



## **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)

**Wednesday, January 10, 2024 | 3-5p**

**Approved, March 20, 2024**

### **Present**

Amanda Chesney	Courtney Hall	Robin Lewis
Margarita Bohorquez (MCPS rep)	Manuel Hidalgo	Jen Schiller (rep. Susie Sinclair-Smith)
DaVida Rowley-Blackman (rep. Chelsea Andrews)	Terence Hill	Karishma Sheth
<b>Jeff Goldman, Chair</b>	Christine Hong	Beth Shuman
<b>Ebony Grey, Co-Chair</b>	Kathryn Kelly	Earl Stoddard

### **Absent**

James Bridgers	Scott Bruton	Christopher Dickensin-Prokopp	Asmara Habte	Vaughn Stewart
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**Jeff Goldman, Chair calls full Commission meeting to order with commissioner introductions.** (Quorum established (15 out of 20).

**Approval of the November 1, Meeting Notes (VOTE):** Ebony Grey motioned to approve the November 1, 2023, minutes as written: Courtney Hall motioned to approve. Karishma Sheth seconded. The motion carried and the November 1 meeting minutes were approved on January 10, 2024.

### **Presentations**

**Zero for all populations updates |** Paloma Arroyo-LeFrebre, MSW, Zero for All Strategy and Collaboration Coordinator

Paloma and Bezawit Baheru updated the ICH by sharing PowerPoint Slides to show data of the Montgomery County homeless system by populations (Singles and Households with children). SHaRP and Exit Bonus programs were highlighted as short-term housing and exit bonus strategies to help increase outflow.

### **Committee and Workgroup Updates**

People's Committee chair Lisa Lowe provided updates. The People's Committee had a table at Homeless Resource Day to increase recruitment. There were 48 people who visited the table with 15 people who agreed to consider joining the committee. The committee hopes to welcome 7-8 new members to help with projects for the new year.

Racial Equity Workgroup – Ralph Belk, Chair, shared that the workgroup meets monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday. Ralph reported that the group is developing racial equity training, intake forms, standards, and procedures. The workgroup is studying the Council of Governments' racial equity recommendations as well as recommendations across the country.

Outcomes and Improvement Committee – Deborah Taylor, Co-Chair, shared that the committee meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 10am. They, too, are recruiting members and need an ICH representative and a Co-chair. The HMIS subcommittee is drafting procedure for account management. The group is planning an information session on the NOFO process for community members (aligning the NOFO scoresheet with HUD requirements and our CoC goals).

Youth Workgroup – Rozina Adhanom shared that the youth workgroup has been working with the Zero for All campaign to have a functional coordinated entry system for youth and to have a system mapping to see where youths enter the system and what prevention and exit strategies exists. The Collaboration Council and SEPH are

applying for the YHSI-Youth Homelessness System Improvement HUD funding NOFO dedicated to youth at risk of experiencing homelessness. The group needs an ICH representative.

Workforce Development – K. Kunda, Co-Chair reported that the workgroup has developed a mission statement and will soon share it with the ICH. They are currently engaging local businesses to educate them on hiring people who are homeless or formerly homeless. The survey is being revised and will be redistributed. The group is also promoting the Point-in-time count stressing to the community the importance of the count.

**CoC Written Standards Revision** – Progress Update | Liam Hudson, Senior Program Manager, CSH and Rashaunda Lanier-Jackson, Senior Program Manager, CSH

The CoC Written Standards were established in 2015. The recommended updates are:

1. Improve Access and Understanding
2. Center Equity and Inclusion
3. Improve Oversight of System Performance

Timeline:

Provide draft to County due January.

Present standards to System Coordination Committee due January.

System Coordination Committee Review and Feedback on Draft due January-February.

Final draft due to County due February-March.

**CoC Program Updates** | Christine Hong, Chief of Services to End and Prevent Homelessness

Christine provided an overview and summary of the program updates:

- In FY23, 44,000 households received late rent notices from the court.
- To date, \$115.7 million in emergency rental assistance distributed to 19,136 households.
- All emergency rental assistance funds will be spent down by May 2024
- Funding for 28 term positions will end June 30, 2024
- SEPH recommends maintaining those positions to continue the long-term case management needed to increase housing stability.

### **Public Comments**

Community member, Ariele Booker, shared that she and her 5 children have been homeless for 1 year. They are being sheltered at Motel 6 on Quince Orchard Road in Gaithersburg. Ms. Booker expressed her frustration with the process to obtain permanent housing. She was approved for an apartment in the Gaithersburg Londonderry apartments but was denied by HOC because she was \$200 overscale. Ms. Booker asked for assistance to move forward to get herself and her children out of homelessness into permanent housing.

Davida Rowley-Blackman (HOC Manager) shared her contact information and agreed to work with Ms. Booker personally to understand and streamline the process.

### **Announcements**

Asmara Habte is no longer serving on the ICH as a representative for the City of Rockville. Asmara was hired as the Deputy Chief to the Department of Housing and Community Affairs. We hope to continue to work with her in her new role.

Diana Pina has been selected to be the Deputy Chief for SEPH. Diana has a wealth of experience having worked with Interfaith Works for many years and is now working as Director of Services to End Homelessness in Fairfax County. Diana will begin working with SEPH on February 26.

Dr. Anthony Young has been chosen to serve as acting Homeless Services Administrator. Anthony will be replacing Kim Ball as she begins her retirement.

The 2024 Point-in-time count is scheduled for Wednesday, January 24. Volunteer registration is open. All were encouraged to participate.

There will be a Landlord Lunch and Learn on March 6 at the Doubletree Hotel in Gaithersburg. The event will be to recruit landlords to work with us and to show appreciation for the landlords who already help our clients to remain housed.

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#### **Next Meeting**

Wednesday, March 20, 2024 | 3-5, Zoom Webinar Meeting (only).

**Meeting adjourned.**