

INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS (ICH)

Meeting/Minutes

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Hosted by DHR

311 W. Saratoga Street, Rm 104

Baltimore, MD 21201

Meeting Commenced: 10:30 a.m.

Facilitated by: Heather Sheridan, Director of Homeless Services
Maryland Department of Human Resources

ICH Members in attendance:

Elizabeth Kinney

Shannon Frey

Tony Simmons

Carol Gilbert

Patricia Flanigan

Holly Turner

Adrienne Breidenstine

Kim Ball

Jeffrey Kendrick

Kevin Lindamood

Sandy Monk

Martha Roach

Shane Spencer

Patricia Arriaza

ICH Members not in Attendance:

Courtney Thomas

Jay Hutchins

Wilson Parran

Tricia Roddy

Dana Hendrickson

Richard Wilson

Penelope Thornton Talley

Heather Sheridan, Director of Homeless Services, opened the meeting by greeting attendees (*members and public audience*).

STATEWIDE ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE LAST ICH MEETING

- *The annual Point & Time Counts which included the participation of sixteen CoCs*
 - *The draft of the Homeless Services Framework*
 - *ICH workgroups for Veterans and Youth and Young adults began meeting since last ICH meeting.*
 - *Opening of cold weather shelters across most jurisdictions throughout the state.*
 - *DHR launched its website for the Bureau of Homeless Services (BHS), which includes information for those seeking homeless support services, information for grantees, Updates on the ICH and Minute.*
 - *In process, DHR Policy Guide for all grant recipients (expected to be posted to the website by the end of the week)*
- ❖ HUD announced 2015 NOFA funding to Maryland (total of \$48 million), the majority will continue to fund existing projects, about \$900K for new projects.

QUICK REVIEW OF THE AGENDA

- ❖ Framework: Group activity (*ICH members & audience*)
- ❖ DHR is going to work on drafting a “Proof of Homeless” letter for all providers to use when working with clients.
- ❖ Today’s Goals:
 - *Develop affordable housing options*
 - *Develop a comprehensive discharge planning process from medical facilities*
 - *Create low barrier options across the state for emergency shelter and transitional housing*
 - *Develop plan to subsidize the difference between income and cost of housing*

GROUP EXERCISE

Attendees broke into small groups to consider the following questions related to the 4 goals:

- *How do we define success for this goal?*
- *What are some challenges we might encounter and how can we address those challenges now?*
- *Who are the partners we have for this work?*
- *What is a unique contribution I can make to ensure success towards this goal?*

The goal was to take ICH member and audience member feedback into the development of a platform to present the Joint Legislative Committee. Teams devoted approximately forty minutes to work on the group activity then came back together to reflect on the activity.

- ❖ It was suggested that new goals be developed to address the following topics:
 - *Workforce Development/Job Attainment*
 - *Seniors who are aging in place on fixed incomes leading to homelessness.*

WORK GROUP REPORT OUT

- ❖ Patricia Arriaza reported progress made during two meetings held of the Youth/young adult Workgroup. The group is in the process of surveying how local offices receive and support homeless youth that come in for services. They are working to address the need for education/technical assistance (*to locals*), redistribution of existing funding (*grants/federal opportunities and street outreach*) and the development of a comprehensive services network.
- ❖ Jeffrey Kendrick reported problems faced by veterans who receive vouchers (*insufficient housing options, limitation on the time to find housing once granted a HUD VASH voucher*) and the need to look into unique problems homeless female veterans face. Please note the chair of this group is Dana Hendrickson, who was unable to attend due to the weather.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS FOR ICH MEMBERS

- ❖ Heather Sheridan reported that:
 - updates to DHR's website would be ongoing as changes occur
 - new members are expected to be named to the ICH from agencies experiencing staffing changes due to the new administration
 - Ethics Board paperwork for calendar year 2014, will be due in April 2015
- ❖ Annual Homeless Persons Lobby Day in Annapolis is scheduled for 2/26/15
- ❖ Maryland Affordable Housing Lobby Day is scheduled for Thursday 2/12/15

ELECTION

The team was tasked with electing a new Chair for the committee. Kevin Lindamood was named the sole nominee. All members participated in the vote.

Attendees completed a survey about the meeting and the group activity.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:15pm