



# Coordinated Entry Workgroup

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9830 Patuxent Woods Drive • Columbia, MD 21046

## **Minutes of the October 30, 2018 Meeting**

9830 Patuxent Woods Drive, Room 346, Columbia, MD 21046

### **Attendance:**

Department of Community Resources and Services Staff: Cara Baumgartner, Rose Burton, Jennifer Corcoran, Elizabeth Van Oeveren

Attendees: Donna Blackwell, Jen Broderick, Ayesha Holmes, Cheryl Rowe, Sara Smoley, Linda Zumbrun

**Meeting called to order** by Jennifer Corcoran at 2:03 pm

### **Shelter Prioritization**

As a continuation of the discussion from the last meeting regarding the shelter prioritization standard for those who are literally homeless, the committee discussed instances in which households at HopeWorks might need to transfer to Grassroots. HopeWorks periodically has clients who are no longer in imminent danger leaving their shelter with no permanent destination and the Committee discussed whether those households should have a place in the shelter prioritization standards. HopeWorks has shared that they are currently reviewing their internal procedures with regard to these households, and the Committee would like to hear from them at the conclusion of that process to better understand their clients' needs. The Committee decided that in the meantime rather than set a standard prioritization, this group of households, which is small in number, should be considered as the need arises by the prioritization workgroup that will be forming.

Before completely finalizing the decision that all literally homeless households should be prioritized before those who are imminently homeless, the Committee discussed whether there might be circumstances in which an exception should be made. The Committee thought extreme cases such as a senior citizen on oxygen, someone receiving chemotherapy, or a very young/ill infant might rise to this level, though it was noted that these instances are in fact common for households staying at Grassroots. The Committee also discussed how often people contact Grassroots for shelter but subsequently find somewhere else to stay, such as with friends or family. Grassroots believes this is a frequent occurrence. Many people who have not been homeless before call the hotline assuming there is more assistance available than there actually is. They then dive deeper into their own resources and manage to find alternative living arrangements. The exception seemed to be people with serious mental illness because they have often already exhausted their personal relationships. After considering these factors, the Committee decided that households experiencing literal homelessness should consistently be prioritized over those at imminent risk, but placement decisions for particularly vulnerable households at imminent risk should be considered by the prioritization workgroup that will be formed.

**Prevention Prioritization**

The Committee briefly discussed a prioritization standard for prevention. They agreed to use the Prevention Targeting Tool which has already been agreed upon with a cut-off score rather than develop a further stratification.

**Meeting adjourned** by Jennifer Corcoran at 2:57 pm  
Minutes submitted by Cara Baumgartner