

## MINUTES FOR MEETING OF MARYLAND'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS (ICH)

Thursday, September 15, 2016 10am – noon  
100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD 21032

---

Meeting commenced at 10:00 a.m.

### I. Opening – Introductions, Approval of Minutes

- a. Around the table introduction of ICH Committee
- b. Welcome to new members – Patricia Sylvester (DoD), Dr. Shalewa Noel-Thomas (DHMH), Thomas Martin (DPSCS), Dr. Sylvia Lawson (MDOE), Lloyd Day (DLLR).
- c. Minutes of last meeting was approved without opposition

### II. 2016 Accomplishments of the ICH & Upcoming Items – Heather Sheridan

- a. Summary of funding (*federal and state sources*) was recalled and noted as having been provided during February's meeting
- b. A "Housing First" definition was adopted
- c. Consolidation of DHR and DHCD programs - Secretary Sam Maholtra (*DHR*) and Secretary Kenneth Holt (*DHCD*) presented during February meeting program similarities.
  - o Integration and transfer and statutory and regulatory language; Strategic planning session held with both agencies and two local Departments of Social Service. Bill draft was presented to the Governor for review in August, 2016, expected to be introduced in January; Anticipated transfer date as of July 1, 2017
- d. Cold Weather Bill was not passed during the 2016 Legislative session, but language was passed in the Joint Chairman's Report for the ICH to study how localities plan for cold weather sheltering of the homeless as well as reported deaths of the homeless
  - o Vidida Dhanraj, Director of Baltimore's Homeless Services shared information about how Baltimore City plans for cold weather sheltering.

### III. Update from the Joint Legislative Committee on Ending Homelessness – Tonya Zimmerman

- a. Committee has asked DHCD for a projected plan to create units affordable to those making less than 30% AMI to be presented during the 10/26/16 hearing in Annapolis
- b. The Committee has held 5 meetings to-date with focus on information gathering; review of HC programs, and challenges of affordable housing; upcoming focus will evolve around the ICH Council, shelter best practices, DHCD's funding plans and any recommendations; Overall reports available online.
- c. Names of new members can be found on the General Assembly Website

### IV. Discussion of the Homeless Services Framework, Work Group Reports

#### *Goal 2 – Emergency services*

- a. Members of the ICH (DHR and DHMH) met with State Medical Examiners and obtained death data for the last decade. An analysis of the data will be included in the Annual Report. PG County representative, Renee Pope pointed out that not all deaths may be of someone experiencing homelessness, as they cannot be verified within HMIS.
  - a. It was requested to break down death data by months and year
- b. Respite care is needed across the state (*providers are struggling*)

- c. Vidida Dhanraj reports that Baltimore City High Utilizer Task Force Meeting was well attended; Key issues discussed included understanding resources available, data sharing, discharge planning and citywide policies
- d. Margaret Flanigan reported that Bons Secours' intake screening will include questions about housing status.
- e. Coordinated Access is expected to be a challenge when cold weather hits; Charge is to have practices and policies in place to ensure shelter safety and admissions.

**Goal 4 – Veterans**

- a. Veterans work group chair, Dana Hendrickson presented outcomes of a survey to homeless service providers working with veterans. Responses received enabled the work group to identify areas for support and a Homeless Veterans Resource Guide was developed in response to needs identified by providers. Explanations for survey responses noted as “other” were unclear.

**V. Presentations from Local Communities**

- a. Justin Bieler reported on Anne Arundel County's first ever Summer Point in Time (PIT) Count, conducted in August.
  - i. Morning, day and evening coverage was provided with the assistance of 4 shelters including the winter relief and domestic violence shelter. During the summer months, a total of 418 individuals were found to be on the streets, 53 in January and 139 in August; Engaging hospitals to use some of their resources to aid in homeless efforts
- b. Presentations were made for the CoC Rep vacancies by Carrie DiSimone, (*Garrett County*), George Newman (*Washington County*) and Christine Kay (*Carroll County*).
  - i. A follow up survey will be sent to members to vote on the CoC they would like to join the ICH to fill the CoC vacancy.

**VI. Administrative Items**

- a. Annual Report hearing scheduled for October 26, 2016
- b. Next meeting scheduled to take place in December, possibly in Cambridge at the conference of the MD Association of counties (MACo).
- c. Governor has been asked to nominate the Chair of the ICH.

**ICH Members in attendance (19):**

|                           |                         |                                |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Dana Hendrickson</i>   | <i>Sandy Monk</i>       | <i>Patricia Flanigan</i>       | <i>Thomas Martin</i>    |
| <i>Jeffrey Kendrick</i>   | <i>Carol Gilbert</i>    | <i>Leslie Dews</i>             | <i>Courtney Thomas</i>  |
| <i>Elizabeth Kinney</i>   | <i>Kim Ball</i>         | <i>Shannon Frey</i>            | <i>Patricia Arriaza</i> |
| <i>Vidia Dhanraj</i>      | <i>Stevanne Ellis</i>   | <i>Carolyn Ellison</i>         | <i>Greg James</i>       |
| <i>Patricia Sylvester</i> | <i>Heather Sheridan</i> | <i>Dr. Shalewa Noel-Thomas</i> |                         |

**ICH Members not in Attendance (1):**

*Tony Simmons*

**Members that sent representatives (3):** *Kevin Lindamood, Lloyd Day, Dr. Sylvia Lawson,*