

Meeting of the Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH)

June 12, 2019, 2019 10:00am – 12:00pm

Maryland Department of Transportation, 7201 Corporate Center Drive, Hanover, MD 21076

I. **Welcome** - Meeting began at 10am

II. **New Business**

a. **2019 Point in Time (PIT) Count** – Stuart Campbell, Director, Community Service programs, Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)

- i. PIT Summary: 6,561 individuals were identified and there was a 9.47% decrease overall with numbers, compared to 2017 data. The importance of the count is to identify trends and homelessness is trending down in Maryland. Eight of the 16 CoCs experienced a decrease in numbers, and the decrease was higher than the eight CoCs who experienced an increase. Highest CoC decrease was 27.63% and highest increase was 22.88%. Most of the decreases were in urban and suburban areas.
- ii. Special populations: Veteran homelessness numbers were reduced 8.38%. Chronic homelessness experienced a 14% decrease.
- iii. Chronic Homelessness: People who are chronically homeless have experienced homelessness for at least a year while struggling with a disabling condition such as a serious mental illness, substance use disorder, or physical disability.
- iv. Meeting with the CoCs leads next month to review PIT findings and trends.
- v. Maryland YouthREACH also helps to identify unaccompanied homeless youth, and the Maryland Department of Education also participates in the Count.
 - Contact information: Stuart.Campbell@maryland.gov,

b. **Statewide Homeless Services Outcome Data FY19** – Steve Holt, Assistant Director, Homelessness Solutions Program (HSP), DHCD

- i. Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development is evaluating data from FY19 quarters 1-3 from July 1, 2018 -March 31, 2019.
- ii. Outcome summary: 14,560 clients were served in the first nine months.
 - a. Emergency shelter: Over 6,000 clients served. The medium length of stay for stayers was about 90 days and the medium length of stay for leavers was 51 days. 50% of households exited to permanent housing.
 - b. Rapid rehousing: Over 1,652 clients served. Median exits to permanent housing were 78%.
- iii. Technical Assistance: The National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) supported the Department with a yearlong training to help providers with RRH strategies. As a follow up to the NAEH training, the Department hosts an RRH workgroup for providers to discuss RRH strategies and/or challenges. The first call took place in May.
 - a. Challenge: tracking individuals that may be experiencing a crisis a year or two after the subsidy ends and returns to homelessness.
 - Contact Information: Stephen.holt@maryland.gov

c. **Discussion of 2019 and 2020 Meeting Topics** – Chair, Secretary Carol Beatty, Maryland Department of Disabilities.

- i. Types of housing support services, possibly from the Department of Health – Christina Drushel-Williams
- ii. Racial Equity – Kate Fairenholt.

- a. Racial Equity is a strategic component of Baltimore City's Action Plan –
Jerrienne Anthony
- iii. Integration of more people with lived experience within the work of the group –
Jerrienne Anthony
- iv. Intersections between the opioid crisis and homelessness – Erin Roth
- v. Sustainable supportive services in permanent housing and services for folks with
fixed incomes such as persons with disabilities and seniors. – Kevin Lindamood
- vi. Data-based approaches to rapid rehousing

III. Updates

- a. **Review of 2019 Legislative session** – Lisa Klingenmaier, Catholic Charities
 - i. 2019 Legislative Session Bills related to the work of the ICH: areas of focus included housing, safety net programs, healthcare, and workforce development.
 - ii. Healthcare updates: A new healthcare bill could potential qualify more individuals living with Hepatitis C to receive treatment. A Medicaid funded pilot dental program went into effect June 1, 2019. Individuals who are dually eligible for Medicaid/Medicare are allowed to receive coverage for up \$800 worth of dental care.
- b. **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Strategy Updates** – Heather Sheridan, Associate Director, Homelessness Initiatives, DHCD
 - i. This is the first year the Qualified Allocation Plan (QA) has a set aside for PSH projects. There were 47 applicants to Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program, one application for PSH set aside.
 - ii. PSH Set Aside Project Overview: The first project is a joint project with Episcopal Housing and Health Care for the Homeless. The partnership envisions 70 units for development in Baltimore. Thirty-five units will be for the formerly homeless and financed through voucher commitments. The other 35 units will be affordable for 50% AMI. Episcopal Housing is also creating 75 units for artist housing, voucher holders and some market rate units. This project will be funded through Sustain of Maryland.
 - iii. HUD CoC funded PSH Units: Over 8,800 statewide. Of those, 3500 are owned by private landlords. A DHCD intern is working to identify the owners of the 3,500 units so that those units may help support PSH efforts.
- c. **Homeless Youth Symposium** –Amanda Miller, UMD School of Social Work
 - i. Summary: Two day conference with 206 attendees. The symposium had representation from 14 of 16 CoCs. There was representation from Washington, DC partners that work in Prince George's and Montgomery County, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, and TA providers, as well as representation from all major state agencies. Various perspectives were present at the symposium with 59 speakers. Secretary Holt and Senator Washington opened up the sessions.
 - ii. Feedback survey: Most respondents noted that their capacity about knowledge of the area of youth homelessness increased. Youth were encouraged to speak at sessions and the feedback from the event appreciated having youth feedback and engagement at the symposium.
 - iii. Next steps: Engaging youth, incorporating youth voices in planning and programming, developing more support services for youth (i.e. workforce development opportunities and host homes), and bigger picture system plans such

