

## HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS WORKGROUP

### UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS

March, 2019

THE 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).

Chair: Dr. Olubukola Alonge, Program Administrative Specialist, Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities (MHHD), Maryland Department of Health.

MHHD Interns assist in ensuring work group objectives are accomplished.

Objectives	Accomplishments	Next Steps
Assess how the homeless are accessing emergency care and study the manner in which they are being released from hospitals back into the community.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Considering engagement of the Maryland Hospital Association to determine how questions can be added to their intake requirements</li><li>• Continue Conversations</li></ul>
Increase access to proper respite/convalescent care for the homeless statewide.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We currently have 3 medical respite care programs in Maryland with 3 counties at the brink of starting programs</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue statewide conversations on the topic.</li><li>• Engage Medicaid on discussing reimbursement possibilities</li></ul>
Assess exit-planning strategies used by jails and other institutions to determine service and housing gaps.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Created Re-entry and Exit Planning (REEP) Tool</li><li>• Interviews completed in almost all jurisdictions – jails. Remaining about 3</li><li>• Yet to complete interviews on state prisons with DPSCS representative</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue Assessments</li><li>• Document gaps and recommendations</li></ul>

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#### MEETING UPDATE

- Most recent work group meeting was held on Friday, February 1, 2019.
- Goal of meeting: Review the goal/ objectives of the workgroup. Provide updates on work completed till date. Several actionable items to be completed before next meeting.
- Next meeting: date TBD possibly May, 2019.
- If interested in any of the efforts of this workgroup, please contact Buki at [Olubukola.alonge@maryland.gov](mailto:Olubukola.alonge@maryland.gov) for further details.

## YOUTH WORK GROUP

The Youth Workgroup last met on February 26, 2019.

The Workgroup is currently drafting a report and set of recommendations entitled "A Systems-Level Response to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness in Maryland." This will be a formal update to the 2013 Taskforce Report to highlight successes and achievements made and new challenges to be addressed. The report includes 7 sections relating to education, child welfare, health, economic stability, and housing. Monthly working sessions are held to discuss each section and invite additional stakeholders and subject matter experts to discuss and shape the language of the recommendations.

Workgroup members will also attend and participate in DHCD's Youth Symposium in Mary.

**Next Meeting: March 26, 2019 1:00 – 3:00 pm at the Governor's Coordinating Offices in Crownsville.**

Work Group Lead:

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