

HOWARD COUNTY COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS

COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

2/24/2021

Board Members:

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

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

X	Rose Burton	X	Jennifer Corcoran		Valerie Mathis
X	Cheryl Mattis	X	Megan Godfrey Jackson	X	Sharee Campbell
X	Cara Baumgartner		Colleen Baumgartner	X	Latonya Dulin
X	Catherine Wellman				

Guests:

X	Jennifer Dunson	X	Josh Bombino	X	Beth Stein
X	Tina Fields				

AGENDA

Call to Order: 1:02 pm by Kelly Cimino

Minutes Approved: Minutes from the January meeting were motioned and approved

Agenda Item: Homeless System Response Update

Presenter Name: Karen Booth, Josh Bombina, Mariana Izraelson, and Tina Fields

Discussion: Humanim's Street Outreach is now able to verify when people are literally homeless. While reaching out to this population they are providing essential supplies. Staff were able to ride along with Officer Chris Cromwell, the police office homeless liaison. This allowed them to contact more people and find a new homeless encampment. They are helping people to get identification, which is a first step to obtaining housing. When homeless people are willing, they are moved into Code Blue or Cold Weather shelter. Street Outreach staff will be SOAR certified in the next 30 days, that will allow them to assist with applying for benefits.

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Grassroots shelter programs are assisting the homeless population. Cold Weather Shelter has sheltered 35 individuals, which includes 33 adults and two children. While in shelter households receive case management, assistance with applying for documents and housing, and help with appointments. Shelter services includes three meals a day, laundry, transportation, and COVID-19 supplies.

Code Blue shelter has sheltered 160 duplicated individuals. Two families stayed in Code Blue and were transferred to the Grassroots shelter. All clients have met with outreach workers and their data has been entered in the HMIS system.

The Day Resource Center delivers supplies and food to people during COVID-19. The staff have been able to obtain ID documents and complete housing assessments for all participants. The center will be expanding operating hours to four days a week.

Agenda Item: Point in Time (PIT) Count

Presenter Name: Rose Burton

Discussion: Were not able do a street count this year due to COVID-19. The street count is only required every other year and Howard County completed a count last year. Howard County will return to a yearly street count after COVID-19. Were able to use a Code Blue night for this year's count, this allowed a count of some of the people that would normally be unsheltered. Officer Chris Cromwell met with hotel staff to identify people being aided by churches and other organizations, so these people could be included in the count. Food pantries were able to count some homeless people that have been using their assistance. 68 homeless surveys have been collected, with more still being submitted.

Agenda Item: COVID-19 Vaccination Update

Presenter Name: Jackie Scott

Discussion: The Department of Community Resources and Services (DCRS) is assisting the Health Department with mass vaccination clinics. DCRS is providing a helpline and in person staffing at clinics. The first vaccination clinics were held at Ascend 1 building and Howard Community College. Possible future locations include high schools. DCRS and the Health Department are working with outreach organizations to make sure all communities have access to vaccines. This includes providing vaccine information in multiple languages.

Agenda Item: Emergency Shelter Housing Push

Presenter Name: Jennifer Corcoran

Discussion: 20 vouchers are available for mainstream Section 8 housing based on age and health issues for people currently in emergency shelter. About half of the households in emergency shelter are eligible for these vouchers. There have been difficulties in documenting disabilities and health issues. Street outreach is going to start the process of obtaining these documents for homeless people as early in their relationship as possible.

Agenda Item: Rent and Utility Assistance

Presenter Name: Kelly Cimino

Discussion: The Howard County Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has received an award of \$9.7 million dollars from The Treasury Department. These funds can be used to cover up to 12 months of rent and utilities per household. A press conference will announce the opening day for applications. DHCD will be working with Community Action Council (CAC) and Grassroots to

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delivery funding. They will likely work with Bridges to Housing Stability and the Housing Commission as well. The eviction moratorium ends in March. If households have received three to six months of assistance from other funding sources, they are still eligible for this new funding. Households need to show they have a reduction in income due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Agenda Item: The Path Home Implementation

Presenter Name: Kelly McLachlan and Bill Salganik

Discussion: Committee chairs and co-chairs have been assigned. Most board members have joined at least one committee. Committees will meet before the next board meeting to review their implementation plan and update timelines. They should be prepared to report at the next board meeting.

Meeting Conclusion Time: 2:34 pm

Next Meeting: March 24, 2021 1:00 pm via WebEx