

HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS WORKGROUP UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS

May, 2018

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).

The work group has transitioned to new leadership with Ms. Stephanie Slowly, Deputy Director, Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities, Maryland Department of Health as the new chair. The workgroup has had great accomplishments with the Medical Respite Assessment in the State and continues with this effort.

In addition, the work group is also working on deliverables related to Objective A: Assess how the homeless are accessing emergency care and study the manner in which they are being released from hospitals back into the community as well as Objective C: Assess exit-planning strategies used by jails and other institutions to determine service and housing gaps.

For ease of accomplishing goal/objectives and efficiency, the work group has been divided into 3 teams with members participating at various levels.

Teams:

Medical respite team: Led by Ms. Lasonya Kelly, Manager, Health Care for the Homeless, Montgomery County

Discharge Planning: Open

Housing and Re-entry: Open

Dr. Olubukola Alonge acts as an interim lead on the other teams

MEETING UPDATE

- 1ST Work group meeting was held on Friday, February 9, 2018
- Goal of meeting: Review the goals of the workgroup. Provide updates on work completed in 2017. Presentation on updates of the Baltimore City High Utilizers taskforce by Ms. Gabby Knighton, Associate Director, Behavioral Health System Baltimore
- Next meeting will take place in the coming weeks; date TBD
- Team meetings being scheduled within the next 2 weeks. If interested in any conversations at the team/subgroup level, please contact Buki at Olubukola.alonge@maryland.gov for further details.

PROGRESS TOWARD MEETING FRAMEWORK OBJECTIVES

- Continue conversations around all objectives
- Continue engagement with DPSCS to finalize the Re-entry and Exit Planning (REEP) tool.
- Engage various stakeholders as tool is disseminated via semi-structured interviews.
- Study the manner in which homeless patients are being released from hospitals back into the community by the 3rd quarter

RECOMMENDATIONS

Statewide forum on medical respite care

- Disseminate information on best practices
- Technical assistance for developing a respite care program

Provide funding opportunity to pilot the development and implementation of medical respite care programs

More leadership from the state on this issue

- Education
- Share data collected from MRAM assessment
- Letters of support to potential funders

Consider the unique needs of rural counties vs. urban areas

YOUTH WORK GROUP

The Youth Workgroup last met on January 23, 2018 and March 8, 2018.

During the January meeting, the group continued to discuss barriers to State-issued identification access for homeless youth and shared information from a meeting with representatives from Vital Records. In the Vital Records meeting there was a clarification regarding the fees for documents such as a birth certificate. A birth certificate is free only at the central office located in Baltimore with a letter from a shelter certifying that the individual is experiencing homelessness. Vital Records services are housed in local health departments which charge a fee. This fee varies from county to county ranging in cost from \$10 - \$32. The workgroup also received data from Vital Records and the local health departments on the number of birth certificates issued at no cost.

The workgroup is developing the formal 5-year update to the 2013 Taskforce Report to highlight successes and achievements made and areas and new challenges to be addressed. The workgroup has drafted an outline and timeline for the report and is creating a survey for Continuums of Care, service providers, and youth with lived experiences of homelessness to provide insight on the current state of homelessness and needs to be addressed. The results of the survey will help to inform recommendations for future work.

Finally, during the 2018 legislative session, three bills impacting youth experiencing homelessness passed.

- SB 38 - Motor Vehicle Administration – Birth Certificates – Issuance of Copies
- HB 1224/SB 1218 – Ending Youth Homelessness Act of 2018
- SB 308/HB0431– Foster Care Recipients and Unaccompanied Homeless Youth – Employment Program (Fostering Employment Act of 2018)

Next Meeting: May 15, 2018

Work Group Lead:

Christina Drushel Williams

Senior Policy Analyst, Governor's Office for Children

410-697-9242 (office)

Christina.drushel@maryland.gov

www.goc.maryland.gov