

## **INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS (ICH)**

Meeting/Minutes - Tuesday June 2, 2015 9:45am-noon

Hosted at Healthcare for the Homeless 421 Fallsway, Baltimore, MD 21202

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Meeting Commenced at 10:00 a.m.

### **I. Opening – Recent events in Baltimore**

- a. Remarks were made regarding the recent unrest in Baltimore, and how it may have affected services of our group members. Feedback given indicated that minimal disruption was experienced, and that most providers were able to find ways to accommodate their clients despite some inconveniences.

### **II. Legislative Updates**

- a. HB 852 was discussed as a piece of legislation that passed the 2015 session and it tasks the ICH with looking into shelter admission and safety practices.
- b. Del. Mary Washington joined us and discussed the following points:
  - a. Excitement about the ICH up and running as well as the upcoming Joint Legislative hearings focused on the work of the ICH.
  - b. She offered her support to the group in the form of holding hearings and drafting resolutions at the group's request.
  - c. A demonstration count for youth homelessness is to be underway shortly in select areas of Maryland. The kickoff event took place on 6/9/2015 and the actual count, began September 28<sup>th</sup>.
- c. Sen. Madaleno also joined and shared the other Senators would be joining on the committee, they are as follows: Himself, Dolores Kelly, Kathy Klausmeier, Jim Mathias, & Victor Ramirez. Senator Madelino is excited for the forthcoming partnership between his group and the ICH.

### **III. Updates for Medicaid recipients**

- a. The Executive Director of DHR's Family Investment Administration spoke about Medicaid changes forthcoming that will require those due for recertification this year to re-apply for the benefit.
- b. Some barriers she addressed and asked for assistance from the provider community were help to get notifications to recipients in addition to the mailing that DHR would send out.
- c. The group expressed that in-person outreach would be necessary to prevent a temporary lapse coverage.
- d. It was also explained that local DSS offices can assist with completing Medicaid applications.

### **IV. Montgomery County, Zero: 2016 End Veterans Homelessness Campaign**

- a. Powerpoint summarizes what was shared.

### **V. Work Group Updates**

- a. **Youth and Young Adult Homelessness**
  - a. Recommend that the ICH do a briefing on the issue to raise awareness

- b. Recommend that service providers meet compliance with the HEARTH Act by allowing families with older teenagers to come into shelter as a family.
- c. SB 685 – Recommended that the group help oversee plans to support young adults in foster care beyond age 21.
- d. Group is exploring existing regulations in child welfare practice that might help address youth homelessness.
- e. Suggested that jurisdictions may need more information on the scope of the problem in their area.

**b. Veterans Homelessness Workgroup**

- a. DVA is getting assistance from federal sources to seek out new services.
- b. A new walk-in facility with wrap-around services has been opened at 209 W Fayette Street.
- c. The group is seeking better collaboration and outreach with other groups. Veterans service providers need more visibility to help raise awareness.
- d. DLLR has applied for grant funding for job training and wrap-around services for veterans.
- e. Conversations with DOC have occurred helping to inform them of services that can be offered in-house, particularly to incarcerated veterans.
- f. The Mayor of Baltimore City has initiated a pilot program aimed at ending veteran homelessness in the city.

**c. Health & Homelessness Workgroup**

- a. 1.3 million enrollees in Medicaid.
- b. Workgroup will have their first meeting on 6/15/2015
- c. Would like to apply for a grant to survey the need for health services amongst the homeless.

**VI. Audience Updates**

Workforce Development – Generally, Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) are limited to receipt of SNAP benefits (formerly known as food stamps) for only 3 months in a 3-year period unless they are working - or in an education and/or training activity - for at least 20 hours a week. Maryland has had a statewide waiver in place for this rule since the recession; however, our waiver is set to expire at the end of this calendar year.

- a. Beginning in January of 2016, LDSS areas will need to ensure that ABAWDs have access and connections to education and training programming or working at least 20 hours a week. There are individual exemptions to this rule:
  - 1. Under 18 or 50 years of age or older
  - 2. Responsible for the care of a child or incapacitated household member
  - 3. Medically certified as physically or mentally unfit for employment, pregnant, or
  - 4. Already exempt from SNAP general work requirements.
- b. The Center for Budget and Policy Priorities is currently doing a formal analysis of all areas in Maryland, to determine ABAWD time limit waivers that we can take advantage of in Maryland. These time limit waivers are based on certain criteria regarding the area's unemployment rates and the state of their labor market

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/able-bodied-adults-without-dependents-abawds>).

- c. DHR will take this analysis and write waivers which are due to FNS by August of 2015. Upon approval by FNS, DHR will communicate what areas will be waived.
- d. DHR is also currently looking at the number of ABAWDs, to understand what the impact will be statewide, taking into account the time limit waivers.
- e. DHR is also in the process of developing training, handbooks, new forms and notices as well as identifying employment and training opportunities that can be created/enhanced to accommodate the ABAWDs. Around August, they will be looking for assistance in outreach to ABAWDs to alert them of the changes that will begin to the SNAP program in Maryland in 2016, an opportunity that might be of interest to the ICH and it's members.
- f. More information about ABAWDs  
[http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/Guide to Serving ABAWDs Subject to Time Limit.pdf](http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/Guide%20to%20Serving%20ABAWDs%20Subject%20to%20Time%20Limit.pdf)

**ICH Members in attendance:**

<i>Dana Hendrickson</i>	<i>Tony Simmons</i>	<i>Patricia Flanigan</i>	<i>Holly Turner</i>
<i>Adrienne Breidenstine</i>	<i>Jeffrey Kendrick</i>	<i>Kevin Lindamood</i>	<i>Martha Roach</i>
<i>Shane Spencer</i>	<i>Patricia Arriaza</i>	<i>Tricia Roddy</i>	<i>Byron Tosi</i>
<i>Leslie Dews</i>			

**ICH Members not in Attendance:**

<i>Sandy Monk</i>	<i>Shannon Frey</i>	<i>Kim Ball</i>	<i>Elizabeth Kinney</i>
<i>Courtney Thomas</i>			
<i>Sent Representatives: Penelope Thornton Talley, Carol Gilbert</i>			