

## ICH Work Group Updates

### Veterans Work Group

**Last meeting date:** January 27, 2017

**Representation:**

MD Department of Veterans Affairs, MD Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation,  
US Department of Labor, Maryland's Commitment to Veterans, Alliance Inc., Disabled American  
Veterans

**Agenda included:**

2017 Goals Discussion  
Discussion on current trends/challenges seen within attendee programs  
Discussion on 2017 action items

**Goal Due Dates:**

- a. Create a standardized coordination of care model for assisting veterans experiencing homelessness. Work day to draft a model is scheduled for Monday May 22
- b. Recommend to the ICH best practices for homeless veteran data collection... will determine from COC veteran subcommittee chairs what data they collect at the May 22 work day
- c. Enhance the online directory of resources for homeless veterans on the MD Community Service Locator... no action on this goal
- d. Establish a homeless veteran provider network...Goal to formulate a network design during the May 22 work day

**Survey findings: (Fall 2015)**

The overwhelming majority of COC's have veteran subcommittees. Of the COC leads who responded to the survey, the majority reported referring homeless veterans to SSVF providers. As far as knowledge of USVA homeless services, on a scale of 1-5 (five being extensive knowledge), 51% of respondents indicated a 4 or 5. As far as knowledge of HUDVASH, 56% responded with a 4 or 5. As far as knowledge of SSVF programs, 44% responded with a 4 or 5. Respondents were interested in the most effective means for accessing services, provider training, sharing coordinated access models, and how to best incorporate VA services in to existing access models. Additionally, respondents indicated data sharing, robust by name lists, coordinated street outreach, and monthly group meetings proved helpful in their provision of services for homeless veterans.

**Next meeting:** Thursday, May 4, 1:00PM, Conference call

**Work Group Lead:**

*Dana Hendrickson, MA*  
Director, Outreach and Advocacy  
Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs  
(P) [410-260-3842](tel:410-260-3842)  
[dana.hendrickson@maryland.gov](mailto:dana.hendrickson@maryland.gov)

## **Youth Work Group**

The Youth Workgroup last met on January 11, 2017. During the meeting, the group reviewed the 2013 Taskforce recommendations updates submitted by agencies and discussed progress made and any outstanding recommendations or topics that remain and could be addressed by the workgroup.

Discussed topics included:

- Technical Assistance support for CoC's
- Identification Documents – need to reconnect with MVA and COMAR regulations for fee waivers and alternative qualifying documentation
- Higher Education – need to engage University System on Maryland (USM) and the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) - Supports for homeless students similar to McKinney - Vento
- Expanding Youth REACH statewide

Additionally, the Governor's Office for Children surveys the Local Management Boards around professional development and training regarding the Governor's 4 Strategic Goals, which includes youth homelessness. A number of counties asked for additional information on Housing First models and principles, working with vendors/service providers, Trauma-Informed Care, and youth-friendly policies. We would like to tap the knowledge and expertise of workgroup members and CoC's to provide support to LMBs.

We do not yet have a date for the next meeting, but the workgroup will begin to address the goal of creating a resource guide. It was decided that an additional resource catalog was not needed, as many resources are available through DHR's website, 211, and the Community Resource Locator. The group will work with these entities to ensure that all resources for homeless youth are included in these databases.

The Governor's Office for Children submitted a proposal for a Performance Partnership Pilot (P3) focusing on reconnecting youth experiencing homelessness to work and or school. We still have not received notice from the federal government about the acceptance of this proposal. If selected, the workgroup would support the local efforts as appropriate. Attached is the Executive summary of the proposal.

**Next Meeting:** will be scheduled for May.

### **Work Group Lead:**

Christina Drushel Williams  
Policy Analyst, Governor's Office for Children  
[410-697-9242](tel:410-697-9242) (office)  
[christina.drushel@maryland.gov](mailto:christina.drushel@maryland.gov)  
[www.goc.maryland.gov](http://www.goc.maryland.gov)

## **Coordinated Assessment Work Group**

The ICH Coordinated Assessment (CA) Work Group is tasked with working to address Goal 6 from the Framework for Maryland's Interagency Council on Homelessness.

### ***GOAL 6 – Achieve coordinated intake and assessment for all jurisdictions in Maryland by the end of 2016. (Also a Federal Requirement)***

Maryland's Interagency Council on Homelessness will work with local continua of care to coordinate the support safety net for those who are homeless to ensure that access to services is fair, equitable, clear, and provided with a "no wrong door" approach. The Council will support local continua in meeting federal requirements for "coordinated intake and assessment" (CA), which seek to connect people experiencing homelessness with housing, income, and supportive services in the most efficient and effective manner possible.

