



**Cecil County Inter-Agency Council on Homelessness
Minutes
12/16/15**

Attendees: Gwen Parrack, CCHD; Gerry Crockett, Help Center; Mary Ellen McCandless, DSS; Kyle Longeway, CCPS; Ronnie Drake, UBCSS; Susan Lebowitz, UBCSS; Tahia Glanton, CCHD; Shelly Gullede, CCHD; Megan Rhodes, CCHD; Earl Gray, CC Housing Agency; Kevin Curry, SSVF Veterans Program, Alliance; Tifnie Karopchinsky, V.A. Hospital; Mike Brandon, The Paris Foundation; Sha Quan Triplett, CCHD – ADRC; Jeffrey Winholt Sr., Citizen – Elkton; Cynthia Osborne, Elkton Housing Authority; Lori Goldsmith, Deep Roots; Richette Ragland, Cecil County Detention Center

Introductions were made.

Minutes for October 21, 2015 meeting were approved as written.

Jason Burns called in to the meeting.

The annual CoC application was submitted to HUD two days early. There were several issues identified in the application that will be addressed in the coming months. A project application for the bonus funding was submitted by MRDC to provide 4 additional units of permanent housing using a rapid re-housing model for chronically homeless.

A statewide meeting of all CoCs in Maryland was held December 9, 2015. Gwen, Shelly, and Jason attended. There was a discussion of local challenges to addressing homelessness and a review of the draft Framework for Maryland's Interagency Council on Homelessness which basically takes the place of Maryland's 10 year plan to end homelessness. The Maryland Interagency Council also prepared an annual report for the Governor dated 11/10/15. Gwen passed around one copy of the documents and will send the DHR link where people can view the full report and offer feedback on the plan.

A planning sub-committee for this year's point in time count met just prior to this meeting. The subcommittee discussed posting flyers in advance of the count and setting up stations throughout Elkton to get a more thorough count. The Paris Foundation will set up a booth also to get a count. Gwen has reached out to law enforcement for some assistance with the count if we feel that going into encampments is necessary. The next planning meeting will be January 5, 2016 @ 12:30 in the health department auditorium.

Coordinated Assessment update- Jason Burns spoke in regard to the HMIS system. Not everyone who needs training has had it yet. A meeting will be set up to show programs how to access the Permanent Supportive Housing list and how referrals are made to that list. Gwen will be creating written procedures for this first phase of coordinated assessment for Permanent Supportive Housing.

Ending Veterans Homelessness subcommittee – continuing to work on by-name list of every homeless veteran. We have all major partners at the table including the V.A. We need to refine how we ensure that all veterans are identified. For example, if a program does not enter into HMIS, how can this group be made aware of the veteran? Tifnie and Kevin offered to assist with the outreach. For example, they could plan to go to the Paris Foundation once a week. Mike offered to put the information out there to the people they serve that the V.A.

and Alliance we be on site at designated dates/times. Next subcommittee meeting will be January 5th in the 2nd floor conference room of the health department from 1:30 -3:00.

There was some discussion on whether Cecil County needs an emergency shelter for homeless individuals/families. Pat feels that the need is largely met by the rotating shelter at least during the winter months. There was discussion that it is a gap in the homeless service continuum that most other jurisdictions have. And perhaps it would keep more people from living in the woods as it is not a conscious choice for many.

Roundtable:

Pat Marks - December 21st is the shortest day of the year and is also “Homeless Memorial Day”. There will be a service and dinner held at Wesley’s United Methodist Church to commemorate this.

Ronnie Drake - A mobile treatment service is up and running through Upper Bay. It is for chronically and severely mentally ill and homeless individuals who meet this definition are a priority.

Lori Goldsmith - Deep Roots is thriving and serving many homeless families.

Next Meeting is **February 17th, 2016 @ 1:30 pm.**