



# INTERAGENCY COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS

Housing for all = A Stronger Montgomery

[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/homelessness](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/homelessness)

[HousingForAll@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:HousingForAll@montgomerycountymd.gov)

Virtual Zoom Webinar Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 29, 2021 | 3-5p

## Members

(Present or Represented)

Chesney, Amanda

Crowel, Raymond

Frazier-Bey, Jimmy

**Goldman, Jeff** (Chair)

Harris, Amanda

Hegel, Connor

**Johnson, Ebony** (Vice Chair)

London, Sharan

Nigam, Aseem

Roynestad, Brian

Seidel, Stan

Sinclair-Smith, Susie

## Members

(Absent/Excused)

Glass, Evan

Habte, Asmara G.

Reuben, Ruschelle

Talley, Angela

## Presenters:

Mayo, Cliff

Richards, Ashley

## **WELCOME | INTRODUCTIONS | REMARKS – Jeff Goldman, Co-chair**

- Jeff Goldman convened the meeting with welcome and introductions.
- Stan Seidel requested the addition of Workforce Development as an agenda item.
- Brian Roynestad shared that this is his last ICH meeting because he is retiring from the Montgomery County Sheriff's office, Domestic Violence Section. He has served on the ICH for 7 years and expressed his appreciation to the Commission for educating him on the comprehensive topics of homelessness.

## **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE JULY 14, 2021, MEETING NOTES – Ebony Johnson, Co-chair**

Susan Sinclair-Smith motioned to approve the minutes. Stan Seidel seconded the motion. Aseem Nigam abstained because he did not attend the July 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **OUTCOMES AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PERFORMANCE GOALS – Ashley Richards and Cliff Mayo**

Ashley Richards, Data and Research Manager with SEPH and the Co-Chair of the Outcomes and Improvement Committee (OIC), reviewed the six recommendations for performance goals for the upcoming fiscal year that starts on July 16. The performance goals are based on the system performance measures that are reported annually to HUD (due October 1). The goals were distributed as a read ahead (Click here for the document).

Highlights of the Performance Goals:

- The impact of COVID has been considered in the goals. The goals are conservative due to the uncertainty of the pandemic's impact.
- The increase of funding has resulted in many people being permanently housed. The hope is that no more than 13% of housed households return to homelessness with two years.
- The efforts of centralized intake and the diversion program is projected to decrease homelessness.

Recommendations from the Commissioners:

Stan Seidel recommended looking at the goals on a quarterly basis so that strategies can be put into place to adjust and hopefully attain the goals. Ashley responded that the OIC will be reviewing the goals at the midpoint of the year.

Jeff suggested to look at other counties to ascertain if our goals are aggressive and similar with what is being done outside of Montgomery County. Amanda Harris explained other jurisdictions do not publish their goals and that HUD compares counties against themselves looking for improvement from previous years and not how a county stacks up against another county.

Susan Sinclair Smith asked do we have data about what we achieved in FY21. Ashley will provide a report at the next meeting.

Stan suggested adding context to Goal #5 to read increasing the number of first-time homeless by 20% due to the effort of the centralized intake and diversion program.

Connor Hegel asked are we increasing outreach to places that are further out and do we have new outreach status strategies to reach people experiencing homelessness? Jimmy Frazier-Bey shared that the City of Gaithersburg's Outreach Team receives calls regarding homeless individuals in up-county communities. The city is expanding their team to include Spanish-speaking outreach workers and expanding their efforts to reach and serve people outside of the city to rural areas up-county.

**MOTION:** Amanda moved to approve the Performance Goals for Federal Fiscal Year 22 with addition of content to goal number 5. Sharan London seconded the motion. The Performance Goals are approved.

### **NOFO PRESENTATION UPDATE** – Jeff Goldman and Ebony Johnson

Jeff Goldman reviewed slides regarding the 2021 NOFO CoC Competition ([Click Here for the Presentation](#)).

