

Howard County Coalition to End Homelessness

4/22/20

Committee Members:

| | | | | | |
|----------|---------------|----------|----------------|----------|---------------|
| X | Kevin Lee | X | Jen Broderick | X | Karen Booth |
| | Bitia Dayhoff | X | Shanika Cooper | | Tifnie Criner |
| | John Pomoroy | | Ayesha Holmes | X | Sara Smoley |
| X | Linda Zumbrun | | Cami Carr | | |

Other Attendees:

| | | | | | |
|------------|------------|--|--|--|--|
| Tina Field | Beth Stein | | | | |
| | | | | | |

Staff:

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|----------|------------------|----------|-------------|----------|-------------------|
| X | Cara Baumgartner | X | Rose Burton | X | Jennifer Corcoran |
| X | Liz Van Oeveren | | | | |

Permanent Housing Prioritization Standard

The Coordinated Entry Committee is recommending that the prioritization standard for permanent housing placements (Rapid Rehousing, Housing Commission vouchers, Permanent Supportive Housing) be superseded while the COVID-19 pandemic is underway. The recommendation is three-fold:

- (1) The revised prioritization standard should be in effect while the Howard County State of Emergency is in place.
- (2) The pool of those eligible for permanent housing placements should be defined as those households currently known to the Coordinated Entry System to be literally homeless.
This list would be in place of the full By-Name List, which becomes “stale” without robust street outreach capacity. Making this change will allow the System to be more nimble during the state of emergency, as time will not be spent searching for people who have resolved their homeless episode or left the area.
- (3) Factors, with adjustments, placing those who contract COVID-19 at high risk for serious complications should form the basis for the primary organizing principle of the standard.
Adjustments, as detailed below, are being proposed because staff at access points are not trained to make the kinds of medical distinctions involved in some of the relevant diagnoses.

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| Primary Organizing Category | Secondary Organizing Category (Ranking of households within the Primary Organizing Category) | Tertiary Organizing Category |
|-----------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Unsheltered - High Risk | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Age 60+ and has one or more of the high risk health conditions 2) Has multiple high risk health conditions 3) Has one health condition 4) Age 60+ 5) VI-SPDAT score | VI-SPDAT |
| Sheltered - High Risk | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Age 60+ and has one or more of the high risk health conditions 2) Has multiple high risk health conditions 3) Has one health condition 4) Age 60+ 5) VI-SPDAT score | VI-SPDAT |
| Unsheltered - Low Risk | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Age 60+ and has one or more of the high risk health conditions 2) Has multiple high risk health conditions 3) Has one health condition 4) Age 60+ 5) VI-SPDAT score | VI-SPDAT |
| Sheltered - Low Risk | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Age 60+ and has one or more of the high risk health conditions 2) Has multiple high risk health conditions 3) Has one health condition 4) Age 60+ 5) VI-SPDAT score | VI-SPDAT |

“High risk health conditions” are based on guidance from the CDC, with the following changes:

- Breathing problems other than sleep apnea (in place of “chronic lung disease”)
- Asthma (dropping the distinction of “moderate to severe”)
- Heart conditions (dropping the distinction of “serious”)
- Immunocompromised – cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplant, immunodeficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications
- Obesity (dropping the distinction of “severe”)
- Diabetes
- Chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
- Liver disease

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Next Committee Meeting:

3/12/20