



Maryland Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH)

January 8th, 2026 Meeting Minutes

12:30-2:30 PM

[Zoom](#), Passcode: ICH2026

1. Welcome and Introductions

Secretary Jake Day, DHCD

2. Vote to Approve the October 2025 Meeting Minutes

Secretary Jake Day, DHCD

- October 2025 Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Community Schools Rental Assistance Program Spotlight

LaToya Arnold-Artis and Jazzmine Davis, DHCD

- LaToya Arnold-Artis provided an overview of the Community Schools Rental Assistance Program, which provided emergency rental assistance and associated housing-related costs to eligible student households experiencing housing instability or homelessness. Jazzmine Davis shared data on program demand, demographics, and early insights into program effectiveness, highlighting high demand and household demographics. The group discussed the need to include case management as an allowable cost and added data collection recommendations for future cycles, including screening for military service and intimate partner violence.

4. HUD Continuum of Care Funding Threats to Maryland

Danielle Meister, DHCD

- Assistant Secretary Danielle Meister provided updates on HUD's proposed changes to the Continuum of Care (COC) program funding, which would have significantly reduced permanent housing support and introduced restrictive eligibility criteria. Danielle explained that these changes were blocked by a court injunction, requiring HUD to return to the previous funding approach. She outlined the potential consequences of the proposed changes, including a \$46 million cut in permanent housing, the displacement of 2,400 households, and increased costs to other systems of care. The discussion also covered efforts to secure bridge funding, advocate for automatic renewal of 2024 grants through Congress, and communicate with landlords and tenants about potential funding gaps.
- Christine Hong, the Chief of Services to End and Prevent Homelessness in Montgomery County, provided updates on the response to HUD policy changes in Montgomery County, where 70% of federally funded housing could be lost. Christine detailed the county's advocacy efforts, including engaging community

leaders, landlords, healthcare networks, and faith communities to raise awareness about the consequences of reduced funding.

- Amy Kleine shared Baltimore City's experience with the NOFO process, highlighting the emotional toll on providers and the challenges of planning under uncertainty.
- The group also discussed the importance of documenting the effectiveness of supportive housing and protecting Housing First programs at the state level. Kevin Lindamood emphasized the need for a well-funded public education campaign to counter misconceptions about housing-focused solutions and addressed the demoralizing effects of repeated funding challenges on service providers, emphasizing the importance of maintaining staff morale and institutional knowledge.

5. HR 1 Medicaid Impact on Homelessness

Henry Gillespie-Hill, MDH

- Henry Gillespie Hill presented on the implementation of the Medicaid provisions in the OBA (Omnibus Budget Act), which will result in approximately 175,000 Marylanders losing coverage and \$2.7 billion in federal funding lost annually. The presentation outlined multiple work streams, including communications, data and systems, staffing, and planning documents, with key implementation dates in October 2023 and January 2027. Henry highlighted that MHBE will prepare consumer notices by September 2026. The presentation concluded with a discussion of staffing needs and a timeline of expected enrollment drops, with the greatest drop expected in July 2027 due to 6-month redeterminations and work requirements.
- Alyssa Lord, MDH, explained that Maryland Health Connection is working with MD CRISP to improve data sharing and medical frailty verification, while Danielle highlighted the challenges of ensuring accurate capture of homeless status in CRISP.

6. FY26 Legislative and Advocacy Preview

Danielle Meister, DHCD

- Danielle Meister provided an overview of the ICH Departmental Bill - Part of Omnibus, which makes the DHCD Secretary or his designee the permanent chair of the ICH. Removes term limits and the inability to serve consecutive terms, explicitly authorizes compensation for members with lived experience, and changes the ICH annual report date to December 15 each year to align with data availability every year
- Supportive Housing Coalition - Kicks off January 22. DHCD is collaborating with Corporation for Supportive Housing to establish a coalition of service providers, CoCs, and advocates focused on permanent supportive housing with three primary goals: 1) to bring more visibility to the need for more permanent supportive housing funding in Maryland, 2) to Increase the partners who can produce and operate supportive housing, and 3) to create a peer-space to support programs in implementing quality supportive housing (training, TA, shared standards)
- Tony Korol-Evans provided an overview of a coerced debt bill aimed at helping domestic violence survivors avoid homelessness, and requested testimonies from affected individuals.

7. ICH Member Agency Updates and Initiatives

- Shannon Snow shared an update on the completion of Mulberry Place, a project providing 9 units of permanent supportive housing in Baltimore City.
- Tony Korol Evans announced a CDBG grant for domestic violence townhouses in Calvert County, as a pilot program for affordable first-time homes.
- Amy Kleine highlighted the opening of the Hammond in Johnston Square, which includes 12 units of permanent supportive housing.
- Sara Johnson announced the opening of Cash Campaign's tax sites for the upcoming season, emphasizing the importance of direct deposit due to the IRS no longer issuing paper checks.

8. Public Comment

9. Upcoming ICH Meeting

- Wednesday, April 22nd - 10 AM-12 PM, Annapolis (Location TBD)

10. Adjournment by 2:30 PM