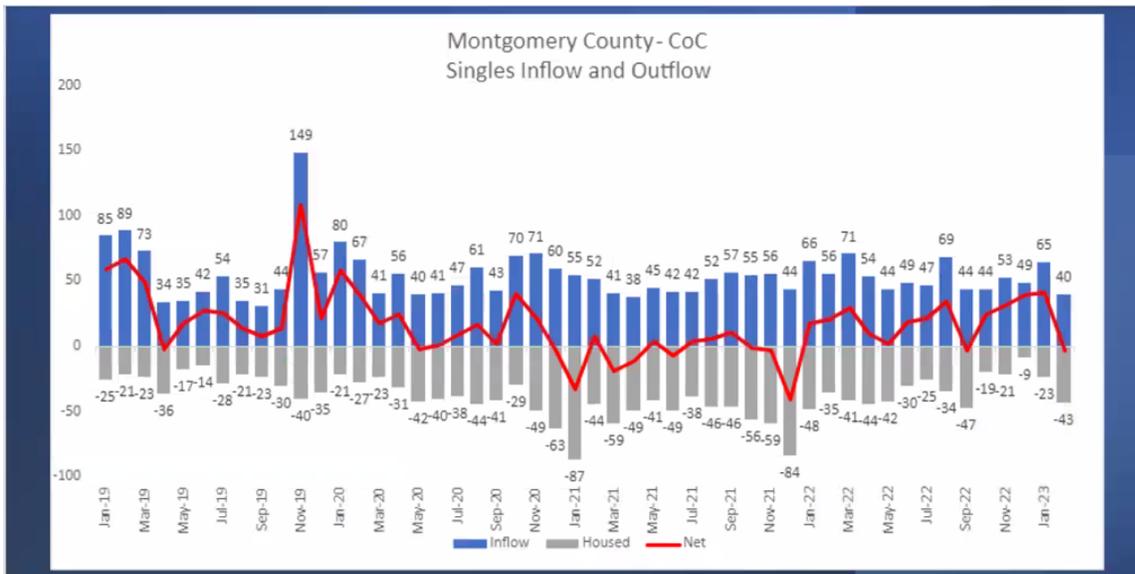
Even with vouchers we're having a hard time getting people into a rental unit for them, we're getting a lot of denials from landlords and property managers for getting clients housed. Capacity for families in hotels is 26

Unsheltered Count

Methodology	Unsheltered Census Count September 2018	PIT Count January 2019	Unsheltered Census Count May 2019	Unsheltered Census Count September 2019	PIT January 2020	Unsheltered Census Count October 2020
Areas covered	Countywide	Countywide	Countywide	Countywide	County wide	Countywide
Number of Days	7 days including nights	1 night	3 nights	3 nights	1 night	3 nights
Time	No specific time of Observations, count included hours between 11pm to 2am or 4am to 7am	11:00pm to 4:00am	11:00pm to 8am	11:00pm to 8am	11:00pm to 4:00am	11:00pm to 8am
Observation Method	On foot and from Vehicle	On foot	On foot and from Vehicle	On foot and from Vehicle	On foot	On foot and from Vehicle
Engagement	Some engagement	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Number of Unsheltered	238	75	137	165	103	115

Emergency Shelters

MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S YEAR-ROUND AND WINTER INVENTORY OF BEDS			
	Year-Round Beds for Households w/o Children	Year-Round Beds for Households w/children	Total Beds
COVID19 Social Distancing Expansion of shelters, Seasonal, and Overflow	73	73	146
Year- Round Emergency Shelter Beds	323	113	436
Transitional / Haven Beds	53	23	76
TOTALS	449	209	653

This includes hotel beds as well.

Homeless Outreach Services

Outreach Provider	Hours of Operation	Service Areas
Every mind	9 am-5 pm - Rotating AM and PM	Up County - areas north of Randolph Road, Montrose Road, and Falls Road
Bethesda Cares	5 am-5 pm Rotating outreach hours extend to 11 pm	Down County - areas south of Randolph Road, Montrose Road, and Falls Road
City of Gaithersburg	On-call 24/7	Gaithersburg City Limits ONLY
Pathways to Housing	6 am-7pm	Downtown Silver Spring and Wheaton

South of Randolph road is down county.

Unsheltered "blitz" count

In addition to the Annual Homeless Point-in-Time Count (PIT), Montgomery County typically conducts two more count of unsheltered households in the spring and fall. Due to the pandemic, counts were limited to annual fall count and the PIT.

A recent Blitz count was conducted in May 2022 and results are currently being calculated.

❖ Limitations
  ❖ Possible duplication
  ❖ Different to track those in unknown encampments, particularly in the more rural areas of the county as well as those sleeping in abandoned buildings
  ❖ Certain populations including families with children and immigrants may not want to be found for fear of the consequences.
  ❖ It is not always so easy to identify people as homeless. This is particularly relevant for young adults.

❖ Methodology:
  ❖ Visual count occurs over a 3-day period from 11PM to 8AM.
  ❖ Includes households known to outreach providers and observed unsheltered within 7 days of the count.

