



INTERAGENCY COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS

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Housing for all = A Stronger Montgomery

Bi-Monthly Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 23, 2019 | 3-6p

Rockville Memorial Library, 1st Fl Conference Rm, 21 Maryland Avenue, Rockville 20850

Members (Present or Represented)

Bohorquez, M. (Rep. Jonathan Brice)
Buckland, Victoria
Carranza, Valeria (Rep. CM Evan Glass)
Chesney, Amanda
George, Melissa (Rep. DOCR)
Goldman, Jeff
Harris, Amanda

Johnson, Ebony (Vice Chair)

Kauffman, Louise
London, Sharan
Miller, Eneshal

Pinero, Roberto (Chair)

Roynestad, Brian
Schuchman, Abe
Seidel, Stan
Shane, Rock
Sinclair-Smith, Susan

Members (Excused)

Members (Absent)

Crowel, Raymond
Newton, Bridget
Spann, Stacy
Zucker, Craig

Public Hearing

Presenters:

Belk, Ralph
Chatmon, Fiona
Layne-Brizan, Mary
McMillian, Cynthia
Millford, Katherine
Poz, Tomasa
Rock, Shane
Stimon, Robin
Techler, Kenneth

Guests

Aparicio, Carlos
Aguilar, Katherine
Afework, Endrias
Bowman, Betsy
Carlisle, George
Ezrin, Debbie
Fasanelli, Antonia
Grinnell, Jennifer
Heyman, Matt
Hong, Christine
Krakaur, Haifa
Kramer, Cathy
Lopes, Kecia
Lucio, Emily
Lyman, Patti
Mayo, Cliff
Mendez, John
Morgan, Jaslyn
Muse-Evans, Gwen
O'Donoghue, Leigh

Oldham, Julie
Okhomina, Omore
Phillips, Mary
Pierre, Rachel
Pontzer, Kathryn
Schiller, Jen
Shaw, Cheryl
Spassiane, Rachel
Stephenson, Pam
Swan, Fred

Staff

Adhanom, Rozina
Ball, Kim
Branda, Ilana
Dagne, Lelena
George, Leslie
Huggins, Gloria
Jones, LaTrecia
Matthews, Stacey
Soni, Nili

Welcome | Introductions: Roberto Pinero and Ebony Johnson

Roberto Pinero polled the Commissioners to ensure that there was a consensus to vote on the Allocation Committee members and the HUD NOFA priorities later in the meeting.

The Annual Conflict of Interest Statement and Questionnaire was distributed, and the Commissioners were encouraged to complete and submit.

Approval of the September 12, 2018 and February 22, 2019 Minutes: Roberto Pinero

The minutes were approved unanimously.

Explanation of the Public Hearing:

Funding priorities for the HUD NOFA and a resolution were discussed. Service providers and stakeholders were given the opportunity to share their thoughts and feelings on what priorities they wanted to see including in the NOFA. The ICH wanted to hear the community's insight. Each presenter will be given 3 minutes.

Conflict of Interest: Commissioners that are service providers and who have a conflict of interest because they receive funding from DHHS will not have a voice and will not have a vote when the funding priorities are presented.

Question: Susie Sinclair-Smith asked if there is a vote today how will the testimonies of the presenters be incorporated? Roberto answered that today’s vote is the beginning of the process. An Allocation Committee will be established, and that committee will take into consideration the testimonies heard today.

Public hearing presenters submitted their testimonies in writing. Testimonies are posted on website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Homelessness/ICHMeetingAgenda.html. The following service providers and stakeholders gave testimonies:

- Ralph Belk, The National Center for Children and Families
- Fiona Chatmon, Individual
- Mary Layne-Brizan, Individual
- Nicketa Lewis, Individual (Submitted written testimony only)
- Cynthia McMillian, Individual
- Katherine Millford, EveryMind
- Tomasa Poz, Individual
- Shane Rock, Interfaith Works
- Robin Stimson, MC Victim Services Advisory Board
- Kenneth Techler, Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless

