

HOWARD COUNTY COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS

COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

4/22/2020

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	X	Lisa Terry
	Shelia Little	X	Ayesha Holmes		Karen Booth
X	Linda Zumbrun	X	Jennifer Broderick		Sheryl Neverson
	Jack Kavanaugh	X	Joe Willmott	X	Jennifer Pollitt-Hill
X	Stan Levi		Roe Bonaccorsy	X	Kimberly Eisenreich

Staff:

X	Rose Burton	X	Jennifer Corcoran	X	Valerie Mathis
X	Cheryl Mattis	X	Liz Van Oeveren	X	Colleen Baumgartner
X	Cara Baumgartner	X	Megan Godfrey Jackson	X	Keisha Benjamin

Guests:

X	Skip Klauka	X	Beth Stein	X	Kelly McLaughlin
X	Kathy Dinoto	X	Joan Washington		

AGENDA

Call to Order: Kelly Cimino called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm

Minutes Approved: March minutes were motioned and approved.

Agenda Item: Prioritizations During COVID-19 Pandemic

Presenter Name: Jennifer Corcoran

Discussion: Change standard for housing placement while the emergency is in place. Move from using the By-Name list to Street Outreach list. Which is a list of who is currently homeless and in contact with outreach/agencies. Propose prioritizing people 60+ years old and/or have medical risks that makes them more susceptible to COVID-19. Simplify qualifying medical conditions so call line doesn't have to be medical professions, i.e. if someone says they have breathing problems instead of asthma. Prioritization will be as follows: someone that is 60+ with health condition, then multiple health conditions, one health condition, 60+ no medical condition, then VI-SPDAT score. Higher VI-SPDAT score would be used to choosing between people in the same category. This prioritization will be used for housing, not placements in shelter.

There are some openings and vouchers this would apply to. There are 18 to 20 high risk people in motel, 10 high risk people not sheltered, 25 low risk unsheltered people. Of the 10 people that are high risk unsheltered, they are about to be moved into either shelter or hotel.

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There are 304 people either in shelter or unsheltered on By-Name list. Howard County had 64 unsheltered at beginning of the emergency and have moved 30 of them into shelter or hotel so far. Looking at how many more people Grassroots can safely take in. High risk to go to hotels and low risk into shelter. Also working to do Rapid Rehousing (RAP) when able.

Action: Bill Salganik moved to accept the COVID-19 prioritization, Peter Engel seconded. All were in favor, no one was opposed. COVID-19 prioritization has been accepted.

Agenda Item: HSP Funding

Presenter Name: Colleen Baumgartner

Discussion: HSP will be level funding from the State at \$359,150. 40% Rapid Rehousing (RAP), 1% homeless prevention, 19% emergency shelter, 11% outreach, 26% unaccompanied youth program, and 3% Permanent Supportive Housing (Perm). These percentages fall in line with The Path Home priorities. Thank you to agencies for the fast turnaround in submitting your parts of the application.

Agenda Item: COVID-19 Tracking in HMIS

Presenter Name: Keisha Benjamin

Discussion: Needed to identify who was at high risk for COVID-19 so questions were added to intake for shelter providers and call in for persons exposed or with symptoms of COVID-19. A section was added to track eligible activities for FEMA funding for each service provider. Working on developing reports to be able to use these numbers and send reports to FEMA.

Agenda Item: Reallocation of HSP Funding

Presenter Name: Rose Burton

Discussion: Trend in funding is to be more flexible in response to COVID-19. We are allowed to realign budget as needed. There have been challenges with RAP and funds were going to be underspent. We will be reallocating of RAP funds to the emergency shelter non-congregant hotel program. There will still be signification funding in RAP. Still working out the details of how funds will be redeployed either to agencies or direct from county. Time and priority means this will be a targeted process, not a reopening of the application process.

Agenda Item: Howard County Budget and Plan to End Homelessness (PEH) Funding

Presenter Name: Megan Godfrey Jackson

Discussion: PEH is included in the budget again at level funding for homeless services activities. It looks like a decrease in budget but that is because the Housing Locator position is moving to the Office of Community Partnerships (OCP). That money is moved from PEH budget to the OCP budget. PEH HSSP funds may not be spent down this year. We will try to recapture those funds to deal with COVID-19 in the next fiscal year. This is based on underspending, not reallocation of funds.

Agenda Item: Open Forum for Providers

Presenter Name: Ayesha Holmes (Grassroots), Jennifer Pollitt-Hill (HopeWorks), Jennifer Broderick (Bridges to Housing Stability), Bitia Dayhoff (Community Action Council), and Peter Engel (Housing Commission).

Discussion: All providers thanked each other and the County for working together to deal with COVID-19. Services currently being provided are seeing major increases in requests; homeless shelter, motel

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program and food bank. Providers are reporting that there will be an incredible amount of need for eviction, foreclosure and utility turn off prevention, as well as domestic violence shelter, once the moratorium and stay at home order are lifted. The County and Federal government are looking at increased funding in these areas.

Jennifer Pollitt-Hill announced she will no longer be the Executive Director of HopeWorks. Everyone stated they were sorry to see her go and wished her well.

Meeting Conclusion Time: Meeting closed at 2:39 pm

Next Meeting: June 24, 2020 1:00 pm - WebEx