Team of 3, based in the Westfield building. There is a difference between a homeless client, a panhandler, and a loiterer. I've been in Wheaton area for a year, and when I'd see a person at a bus stop I'd assume they're homeless when they're just there for a certain amount of time.
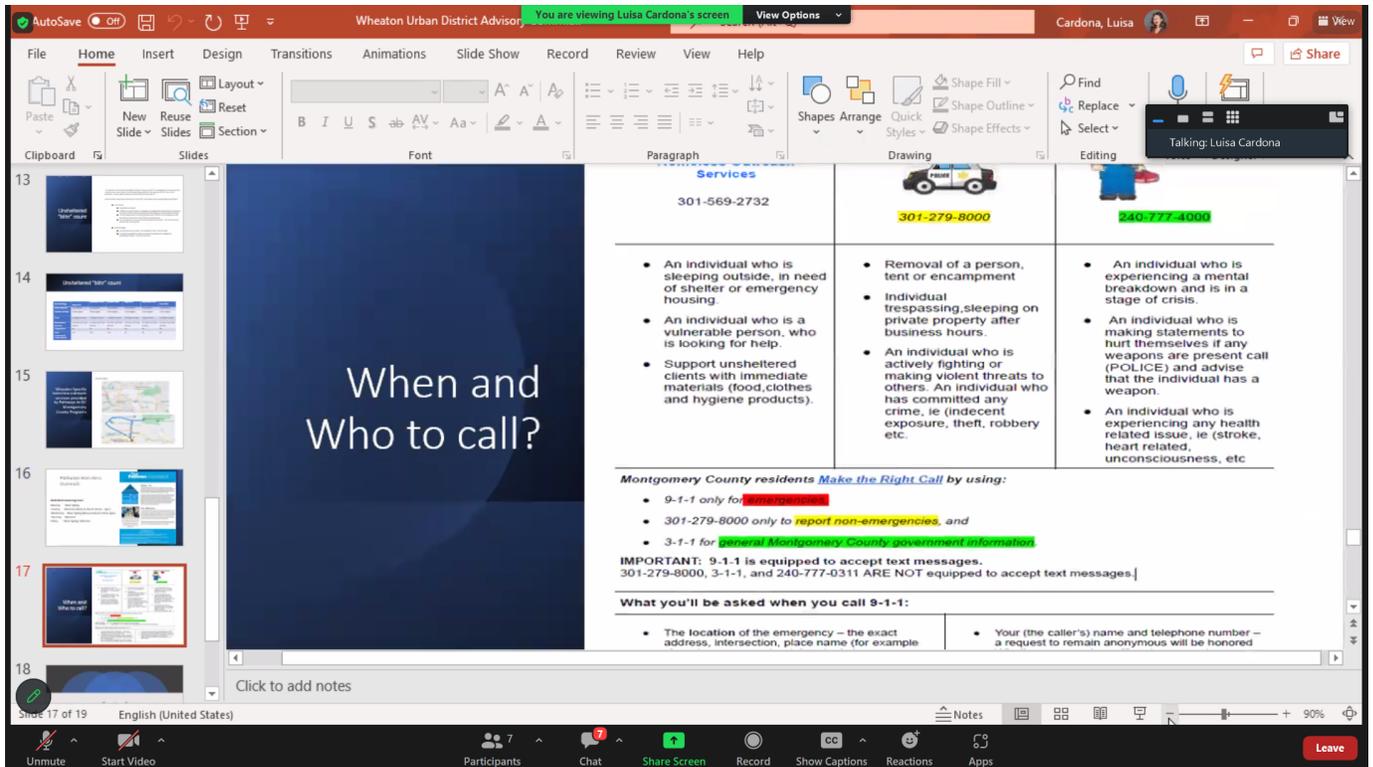
Who to call in a situation explanation. We as an outreach can't move someone from where they are. Our main thing is to engage and build a rapport. Once we have a rapport we can offer services and housing, and when we're dealing with human beings we're dealing with free will. Asking what do you need right now is the start. We ask if they want and need shelter, we make referrals to the different agencies. Also doing a prototype of the QR code so someone can contact them instantly, we're 90% of the way through that.

The county contracts out to provide services in addition to providing some services directly. What we do is have many providers who provide shelters, outreach, and housing vouchers. Pathways to housing provide housing, psychiatric services in house, coming out with nursing.

Jim – can you give us any hard numbers on our problems with homelessness in the CBD of Wheaton. Where are we currently in Wheaton for problem locations? Do we have some consistently unhoused people on the plaza?

Sheku – we're seeing panhandlers by certain roads. We're mostly seeing organized people who are setting up to panhandle. In the AM we see people out on the street there are a large number of people in the houses.

Rozina – the person with the mattress we successfully housed, the person with the tent moved away, we got them into the coordinated entry system and to be prioritized for housing. Sometimes people are transient and fall out of the outreach radar. The bus bays are a hot spot, 3 individuals that are sleeping on that bus bay that we know of. The Speedy laundrymat on Viers Mill at times, and garage 13 has some incidences. If you see indications of homelessness, you call pathways.

Ali – can you briefly talk about inreach and outreach.

Sheku – inreach we're stationed for a certain amount of time. The time at the library will be for people coming into us as opposed to finding them on the street.

Nina – I've had the experience of seeing someone and trying to engage with them and needing services and calling 311 to get services for them. Do we need to start carrying this number around instead?

Rozina – the 311 number will be connected to the homeless information line. better to call Pathways.

Rob – what's keeping you from getting to your goals?

Sheku – mental health for one, it plays a big part in what's going on. Mental health and freewill combined with not being able to force individuals to accept health is one big part of the puzzle.

Rozina – for outreach and engagement can take time and the autonomy of people's choice. Building trust and getting them to accepting the offer. We're able to get to that level by outreach. The biggest thing that they have, is a need that is larger than their base of resources. Trying to get the right intervention to the individual that needs it the most. Homelessness is a housing problem, and we can only have a limited number of housing vouchers to give in a day. We have 493 individuals and 79 vouchers. We have a SHARP program for providing first month's rent, security deposit, and up to 12 months' rent. With the right intervention and the good resources that we have, I believe homelessness is solvable, so we'll never not see homeless individuals in our community, and we also don't have enough affordable housing for the needs that we have.

VI. Old Business/Board Recruitment Updates 8:10 pm

VII. New Business 8:25 pm

VIII. Adjourn 8:40 pm