Implementation of Governance Charter: Amanda Chesney and Jeff Goldman

Amanda Chesney shared the following implementation plan of the Governance Charter. The purpose of the charter is to provide clarity and structure to the work of the ICH:

- Operationalize the new Code of Conduct, including distribution and collection of the Annual Conflict of Interest Forms.
- Work with the County Council to update the statutory language related to the ICH.
- Revamp existing committees to update committee descriptions, review and select officers and members, and update work plan, as applicable.
- Operationalize the new People’s Committee and the Funding and Partnership Committee
- Create standard tools for ICH and Committee meetings to assist in meeting planning and documentation.

Jeff Goldman shared that the new ICH committee structure has been expanded from 4 to 8 committees because of the of the different nuances and the complexities of the work. It is hoped that members of the community and provider agencies will serve on the committees. The implementation of the committees and the subcommittees will be spread over the year.

Committee/Subcommittee	Time Frame	Committee/Subcommittee	Time Frame
System Coordination	April-Jul	Funding and Partnership	Aug-Oct
Coordinated Entry Subcommittee	April-Jul	Communication	Aug-Oct
Outcome and Improvement	May-Jul	People’s	Aug-Dec
HMIS Subcommittee	May-Jul	Allocation Subcommittee	Dec-Feb
Strategy and Planning	July-Dec	(New for 2020 NOFA)	

Committee activities will vary depending on the time of year and the work that the committee or subcommittee covers. Each committee and subcommittee will:

- Create or revise their committee description
- Meet with current committees, as applicable
- Create a recruitment plan

- Convene new committee and facilitate initial workplan sessions.

Update on @HomeTogether: Chapman Todd

Chapman Todd announced that the family homelessness effort—@HomeTogether—is the next phase. We are examining the current status of family homelessness.

What we have learned:

- The census of families who are homeless in the County typically is between 35-50
- More than 300 families are served during the course of a 12-month period
- In the 2018, the average homeless household size was 3.2 persons
- The average time a family experiencing homelessness remains in the shelter system is 74 days and the average time for families sheltering in hotels is under 50 days

What we have done:

- Implemented Seamless Intake and Assessment for families with children
- To date 2/3 of all households with children seeking shelter were diverted from the homeless continuum through conflict mediation and problem-solving that resolved their housing crisis
- From 2017-2018, the number of families with children identified through the Point-in-Time (PIT) decreased by 27%
- Redesigned the Rapid Rehousing program to align with best practices both nationally and among the experts in this field
- Met with stakeholders to build consensus around goals, barriers, partners, and next steps
- Created the Strategy and Planning Committee and determined the goal of ending and preventing homelessness by the end of 2020

Next steps:

- Conduct a “system mapping” exercise with all stakeholders to identify ways to reduce the length of time families experience homelessness
- Identify the various interventions needed to address homelessness for families who meet both the HUD Federal definition (literally homeless) and the Department of Education definition (which includes people who are doubled up).

Benchmarks:

- Identify all families experiencing homelessness. (Typically, presenting as a mother with children)
- Use prevention and diversion strategies whenever possible, and otherwise provide immediate access to low-barrier shelter to any family experiencing homelessness who needs and wants it
- Use coordinated entry processes to effectively link families experiencing homelessness to house and service solutions that are tailored to the needs of all family members
- Assist families to move swiftly into permanent or non-time-limited housing options with appropriate services and supports

The Measures of Success:

- Moving families experiencing homelessness swiftly to safe, stable and permanent or non-time-limited housing options. Reducing the length of time homeless to an average 45 days, no longer than 120

- Tracking recidivism; ensuring that the families are moving into the best intervention so that their homeless experience is one-time-only.

