



# CECIL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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## CC Inter-Agency Council on Homelessness Minutes 2/18/15

Attendees: Gwen Parrack, CCHD; Shelly Gullede, CCHD; Earl Grey, Cecil County Housing Agency; Eileen Ondra, SSCT; Jason Burns, HMIS Administrator; Dorothy Lodge, On Our Own of Cecil County, Inc.; Diana Klusak, CCHC; Gerry Crockett, CCHC; April Miller, CCHC; Pat Marks, Meeting Ground; Susan Lebowitz, UBCSS; Chris Hanna Ronald, UD School of Nursing; Joan Swanson, CCPS; Mike Brandon, The Paris Foundation; Julie Wright, CCHD, Jean Marie Donahoo, Union Hospital of Cecil County

The group discussed Cecil County's Freezing Weather Plan. The plan is for homeless to seek shelter via Mary Randall Center for rotating shelter first and DSS second. DSS also helps with linking the homeless with other resources. There is no set funding for this plan. The plan runs on donated funds and amounts vary. DSS can be reached after hours at 410-996-0100. Any on call personnel have the authority to set up motel stays, etc. DSS does not provide transportation to and from motels. Consumers must appear in person and complete the intake process if the request is made during business hours.

Pat Marks informed the group that the rotating shelter is going well, but will be closing on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, which is one week earlier than originally scheduled, due to one church dropping out of the rotation. The shelter is averaging 26/27 people per night, with one night holding 37. Due to other circumstances which include behavior issues not solely drug test results, there are some individuals who cannot access the shelter. There have been no families with children requesting rotating shelter this year. Please call Pat or Shenice with any concerns you may be hearing about people being turned away. There was a concern expressed about the lack of shelter for registered sex offenders, as they are unable to be accepted into the rotating shelter. Mike Brandon was able to help one such individual access shelter in Delaware.

Mike Brandon expressed his concern with the gap in the sex offender re-entry process. There is now a meeting group in place, which includes Pat and Mike, to address this issue. It was suggested that a representative from ADRC might be interested in attending this meeting. Mike will contact Gwen to discuss this possibility.

Gwen asked the group to send any additional information on their programs (extended hours during cold weather, etc.) to her and she will disburse the information to the group via email.

The group was informed of CIT training being implemented by the CSA and Affiliated Sante' Group (ES mobile crisis service). This is a four hour training (initially) to help first responders and law enforcement handle mental health emergencies. Once the four hour training is completed specific officers will be chosen to receive the more in depth 40 hour training.

Gwen reported to the group that all projects funded through the CoC grant have been approved and funded at the amount requested.

Earl Grey gave an overview of the Family Self Sufficiency Program and reviewed with the group three modifications to their policy in regard to this program. Modifications involved the definition of "suitable employment," their interim escrow disbursement policy, and re-admissions to the program. Earl distributed

written information to the group. The group supported the changes and modifications that were made. Earl also reported the section 8 voucher waitlist is currently 2 ½ to 3 years.

Jason Burns discussed the homeless inventory count with the group and handed out supportive documentation. This documentation showed all housing programs, if they are HUD funded or not, and their utilization rates on PIT day. He informed that group that all Point In Time data must be calculated and on the HUD website by 4/30, but he will try to have it completed within three to four weeks. Jason will be contact each provider to check that all information (number of beds, etc.) is accurate.

Jason also reviewed the vulnerability scale for beginning phases of coordinated assessment. This will be sent out to the group for further review and comment.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 15th, at 1:30 pm**, in the Cecil County Health Department.