



## Maryland Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH) February 2022 Meeting Agenda

Thursday, February 17 · 1:00 – 3:00pm  
Virtual Meeting

**Members:** Renee Pope, Christina Drushel-Williams, Erin Roth, Carol Beatty, Dana Burl, Sue DeSantis, Kate Farinholt, Scott Gottbreht, Amanda Harris, Christine Kay, Shannon Snow, Brian Wainwright, Rachel Wolpert, Carol Gilbert

**Staff:** Danielle Meister, Stuart Campbell, Suzanne Korff, , Dale Quisgard, Casey Tiefenwerth, Dylan M. McDonough, Mary C. Keller, Chelsea Hayman, Priya Arokiaswamy

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### I. Welcome and Agenda Review

ICH Chair Secretary Beatty reviewed the meeting agenda and asked members for any suggested changes or additions to agenda topics. No modifications to the agenda were made. New member Scott Gottbreht, Vice President of Housing, United Way of Central Maryland was introduced.

ICH members voted to approve the November 2021 meeting minutes with no amendments.

### II. Update on 2020-2021 ICH Annual Report on Homelessness

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) provided an update that the 2020-2021 Annual Report on Homelessness was subsequently approved by the Governor's Office and published to the legislature. The ICH had discussed the report and voted to approve it at the November 2021 meeting.

DHCD will be engaging with ICH members in coming months to make updates to the Homeless Services Framework and goals, as many have been achieved and new needs have emerged since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is anticipated that workgroups may be reimaged and restructured to support the new framework goals.

### III. 2022 Legislative Session Preview

DHCD provided members with an overview of pending legislation connected to housing and homelessness as introduced in the 2022 General Assembly Legislative Session (see meeting presentation for specific legislation that was discussed). Most legislation at the time of the meeting is in the committee phase and will subsequently be voted on by the House and Senate in March/April 2021. The approved bills then go to the Governor's desk.

In addition to the bills presented by DHCD, several members noted other relevant legislation that may be of interest to the ICH:

- Erin Roth, Department of Labor noted there were a number of workforce-related bills that included apprenticeships, serving populations re-entering from incarceration, and on workforce data
- Dana Burl, Maryland Department of Veteran Affairs noted that House Bill 1179 proposes to use a portion of sales of lottery tickets and transfers a portion to DHCD for a fund for veterans experiencing

homelessness. There is a special consideration for women veterans, veterans with families and veterans leaving intimate partner violence.

- Christina Drushel-Williams, Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services shared that the Governor's budget includes an additional \$3 million to the Children's Cabinet. Local Management Boards (LMBs) will determine local priorities. There is increased funding available for LMBs, and several are focused on youth experiencing homelessness in their communities.
- Sue DeSantis, Catholic Charities noted that there is a rally the following Monday evening in Annapolis for the Time to Care Act, which would provide paid sick leave benefits.

#### IV. Workgroup Updates & Planning for 2022

Workgroup chairs provided a status report on recent activities and projects underway:

- Workforce Development Workgroup - Erin Roth
  - Reviewed best practices for serving homeless job seekers, secured funding for a pilot program and put out solicitation for proposals last week. Applications are due June 17th. Pre-proposal conference will be held on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 at 10 AM. Both funders and potential applicants are encouraged to attend. If you have questions about the Workforce Solutions to Address Homelessness solicitation please contact [casey.tiefenwerth1@maryland.gov](mailto:casey.tiefenwerth1@maryland.gov).
  - Link to proposal RFP: <https://www.dllr.state.md.us/whatsnews/requestproposalscws.shtml>
  - Hearts and Minds Campaign - putting together guidance for workforce staff to work effectively with clients experiencing homelessness, coordinate with CoCs, support clients to develop secure career path.
- Youth Workgroup - Christina Drushel-Williams
  - Work has largely been focused on Youth REACH, Maryland's count and survey of homeless youth.
  - No formal meetings in last year, but these will be relaunched in 2022.
- Lived Experience - Chelsea Hayman
  - Workgroup was paused during the pandemic due to outreach challenges and transition to virtual meetings

Danielle Meister (DHCD) noted that many workgroup representatives continued meeting regularly to advance the work around homelessness, but as COVID response has stabilized, it's time to return to a formal workgroup framework. The Homeless Services Framework was last updated in 2019 but the goals and activities need to be refreshed as many things have been accomplished and there are new needs to focus on.

Members discussed which workgroups might make sense to continue or reconvene, which workgroups might need to be added, and what priorities or needs might be missing from the homeless services framework as it stands now. Proposals and comments included:

- Ensuring that people with lived experience participating in the ICH are able to be compensated
- Establishing a workgroup that would focus on building capacity of Continuums of Care (CoC) and government agencies, as there are ongoing issues with staff turnover and vacancies due to the pandemic.
- Establishing goals and a workgroup that would start to address issues further upstream that are causing homelessness – including workforce needs, prevention, diversion programs, discharges from other systems such as jails, hospitals, and foster care.
- Increased focus on behavioral health strategies and needs, including general mental health resources, substance use treatment access, suicide risk, and more. This work should include looking at how Medicaid can be better leveraged to fund the work.
- Continue focusing on youth homelessness as a priority area due to the strong linkage between unstable housing as a youth and homelessness as an adult

- Consider adding a workgroup on housing development options – looking at ways to increase affordable units for homeless households and how to take full advantage of federal and state funds to support development
- Need to add Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion lens and efforts as a focus cross-cutting all Homeless Services Framework goals. DEI lens should include not just racial disparities, but also age, disability, limited English proficiency, and other types of marginalized and oppressed groups. This could also include goals related to specific subpopulations that have specific needs – veterans, people of color, youth, rural vs. urban, etc.
- Senior/elderly homelessness is becoming a bigger challenge and should be addressed in the framework. More interagency collaboration between elderly care and homeless services is needed.

## **V. Permanent Supportive Housing Strategy Update**

Dale Quisgard and Danielle Meister from DHCD presented on a new HUD funding opportunity created by the American Rescue Plan Act, HOME-ARP (see presentation materials for details). DHCD shared the timeline and process for collecting community feedback on the HOME-ARP allocation plan that must be developed and submitted to HUD. Members provided feedback on local funding priorities and needs that HOME-ARP could address.

## **VI. Department and Member Announcements**

- Danielle Meister - DHCD
  - PIT count was completed in 2022, HUD did not allow complete waivers. Many jurisdictions modified their count strategies to make them safer. Other jurisdictions were allowed to postpone until February.
  - YouthREACH count coming up in March and April, each jurisdiction selects timeframe. Many CoCs preparing to participate.
  - Fiscal year 2023 budget for homelessness program - \$5 million increase. Updates to follow on budgeting process for CoCs. As of right now the proposed budget would provide a \$5 million increase to HSP.
  - ERAP Dashboard just updated to include ERAP II. Almost \$250 million distributed via financial assistance to households, \$30 million in progress. Won't have January numbers for a few more weeks. There is no reduction in demand for services, but the amount of assistance decreased slightly - may be a result of the holidays.
- Dana Burl - MDVA
  - April 7, MIA will be hosting a Lunch and Learn on Avoiding Eviction and Foreclosure. I will share the link with Danielle.

## **VII. Public Comment**

No public comment was provided.

## **VIII. Adjournment**