

HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS WORKGROUP UPDATE

August, 2018

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: Ms. Stephanie Slowly, Deputy Director, Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities (MHHD), Maryland Department of Health.

MHHD Assigned Staff: Dr. Olubukola Alonge, Program Administrative Specialist. Ensuring work group objectives are accomplished with the help of MHHD interns.

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"> • Had a subgroup/discharge planning team meeting in May. • Meeting resulted in a presentation by the Maryland Office of Health Care Quality on Discharge planning policies in Maryland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue Conversations
Increase access to proper respite/convalescent care for the homeless statewide.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created and disseminated (Medical Respite Assessment in Maryland) MRAM Tool • Assessment completed in 19 of 24 jurisdictions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminate findings to all interviewed individuals +/- all members of the ICH workgroup • Plan a mini conference on medical respite care in Maryland • Document updates in 2018 Annual Report on Homelessness.
Assess exit-planning strategies used by jails and other institutions to determine service and housing gaps.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created Re-entry and Exit Planning (REEP) Tool • Ms. Kristina Donnelly helped in linking us up with interviewees at DPSCS. • REEP Tool currently being administered by semi-structured phone interviews by Ms. Taylor Sabol, Health Equity Intern from the Federal Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities with placement at MHHD • Please see attached a summary of preliminary findings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue Assessment • Disseminate findings to all interviewed individuals +/- all members of the ICH workgroup • Document findings in 2018 Annual Report on Homelessness.

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

Bolded statement above was copied from the May updates. However, during a recent work group meeting in July, a decision was made to merge the 3 teams as a single work group.

MEETING UPDATE

- Discharge Planning team meeting was held on May 18, 2018
- Most recent work group meeting was held on Tuesday, July 17, 2018
- Goal of meeting: Review the goals of the workgroup. Provide updates on work completed till date. Presentation on Discharge planning regulations from Maryland hospitals by Ms. Renee B. Webster, Assistant Deputy Director for Non Long Term Care Federal Programs, Office of Health Care Quality
- Next meeting: date TBD
- If interested in any of the efforts of this workgroup, please contact Buki at Olubukola.alonge@maryland.gov for further details.

YOUTH WORK GROUP UPDATE

The Youth Workgroup last met on May 15, 2018 and July 17, 2018.

During the May meeting, the group debriefed and discussed the Point Source Youth Conference – Solutions to End Youth Homelessness, hosted in New York City. Many workgroup members, including staff from the Governor’s Office for Children, Department of Housing and Community Development, Department of Health, and service providers in Baltimore City attended the conference. The conference was designed and led by youth who have experienced homelessness and focused heavily on peer learning and leveraging data to support focused interventions. Other topics of relevance included:

- Rapid Re-Housing for serving youth
- Expanding Host Homes (St. Ambrose Pilot in Baltimore City was a session presenter)
- Utilizing health departments’ housing funding to support youth unable to access housing through HUD
- Addressing Race Equity
- Ensuring housing, programs, and services are inclusive of youth identifying as LGBTQ+, with particular emphasis on trans-youth.

The workgroup is developing a 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. ***Surveys will be distributed online beginning August 17th with the final report released in early October.***

Next Meeting: September 2018 – date TBD

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