as looking more closely at data. CoCs identified Youth Work Groups and standing agenda at CoCs to discuss youth priorities as next steps for their communities.

- iv. Survey: A graduate assistant conducted a survey to understand what current providers are doing around youth engagement. YouthREACH is working on developing a toolkit for youth engagement.

d. **BWI Homelessness Outreach** – Heather Sheridan Associate Director, Homelessness Initiatives, DHCD

- i. Phase I: Prologue was awarded Outreach funding for first phase of BWI outreach project. There are monthly meetings with BWI and Prologue to assess outreach strategies and concerns. There have been more than 1,300 duplicated contacts and since June of 2018, 47 folks have been housed. Since January 2019, eight new folks are identified a month and more than 10 have received employment. From January to April, there has been an average of 40 individuals per night.
- ii. Phase II: DHCD has been working with MDOT to launch second phase and they will pay for the outreach going forward. MDOT will release three-year funding for bid. When second funds are released, strong outreach team may be able to access funds.
- iii. Youth and homeless minors: Outreach has seen at least three youth that fit definition and DHS has been called, some challenges around response to DHS.
- iv. Potential contacts and resources: Travelers aid at the Airport is run by Samaritan's Place and could be a good contact. Union Station in Washington, DC has been doing some of similar work and could be a resource. – Shawn Jones
- v. Next steps: Could this initiative be expanded to Light Rail and train stations?

IV. Work Group Updates and Announcements

- a. **Youth and Young Adult** – Christina Drushel Williams, Policy Analyst, Governor's Office for Children
 - i. The group is still working on report related to ending youth homelessness. The report is an update from the 2013 report, focused on accomplishments and recommendations for next steps. Group had working sessions related to various topics focused on youth services. Next meeting date is June 26 at 1pm.
- b. **Health and Homeless Group** – Dr. Olubukola Olange, Program Administrative Specialist Minority Health and Health Disparities, Maryland Department of Health.
 - i. The group has held a number of meetings focused on respite care in order for communities to create respite care programs. The group is also working on analyzing data from surveyed jails and institutions to better understand the challenges around exits to homelessness. They have discussed how hospitals can better assess folks in waiting rooms, and CoCs are working with local hospitals to collaborate further.
- c. **Workforce Development**
 - i. The group has not been able to meet yet due to unforeseeable issues. The group hopes to have more of an update by the next ICH meeting.

V. Administrative updates

- a. **Discussion of ICH Vacancies** – There are currently five vacancies. There has been someone identified for the role of the advocate, but the council is waiting to go through the appointment process for the individual. Heather Sheridan would like recommendations by the end of the month for the four remaining slots.
- b. **Upcoming Webex Training** - Service Support Animals webinar about regulations and best practices around this issue will be held June 28, 2019.

- c. **Next Meeting Dates**- Dates listed on the agenda are placeholders for potential meeting dates in the future. Heather Sheridan will send something out soon confirming the dates.
- d. **Workforce Opioid Intervention Fund.** The Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation is managing the fund, and so far they have funded seven grantees. The money funds supportive services, trainings, and transportation assistance. The fund is for assistance for folks directly or indirectly impacted by opioid crisis and does not pay for salaries.
- e. Speaker of the House of Delegates has created a Commission on Economic Stability to look at poverty issues, and they are holding listening sessions this summer. Four sessions will be held based on geography. Delegates of specific counties will be in charge of putting the sessions together. Good opportunity for getting folks with lived experiences to get their voices out there.

ICH Members in attendance (13):

*Amanda Harris
Bridget Patton
(Chair) Carol Beatty
Carol Gilbert
Christina Drushel-Williams
Erin Roth*

*Heather Sheridan
Jerrienne Anthony
Kate Farinholt
Kevin Lindamood
Leslie Dews
Lisa Klingenmaier*

*Patricia Flanigan
Shannon Snow
Valerie Ashton-Thomas*

ICH Members that sent a representative (4): *Sandy Monck, Secretary Kenneth Holt, Sylvia Lawson, Olubukola Alonge*

ICH members not in attendance (3): *Bonnie Ariano, Dana Burl, Kristina Donnelly*