



Coordinated Entry Workgroup

9830 Patuxent Woods Drive • Columbia, MD 21046

Minutes of the January 14, 2020 Meeting

9830 Patuxent Woods Drive, Columbia, MD 21046

Attendance:

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

Attendees: Josh Bombino, Jen Broderick, Cami Carr, Shanika Cooper, Brittany Eltringham, Melissa Fitzgibbon, Kevin Lee, Kristi Simon, Beth Stein, Linda Zumbrun

Linda Zumbrun called the meeting to order and updated the Committee on the status of the Coalition Board and completion of *The Path Home*. There is a meeting of the Planning Committee later in the day to continue fleshing out the work begun at the Board's retreat in November; the full Board has been invited to participate.

Minutes from the December meeting were approved. Based on some of the concerns raised at that meeting, staff reiterated that while our system does need additional resources, Coordinated Entry is intended to address how resources are used rather than to develop new ones. That function will exist in other places within the Coalition. Coordinated Entry has already caused a shift in the system, in that more households are entering shelter from literal rather than imminent homelessness.

PIT/HMIS Data Standards

Information relevant to the new CE Data Standards will be gathered during the PIT to learn more about the priorities of stakeholders and the prevalence of various conditions among those experiencing literal homelessness in the county. Staff shared the list of factors found to increase the risk of dying on the street (developed from work by Boston's Health Care for the Homeless). The Committee decided to also include pregnancy, cancer, need to keep medications refrigerated, and need to access electricity for medical devices (such as a nebulizer) to the list of factors to ask about, as well as age of children and children with special needs for households with children.

Presentation - CE HMIS Data Standards

Keisha Benjamin gave a presentation on the requirements of the new Data Standards; data needs to be available beginning April 1, 2020. The Committee needs to recommend to the Board policies and procedures that would allow for documentation of

- how verification of literal homelessness was accomplished
 - can be through third-party verification, intake worker observation, or self-certification
- whether a crisis or housing assessment was administered at the system's front door
 - a crisis assessment identifies immediate needs while a housing assessment identifies long-term housing needs
- the outcome of diversion efforts
 - this will not begin before April 1
- whether a literally homeless household was connected to a shelter resource

There was discussion about what resources the Committee might use when thinking through these issues, including the National Alliance to End Homelessness and the HUD Exchange website. There was also a question regarding whether the Committee should view these changes from the standpoint of what can be accomplished using current partner resources vs. what would be ideal. It is unclear at this point how things will ultimately proceed in this respect, and so it will be particularly important for the Committee to stay in sync with the progress of the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 am.