HUD has funding availability of approximately \$2.65 billion as part of the 2021 CoC Competition for new and renewal projects. Montgomery County was eligible to apply:

CoC Planning Project \$271,612 | CoC Bonus Project \$452,687 | Domestic Violence Bonus Project \$671,010

New Consolidated Application scoring criteria:

- Response to COVID-19
- Strategic use of federal resources
- Coordination with Health Care and Public Housing Authorities
- Meaning Participation of people with lived experience
- Return to embracing Housing First

HUD Policy Priorities

- Ending homelessness for all persons
- Using a Housing First Approach
- Reducing Unsheltered Homelessness
- Improving System Performance
- Partnering with Housing, Health, and Service Agencies
- Racial Equity
- Persons with Lived Experience

Applications are due October 11 by 5p of new and renewal project including Housing First Addendum and project full budget. Allocation Committee is meeting on October 20 to rank the applications.

Amanda Chesney shared her experience and observation that over the years of doing NOFO that HUD does not increase their amount to support any jurisdiction except for leasing dollars like rental support. These programs are increasingly expensive for non-profits to run every year. We do get more efficient and creative at running the programs, but it continually costs us more. If this is our value, as a community, the county government, providers, stakeholders, and everyone else who cares about this issue, we need to help fund this work. HUD dollars will soon become a supplement to our funding needs.

[\(2021 Funding Recommendations\)](#)

## **PLANNING GRANT DISCUSSION – Amanda Harris**

As part of the NOFO, the CoC can apply for Planning Grant funds. These are dollars that should be used to improve and support the efforts of the system. This year we are eligible for funding of \$271,000. What ideas or suggestions do ICH members have on how we could possibly use the Planning Grant dollars.

As an example, in the past, we have used the funds:

- Training for our continuum (i.e., homeless diversion),
- Sponsoring people to attend conferences,
- Leadership development (Lead for Impact),
- Racial equity work (training and COG),
- ICH restructure (CSH), and
- Youth Reach (youth count).

The ICH made the following suggestions for future use of funds:

- Hiring a Strategic Planning Consultant to manage the project administratively
- Hiring a facilitator to communicate with the Community on where we want to go and how we can shape new Federal funds
- Provide administrative support for the Youth Services Support Group
- Fund healthcare connection with hospitals and other agencies to educate them on the work of the continuum

Members of the audience shares the following suggestions:

- Explore new standardized assessment tools giving the challenges with the VISPDAT to match the vulnerabilities and disparities that the population are experiencing
- Funding and/or planning a brick-and-mortar drop-in center or soup kitchen for up county or rural areas of the county with faith-based groups to provide services up county
- Installing Pulse for Good Kiosks inside the shelters for to gather data from shelter residents for planning shelter processes, protocols and to adjust where needed. [Pulse for Good](#) is an organization that has Kiosks with designed surveys to collect real-time data from people regarding their experiences.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS**

Stan Seidel reiterated the need for Workforce Development discussions. The Department of Labor lists homelessness as a priority group for workforce innovation opportunities. In Montgomery County, much of the funding goes toward training people who are already employed. Part of our goal should be to help people to be self-sustaining for themselves and their families through workforce development and business ownership. Stan suggested creating a list of business who are supportive to people experiencing homelessness.

Courtney Hall shared that service providers are already providing vocational services for the people they serve. Workforce Development has a new Executive Director that should be brought into the conversation.

Amanda Chesney agreed that the services are being offered through work around. The work is being done perhaps not at the level or scale that needs to be done but those experiencing homelessness do receive vocational or work development services. It would be helpful to have a report out on what providers are doing as work arounds to see what is being done and what the gaps are.

Jeff Goldman suggested that Stan update the ICH on the Workforce Development Workforce.

Connor Hegel suggested in addition providing Supportive Employment Programs to help people retain employment and give employers a sense of security that the person will be supported.

**Next meeting:** ICH Full Commission meeting Wednesday, December 1, at 3-5p Zoom webinar platform.

**Adjournment**