



**Cecil County Inter-Agency Council on Homelessness**  
**Minutes**  
**2/17/16**

Attendees: Gwen Parrack, CCHD; Gerry Crockett, Help Center; Kyle Longeway, CCPS; Ronnie Drake, UBCSS; Susan Lebowitz, UBCSS; Tahia Glanton, CCHD; Shelly Gullledge, CCHD; Earl Gray, CC Housing Agency; Tifnie Karopchinsky, V.A. Hospital; Karl Webner, CCHD – ADRC; Lori Goldsmith, Deep Roots; Jean Marie Donahoo, Union Hospital of Cecil County; Michelle Shaffer, Union Hospital of Cecil County; Jon Dansicker, Elkton Vet Center; Mary Ellen McCandless, Cecil County Help Center; Jason Burns, HMIS; Barbara Smith, Cecil County Government- Department of Comm. Services; Gregg Bortz, CCHD; Julie Wright, CCHD

Introductions were made.

Minutes for December 16, 2015 meeting were approved as written.

Jason informed the group that the Veteran's By Name List will be available on HMIS – Shelter Point before the next scheduled meeting two weeks from now. There will be one person who will enter data/ manage this list. The goal of this new process is to quickly house veterans during a “matching meeting” where key partners/service providers will be at the table. The Permanent Supportive Housing List for coordinated assessment will also be on Shelter Point in HMIS.

Jason informed the group that the HMIS Consent Form has been revised due to the Veteran's initiative. It allows for non-HMIS providers to help coordinate services. Please download and use this new form. It can be found on [teamhmis.com/cecil](http://teamhmis.com/cecil).

Jason has picked up all PIT surveys from providers and will have them all entered into HMIS by the end of the month.

The group discussed this year's PIT day. Shelly suggested that next year's survey be completed in one full day, as opposed to being split between two days. Gerry agreed. She also shared that she heard great things from the consumers her program saw about the sweatshirts and personal hygiene bags that were given out to each person that completed the survey.

Barbara Smith gave a brief overview of the Voices of Youth Count initiative that Cecil County will be participating in this Spring. She informed the group that Cecil County was randomly chosen from 28 counties across the country, by Chapin Hall, University of Chicago, to be part of this research designed to learn more about “unaccompanied” homeless youth ages 14-24.” Essentially, the project involves on-site technical assistance from Chapin Hall to conduct a count of unaccompanied youth. Chapin Hall will be on site in early Spring to give technical assistance on how to carry out the count with community partners who encounter or have awareness of this population. Youth themselves will be included in the process of carrying out the count. The CCHD will be the lead agency partnering with the Department of Community Services, DSS, DJS, among others. The next step in the process is for Shelly to meet with our designated liaison from Chapin Hall. Informational handouts were distributed for those in attendance. This is a timely opportunity given the Governor's focus on youth homelessness over the next few years.

Gwen informed the group of the new and final definition of “chronically homeless” for the purpose of HUD funded programs. It is the same as the old definition with a few extra stipulations – homeless individual must be living in a place not intended for human habitation one continuous year or four separate occasions over the course of four years - with the additional requirement that those four occasions must total 12 months and be separated by a break of at least seven days. Consumers in institutional settings such as jails or hospitals for less than 90 days and met the criteria of chronically homeless prior to entering are still considered homeless during that time period. The main implication of this new definition relates to documentation and record keeping requirements. Gwen will send out formal information related to this via email to the entire group.

Roundtable:

Karl- informed the group that there have been five known Narcan administrations among the homeless in the past two years. Karl attended today’s meeting to learn about this group and its focus.

Geri – informed the group of what a great job Marianne and the CSA, and Susan from Upper Bay, did in getting motel stays and food for homeless individuals in need during last weekend’s winter storm.

Lori – inquired about how the Deep Roots staff can get re-certified in Narcan and get replacements for expired medications. Karl informed her that he can issue new medications and go out to the agency and conduct a re-certification training. She also informed the group that there are three families moving out within the next few weeks. That makes four openings in the program. Please send referrals their way.

Jon- informed the group that he is currently working with a homeless marine that was dishonorably discharged which makes him ineligible for many programs/ benefits and is seeking resources. Gwen will discuss options for this consumer with Jon after today’s meeting. SSVF through Alliance is one specific agency who works with veterans regardless of discharge status.

Tifnie- informed the group that there is a Code Blue sheltering option available at the V.A. for veterans. It includes only a short screening.

Earl- Informed the group that the President’s 2017 budget proposal came out last week and includes requests for increased funding for homeless services for most public housing programs. This proposal still has to get passed through congress. A housing reform bill passed the House of Representatives (HR3700) last week by a vote of 427-0, which includes several changes to different housing programs. Notable among them is that under the proposed bill PHA would no longer increase rent for tenants, when there is a change in income, until an annual recertification occurs. If tenants pay less, generally the PHA will pay more, and the more a PHA pays per tenant, the less money it has and will usually service fewer families. This will likely also increase wait times for assistance.

Jean Marie- updated the group on the recent Community Health Advisory Committee meeting where homelessness (under social determinants) was chosen as a priority for the Local Health Improvement Plan. The next CHAC meeting will focus on building strategies to address this in the county. The committee will have until May/June to get their plan of action together.

Next Meeting is **April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 @ 1:30 pm.**