

SSUDAC Meeting Summary
June 16th, 2022

Members Present: Jay Elvove, Diana Brown, Mel Tull, Maggie Gessner, Jane Redicker, Juanita Stewart

Members Absent: Mussie Betre, Thomas Kaufmann, Carmen Camacho, Michael Larson, David Fogel

Call to Order and Introductions:
Juanita Stewart

- The meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m.

Homeless Outreach and Coordinated Crisis Response Roundtable

Rozina Adhanom, Outreach Coordinator(Services to End and Prevent Homelessness (SEPH)) - MoCo Department of Health and Human Services
Patrick Costanzo, Program Manager - Pathways DC
John Mendez, Executive Director - Bethesda Cares, Inc.
Beth Tabachnick, Manager III - Montgomery County Crisis Center

- Shower in Silver Spring Fire Station/Urban District parking lot closing in July as the 2nd floor of Progress Place re-opens for showering inside.
- Bethesda Cares is focused specifically on getting unhoused people into homes.
- 18-20% of houseless individuals are coming from outside of Silver Spring, predominantly DC and Arlington.
 - People who are chronically houseless gravitate towards areas with a lot of foot traffic(Due to feeling safer). Some “retire” over to Bethesda.
 - Major hub of transit, commerce, may have immigrated after experiencing trauma.
- Since 2017, 1.5-2 Staff people per day in Downtown Silver Spring.
- Juanita asks what kind of staffing would be necessary to serve the individuals in Silver Spring, suggests doubling+ of the staff (4-5).
- Mel speaks on a need for continuous funding for programs, year after year.
- Jane: Who is coordinating services in Bethesda so we can get the same level of service.
 - Rozina is the coordinator
- Jane: Is there a requirement for treatment when people enter housing.
 - No. Housing is first. People go into housing and harm is reduced.
 - 92-96% of people are placed into housing with supportive services and stay.
 - Shelters generally run 10-40%.
 - Rozina will isolate Housed data for Silver Spring.
- Beth Tabachnick explains her role as overseeing the Crisis Center
 - Returning to hours of 7am-11pm. In the next few years looking to expand.
 - Even though we have a dedicated Silver Spring team the number remains the same and is dispatched to the right team: 240-777-4000

- Housing is the first step. Obtaining housing does not solve poverty and many do supplement income with panhandling.
- Crisis Team is 2 staff per team + Peer Responders
- 6 Offers Extended, 1 Accepted with a start date next Month
- Over the next year or 2 there is funding for 20 more positions virtually doubling the program
- Rozina speaks on Housing First.
 - A lot of data backs up this approach
 - Not the only service
 - There are many wrap around services in addition

SSUD Program Manager Report

Carson Henry, Silver Spring Urban District Program Manager

- Presents the May Report (Attached)
- Mel offers kudos to Jacob and Carson.
- Graffiti removal is going so well that new graffiti stands out
 - Jane conveys from the police to “If you see graffiti, take a picture and note the time/date. Email Lt. Reed directly”
- Kudos to Maggie and The Filmore re: community concerns about the line

Old and New Business

- Update on Ellsworth place and events including the Blues Festival
- Juanita stepping down as chair
- Topics for new meetings:
 - Amplified Voices update
 - Update on hours of operation legislation
 - Some are asking for a 2am blanket curfew (Not gonna fly)
- July is Off
- August is Planning Retreat

Meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.