



## **Interagency Commission on Homelessness**

### **Hospital & Jail Committee**

**Co-chairs: Kim Emerson, Adventist HealthCare and LaSonya Kelly, DHHS**

**Date: February 25, 2016**

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#### **I. Introduction**

The ICH Hospital & Jail Committee consists of representatives from local hospitals, homeless services providers, Montgomery County Special Needs Housing, Department of Corrections, HealthCare for the Homeless, DHHS Behavioral Health and Crisis Services. We have been charged with developing strategies to address the medical needs of homeless individuals discharging from the hospitals and jails, creating a process to coordinate appropriate resources to ensure a safe discharge and developing a medical respite care program model that meets the county's needs. The committee has met on three occasions (September, October and November 2015, and in conjunction with the ICH Behavioral Health Committee in January 2016).

#### **II. Accomplishments (July, 2015- February, 2016)**

We have discussed the challenges faced by homeless service providers and hospitals when working with homeless individuals discharging from a hospital. The committee has explored how a medical respite program could make an impact in bridging this gap in services. We have researched national medical respite care models, and have explored what models could meet the needs of our county while leveraging existing resources.

On January 19, 2016, a joint meeting was held between our ICH Hospital and Jail Committee and the ICH Behavioral Health Committee. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the goals and objectives of both committees and acknowledge the dual representation of membership. Similar objectives were identified with open discussion on how to move forward more efficiently. The committee co-chairs are entertaining the option of combining the committees on a quarterly basis or permanently to maximize our efforts. The following objectives were identified for shared work:

1. Discharge planning
2. Communication within the system of care and sharing of information among providers

3. Diversion Programs: Behavioral health, hospital and jail
4. Medical respite care

The Montgomery Cares Advisory Board (MCAB) now has oversight of all DHHS programs for the Uninsured which included Montgomery Care, Care for Kids, County Dental Program, Maternity Partnership and Homeless Health and has proposed that \$50,000 in start-up funds be allocated to Homeless Health to support a Medical Respite pilot program in their advocacy for FY17 budget. The final decision will be announced when the FY17 budget is finalized in mid-May.

### **III. Future Activities (March, 2016-June, 2016)**

- Develop a grid of all the existing medical respite programs in Baltimore, Washington DC, Richmond, VA, Fredericksburg, VA and Arlington, VA.
- Participate on sub-groups within our joint ICH committee with Behavioral Health to accomplish assigned goals & objectives more efficiently and to avoid duplication of efforts in the following areas:
  - Communication within the system of care and sharing of information among providers
  - Diversion Programs
  - Formal Discharge Planning
- Advocate for a pilot medical respite program based on the best model suited with Montgomery County resources
- Participate in a 2<sup>nd</sup> joint Meeting with the ICH Behavioral Health Committee to work on the identified common areas

### **IV. Conclusion**

- The Hospital and Jail Committee will continue to focus on the following:
  - Laying the foundation for Montgomery County to appropriately assess the medical respite model that is most feasible and adaptable to our existing resources and funding options;
  - Organize a round table for key stakeholders/collaborators to discuss sharing of resources & responsibility for a respite program to maximize its productivity and success;
  - Assess effective measures (improved team collaboration at earlier stages of admission, development of set protocols and enhance communication between service providers & Hospitals/Jails) to ensure safe and appropriate discharges from the Hospitals & Jails;
  - Participate in the Joint meetings with the Behavioral Health Committee as scheduled.