Update on Inside (Not Outside) and Zero: 2016: Nili Soni

Nili reported that from January 2016 to April 2019, Montgomery County has housed 411 individuals who were chronically homeless. The Crisis Response System or the referral source of the chronically homeless were, Safe Havens, Emergency Shelter, Outreach and In-reach. Resources for the Inside (Not Outside) Initiative:

- 180 County funded permanent supportive local units
- 21 Progress Place run by Interfaith Works
- 25 Move-up initiative partnering with HOC and DHCA
- 28 Keys First Program run by MCCH

From January 2015-April 2019, 147 Veterans were placed in permanent housing in Montgomery County. The Crisis Response System or referral source were the same as chronic homelessness with the addition of transitional housing. Resources for the Zero:2016 Initiative:

- 20 units of PSH (Local Funding)
- 15 units of Rapid Rehousing (Local Funding)

2019 Point-in-time (PIT) Count: Amanda Harris

The PIT Count is a snapshot of the number of people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January 2019. Highlights from the 2019 PIT Count:

- This year we had a 23% reduction in total number of people experiencing homelessness on that night which is the largest reduction in one year.
- The reduction includes households with children and single individuals.
- Last year, shelter beds for families and singles did not reach capacity.
- There were reductions across the subpopulations (people contacted during the PIT self-report).
- There was a huge 93% reduction in chronic homelessness due to our Inside (Not Outside) efforts.
- People reporting a physical disability increased by 44%. We believe this is due to the fact that individuals experiencing homelessness are getting older.

The Strategic Planning Committee is considering identifying seniors (over 80 years old) as a special subpopulation because homelessness among seniors is a growing issue requiring different resources. This year MC identified 2 individuals in shelter that were seniors. Standard PSH is not going to address people who need in-home support.

The Council of Government PIT report will be available on May 2.

Gap and Unmet Need: Amanda Harris

In 2017, a consultant Darlene Matthew conducted a gap analysis which consisted of stakeholder meetings, focus groups, reviewing data, etc. These are the recommendations:

- Scale Rapid-rehousing to 450 units over the next 3 years. Over the last few years we added 100 units for families and individuals
- Refine diversion and prevention programs
- Expand Housing First Permanent Supportive Housing: In 2018, 21 units were added.
- Expand Rental Assistance program (RAP): The RAP is a shallow subsidy of \$200 which was 25% of fair market rent but that is not true today. An Executive Regulation has been drafted to increase the subsidy program, which, with our existing resources, will allow us only to serve half of the recipients.

- Expand Housing Initiative program: In 2018, the program was expanded by 200 units largely through the Inside (Not Outside) initiative. There is flexibility in the services and if someone does receive a Housing Choice Voucher they can remain in program. The Medicaid Waiver is also available to cover the services.

MC's total budget is \$55,224,986 with 73% of local funding. Only 4% of funding goes to Rapid Rehousing even though this is the intervention that most people need.

Gaps and needs met by population:

- Veteran Homelessness: In 2019, HOC was awarded 14 additional HUD-VASH vouchers
- Chronic Homelessness: The County Executive has provided an additional \$1 million for PSH to sustain our efforts to end chronic homelessness
- Non-Chronic Homelessness: On average, there are 411 individuals experiencing homelessness in the County at any given time (11 of which are chronic). More than half do not qualify for PSH based on their vulnerability and/or acuity.
 - The challenge is to work with everyone and not just the people who have the greatest need.
 - We anticipate there being an expansion of the Medicaid Waiver pilot which will come with some sort of voucher and expand Statewide by 300 (in the past, MC was awarded 110).
 - We also anticipate another NOFA for the non-elderly disabled vouchers.

Families: Approximately 300 households are served annually. An average of 50 households are homeless at any given time. 87% of families present in need of Rapid Rehousing. Funding for RRH is available through the Department of Housing and Community Development although this is limited. Very few (around 8% with high acuity and 6% with low acuity) household's qualify for PSH based on their vulnerability and/or acuity.

Youth Homelessness: In 2018, Montgomery County participated in MD Youth REACH to identify youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness. 317 youth were identified. Of the 317, 15% identified as LGBTQ and 33% were parenting youth. DHHS has applied for funding for a youth drop-in center from the state Department of Housing and Community Development.

