Interagency Commission on Homelessness

Operations Committee

Nadim Khan, Chair, Priscilla Fox-Morrill, Co-chairs

Date: 2/25/2016

I.   Introduction

The Operation Committee continues to meet on a monthly basis and will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the CoC.

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

Refinement of Coordinated Entry System Housing Prioritization Process

The Operations Committee established a housing prioritization process to identify and prioritize persons for housing based on criteria developed by the CoC. A Housing Prioritization Committee was created to facilitate the review and referral of persons to available housing in the CoC, assure coordination and target resources to those most in need

Training on Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization and Decision Assistance Tool and Full SPDAT

On August 11, 2015 the training session on the VI-SPADT (Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization and Decision Assistance Tool) and the full SPADT for individuals was provided to assist in the implementation of the written standards and the coordinated entry into the homeless system. The training was targeted to staff persons who work at programs throughout the homeless continuum of care. This includes outreach workers, intake staff, case managers, and program managers at both homeless service agencies and permanent housing providers.

Creation of By-Name List Report

A new report was built in HMIS to assist with the Written Standard process that included policies and procedures for evaluating the eligibility for assistance, determining and prioritizing which eligible individuals will receive "what assistance" in "what order". A by-name list is a real-time, up-to-date list off people experiencing homelessness in our community. List allows

our community to know every person experiencing homelessness by name and facilitate efficient decisions around how best to refer individuals experiencing homelessness to housing resources.

Homeless Resource Day

Montgomery County in partnership with the City of Gaithersburg held its fifth annual "Homeless Resource Day" on November 19, 2015 as a way to reach out to residents experiencing homelessness and connect them with needed community resources and supports. More than 373people attended this highly successful event and were able to receive health screenings, registration for mainstream benefits, legal assistance, employment, haircuts and more. A total of 270 volunteers participated and 77 vendors provided services.

Submission of HUD Continuum of Care Application

HUD Continuum of Care Application was submitted on November 18, 2015. A total of $8.7 million was requested on behalf of Montgomery County providers including $1.1 million in new funding for permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing funds.

Zero 2016

Montgomery County's achievements on Veterans homelessness were officially recognized and confirmed by both the Federal government and the national Zero:2016 campaign. Montgomery County is one of only four communities in America to have met the Zero: 2016 standard of functional zero for homeless veterans.

Gap Analysis

Working with TAC, the Operations Committee is developing a Gap Analysis to identify the need for housing to meet the needs of homeless residents in the CoC. A facilitated discussion was held on January 12, 2016 to review data. A final report and a tool to help the CoC conduct a gap analysis on an ongoing basis is being developed by TAC, a HUD approved technical assistance provider.

CoC Case Manager Written Standards Explanation Resource

On February 24, 2016 the Operations Committee adopted a guide to help case managers understand the Montgomery County Continuum of Care Written Standards and explain the new prioritization system to clients.

Governance Charter

On February 24, 2016 Montgomery County CoC Operations committee approved the CoC Governance Charter for an additional year as required.

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

•   Identify resources and funding from all levels (Federal, State and Local) and best practices for providing outreach, permanent housing and triage of youth.

- Identify gaps in services for youth who are homeless and determine ways to fill the gaps.

- Develop CoC policies and procedures to determine prioritization for transitional housing.

IV.   Conclusion

The Montgomery County Operations committee will continue to coordinate the overall system of care. The CoC will develop and recommend policies and procedure for approval by the Commission.