

HOWARD COUNTY COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS

COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

9/22/2021

Board Members:

X	Bill Salganik		Kelly Cimino		Cassandra Killingsworth
X	Peter Engel		James Le'Mon		Sandy Monck
X	Jacqueline Scott	X	Bitu Dayhoff		Lisa Terry
	Shelia Little	X	Mariana Izraelson	X	Karen Booth
X	Linda Zumbrun	X	Jennifer Broderick		Sheryl Neverson
X	Vanita Leatherwood	X	Joe Willmott	X	Kelly McLaughlin
X	Stan Levi	X	Justine Muyu	X	Kimberly Eisenreich
	Rich Pardoe	X	Leslie Lampieri		Chris Cromwell
	Kelly Anderson	X	James Cline		

Department of Community Resource and Services (DCRS) and Office of Community Partnerships (OCP) Staff:

X	Rose Burton	X	Erica Smith	X	Catherine Wellman
X	Cheryl Mattis	X	Megan Godfrey Jackson		Valerie Mathis
X	Cara Baumgartner	X	Latonya Dulin		Sharee Campbell

Guests:

X	Jennifer Dunson	X	Tina Fields	X	Kevin Baker
X	Jermira Sarratt				

AGENDA

Call to Order: 1:03 pm by Bill Salganik

Minutes: June and August minutes were motioned, seconded and with no objections were approved.

Agenda Item: Committee Updates

- Executive Committee – Had their first meeting. Figuring out how best to help board without duplication. Working on benchmarks that can easily be presented to the community.
- System Performance Committee – Is working on goals and objectives. Each member is considered a liaison to the other committees.
- Program, Policy and Process Committee – Drafting Street Outreach policy and procedures. A copy of the draft was sent to the Office of Community Partnerships (OCP). Now working on policy and procedures for Transitional Housing, Rapid Rehousing and Shelter.

HOWARD COUNTY COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS

- Coordinated Entry Committee– OCP staff position is now vacant and should be posted soon. Meetings on hold until the position is filled. Working with other OCP staff to meet needs of committee and issues that arise.
Have reverted to pre-COVID-19 prioritization. The board approved the change in a previous meeting. Residency in Howard County is not required for clients to receive services. This change was also announced in previous meetings. Must accept clients regardless of residency for compliance with Federal and State laws.
- Community Commitment and Awareness Committee – National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness week is being planned for and will be virtual. The committee would like organizations to share what they are planning for the event. Reaching out to local media to cover the event, would like them to have editorials and print articles. Will investigate the possibility of Busboys and Poets having space for an outside event.
Would like to report on successes, accomplishments and progress related to The Path Home. Will reach out to partners for related data.

Agenda Item: Task Lists

- Will reach out to committees to report on progress. Somethings achieved early, while others had to be delayed to due COVID-19. Task list and timeline need to be updated accordingly.

Agenda Item: HMIS – Committee or Workgroup?

- The committee has primarily been meeting to help HMIS users. Guiding them in how to use HMIS and troubleshooting issues. In the past the HMIS committee did work similar to the System Performance committee's current responsibilities.
- The board proposed removing committee status and HMIS will officially become a workgroup to be led by Catherine Wellman. Bill Salganik, as head of the HMIS committee, approved of the transition to HMIS workgroup. Peter Engel motioned, Bitia Dayhoff second, no one was opposed, and all were in favor. HMIS Committee is now the HMIS Workgroup.

Agenda Item: Homeless System Updates

Community Action Council (CAC)

- Received 1,402 FY21 applications for rental assistance. There are 664 applications submitted so far for FY22. \$6,241 is the average assistance needed for clients to stay housed. New CAC website, that was funded by a grant from Community Services Partnership (CSP) program, has made it easier for clients to submit applications for assistance. There has been a marked increase in applications submitted since the website was upgraded.
- 5,000 applications were submitted for energy assistance in FY21. 644 applications have been submitted so far in FY22. Clients submit energy and rental assistance applications when they come to CAC to access the food bank.

Humanim

- Street Outreach: 18 clients have regular interaction. Working with Officer Cromwell is a benefit to everyone. Next 30 days Street Outreach will need to focus on increasing camping supplies given to clients. Expanding partnership with the faith community for client referrals and donations. The program is willing to accept gently used tents and other supplies.

HOWARD COUNTY COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS

Requests for visual verification of homeless status have increased. Before self-verification was sufficient, now visual is required for placement in homeless assistance programs. Since July, 40 people have been reported as homeless. Street outreach coordinator is working to verify and offer services to all of them. Some part of the population is refusing shelter and relationship building continues to attempt to bring them inside.

A request was made for a homeless dashboard to be presented at the next Board meeting.

- Permanent Supportive Housing: They had to switch housing inspection companies. The stricter standards of the new company have led to an increase in failed inspections. They will reach out to OCP staff for guidance and possible budget changes needed to perform more inspections. Erica Smith offered to send Humanim the 13 Keys to Inspection guide.

Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center

- Day Resource Center: have stayed open throughout the pandemic. They now have rapid COVID-19 testing available to clients. They need more volunteers because of COVID-19 fears have decreased volunteer participation. Staff have stepped up and gone above and beyond to fill the gap. They have peer counselors in drug misuse available on the weekends. They have hosted four or five COVID-19 vaccines clinics and they were a huge success. Health Department has been a crucial partner to the Center. Formalizing case management and assisting clients with applying for assistance.
- Cold Weather Shelter: due to concerns over COVID-19, shelter will be provided through local hotels again this year. Cold Weather Shelter is scheduled to run from November 30th through March 29th.

Bridges to Housing Stability

- There have been 41 Rapid Rehousing cases. They have been placing people at an extremely fast pace. Referrals and partnership with Grassroots have been great help. HSSP permanent supportive housing has 28 households. Before COVID-19 there were only 15 households in Rapid Rehousing. Increased flow through the system has greatly improved the program.

Agenda Item: Monitoring Update

- Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) monitored the lead agency for FFY2021. The results will be sent by DHCD within 30 days.
- Lead agency will begin monitoring subrecipients by the end of the month. All funded agencies will be monitored by end of year.

Agenda Item: Funding Update

- NOFO application has been released for HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) funding. Currently in Howard County, these grants fund go to Permanent Supportive Housing at Humanim and Rapid Rehousing. This is an open application, so any housing agency is welcome to apply.
- Administrative funding application: HSP has traditionally given all administrative funding to subrecipients. The lead agency will be keeping administrative funding this year. They will also keep half of the administrative funding from HSSP. Subrecipients will receive supplemental funding from Howard County Government to make them whole.

Agenda Item: Howard County DHCD Update

- 656 household have received eviction prevention assistance. Kelly Cimino would like to thank all the partner agencies that have been managing the distribution of funds.

HOWARD COUNTY COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS

Agenda Item: Eviction Update

- Kelly McLaughlin spoke about eviction prevention efforts at the courts. Working on building an official program. The program has not launched yet and it will take time to process applications. When the more formal process is in place, there is hope that an automatic stay of eviction for clients that have submitted applications can be built into the system.
- Legal Aid's program assists clients before their eviction notice reaches the courts. Jackie Scott would like to expand their presence at The MultiService Center.

Agenda Item: Point in Time (PIT) Count Update

- Howard County accepted a waiver last year, so they did not have a street count. It was not required to conduct a street count because had done the year before. Researching what other jurisdictions are doing this year to conduct a count while staying COVID-19 safe. OCP staff will reach out to the appropriate board committee to help with coordination.

Meeting Conclusion Time: 2:35 pm

Next Meeting: December 1, 2021 1:00 pm via WebEx