Allocation Committee and Process: Amanda Harris

The ICH's goal is to make the HUD NOFA process inclusive and transparent. Last year, HUD awarded approximately \$2.1 Billion for new and renewal projects. MC was eligible to apply **for renewal funding of \$8,762,940 plus an additional \$525,776 for a CoC bonus project and \$339,704 for a Domestic Violence bonus project.**

The department did not apply for the DV bonus project last year because we did not have the data or a provider that was interested.

COC are required to prioritize projects using a two-tier system. Tier 1 is estimated to be 94% of the Annual Renewal Demand (ARD) and Tier 2 is equal to 6%. HUD continues to encourage CoCs to create new projects through reallocation.

- All providers receiving HUD funding must submit a project application.
- All Tier 1 projects are guaranteed to received funding. Tier 2 projects is not guarantee but are determined on the strength of our collaborative application and the individual project applications.
- MC is a high-performing community scoring last year a 189.75 out of 200 (top scoring community in the Country was 190).

- MC is in a better position this year to apply for the DV bonus project. HUD will fund the following for DV project: PHS, RRH and Joint transitional RRH
- Role of DHHS as collaborative applicant:
 - Coordinate, prepare, collect information and submit the CoC program application
 - Apply for CoC Planning fund
 - Design, operate, and follow a collaborative process for the development of applications and approving submission of applications in response to a CoC Program NOFA
 - DHHS is the collaborative applicant and responsible to coordinate the applications
- Allocation Committee reviews, ranks and develops reallocation process.
 - Once the NOFA is released, the Allocation Committee will recommend and present their rankings to the ICH for final approval.
- ICH is responsible to approve the Allocation Committee membership, determine funding priorities and approve project rankings
- ICH members with conflicts will be asked to recuse themselves from the decision-making process.
- Next year the Partners and Funding Committee will recommend the Allocation Committee members and oversee this process.

Recommended Allocation Committee Members:

Linda McMillan, County Council	Holly Dennison-Chase, Public
Ebony Johnson, ICH Commissioner	Jeff Goldman, ICH Commissioner
Garnet Nelson, Veterans Administration	Stephanie Killian, DHCA
Carlos Aparicio, City of Rockville	

MOTION: Sharan London moved to approve the Allocation Committee members. Stan Seidel seconded the motion. The Allocation Committee members approved. VOTE: 9 Yes, 1 No, 3 Abstained: Amanda Chesney, Shane Rock and Susie Sinclair Smith.

Funding Priorities and Resolutions: Amanda Harris

- Anticipated HUD CoC Priorities:

Permanent supportive housing	Rapid Rehousing	Joint transitional rapid rehousing
HMIS Staff	Coordinated Entry staff	

- New funding for households fleeing DV:

Permanent supportive housing	Rapid Rehousing	Joint transitional rapid rehousing
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Recommended funding priorities specifically for HUD COC Competition:

- Funding for new project to be used to expand RRH for families
- If funding is available for households fleeing DV, the recommendation is to expand RRH
- Continued funding for permanent housing projects including PSH and RRH

Highlights of Discussion:

- Amanda Harris recommended that the ICH approve funding for permanent housing projects including PSH with no reallocations
- Role of Allocation Committee is to decide the ranking of all projects including bonuses. Ranking may bump existing projects down into Tier 2 and those projects may not get funded

- ICH will have the final decision and approval of the Allocation Committee's ranking and recommendations

MOTION: Ebony Johnson moved to approve the recommended funding priorities for HUD 2019. Abe Schuchman seconded the motion. Funding Priorities approved. VOTE: 11 Yes, 1 No, 3 Abstained: Amanda Chesney, Shane Rock and Susie Sinclair Smith

Rescheduling August Meeting to September and November:

The August meeting is cancelled. Future 2019 meetings: June 12, September 18 and November 13.

Announcements:

- Ebony visited MCCH and they did an excellent presentation. Next visit is NCCH and Interfaith Works.
- Abe encouraged the Allocation Committee to take into consideration the testimonies that were presented today.