The CA work group convened its first meeting in January 2017 and developed a survey to be distributed to all Maryland CoC Leads in January. The purpose of the survey was to 1) to identify Maryland's progress towards achieving coordinated access, 2) to identify what prioritization tools are currently being used by the CoC's in Maryland.

The CA work group met on for the second time on March 13, 2017 to review and discuss the

#### **Survey Results:**

- Fifteen (15) CoC's responded and all have moved towards a coordinated entry process
- Five (5) CoC's (Anne Arundel, Montgomery, Harford, Prince Georges, and Mid-Shore) utilize the VI-SPDAT to prioritize;
- Two (2) CoC's (Frederick and Allegany) utilize the Client Vulnerability Assessment to prioritize;
- One (1) CoC (Lower Shore) utilizes the Self-Sufficiency Outcome Matrix available in ServicePoint to prioritize;
- Three (3) CoC's (Baltimore County, Cecil, and Southern Maryland) to prioritize;
- Two (2) CoC's (Baltimore City and Washington County) are developing a tool to prioritize; and
- Two (2) CoC's (Carroll and Garrett) do not currently utilize a prioritization tool.
- All CoC's responding, that utilize a prioritization tool, would be willing to share their tool with other CoC's.

At the March 13<sup>th</sup> meeting the group discussed the need to engage more CoC leads to discuss the survey results, share and discuss barriers CoC's are facing as they work to meet HUD's requirements, and discuss next steps. To prepare, the CA work group reviewed HUD's guidance on Coordinated Assessment and participated in HUD's Coordinated Assessment webinar prior to reconvening on April 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am. With the completion of the meeting on April 13<sup>th</sup>, the CA work group will have completed Objective A under goal 6 and will proceed to Objective B and begin to draft guidance based on best practices aimed at achieving Coordinated Access statewide.

#### **Work Group Lead:**

Courtney A. Thomas  
Executive Director, Allegany County Human Resources Development Commission, Inc. (HRDC)  
(301) 783-1720  
[cthomas@alleganyhrdc.org](mailto:cthomas@alleganyhrdc.org)

## HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS WORKGROUP -- UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS

HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS WORKGROUP IS RESPONSIBLE FOR GOAL 3 OF THE ICH: IMPROVE THE EMERGENCY SERVICES NETWORK FOR THE HOMELESS, BY PARTNERING WITH LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS TO CREATE A COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT AND DISCHARGE PLANNING PROCESS USED AT INTAKE AND DISCHARGE FROM MEDICAL FACILITIES OR JAILS (A FEDERAL REQUIREMENT).

Timeline of activities are determined by the timelines outlined in the ICH plan. Therefore, the workgroup is currently focused on deliverables related to the Objective C: Increase access to proper respite care for the homeless statewide.

---

### MEETING UPDATE

- Two meetings since the new transitions in leadership and scope
- Last Meeting: February 27, 2017
- 47 attendees
- Goal of meeting: Review the goals of the workgroup. Provide updates on respite care assessment progress and preliminary findings. Engage in a discussion with Bon Secours – Community Works on their homeless prevention efforts from a hospital perspective.
- Next meeting in May: TBD

---

### PROGRESS TOWARD MEETING FRAMEWORK OBJECTIVES

- Complete the medical respite care assessment by 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter
- Complete summary of national best practices for respite care
- Assess exit planning strategies used by jails by the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter\*\*
- Study the manner in which homeless patients are being released from hospitals back into the community by the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter

---

### SUMMARY OF MRAM ASSESSMENT (PRELIMINARY FINDINGS)

- Dearth of medical respite care programs: 2 structured medical respite care programs for the homeless identified across 18 jurisdictions
- Barriers: Lack of funding, staff, awareness of the general topic of medical respite care
- Discharge planning from hospitals: no coordinated, standardized process, fragmented process

---

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Statewide forum on medical respite care

- Disseminate information on best practices
- Technical assistance for developing a respite care program

Provide funding opportunity to pilot the development and implementation of medical respite care programs  
More leadership from the state on this issue

- Education
- Share data collected from MRAM assessment
- Letters of support to potential funders

Consider the unique needs of rural counties vs. urban areas

Next steps: Findings and recommendations from the needs assessments can be used to develop SMART goals.