

Carroll County, MD Circle of Caring Homelessness Board

Continuum of Care – Executive Board

Meeting Date: March 24th, 2025

Time: 2:30 pm-4:30 pm

Location: In-person at Access Carroll

Chair: Celene Steckel

Topic Discussion
Attendance - Jason Martin, Ed Singer, Shamika Brown, Amy Baker, Celene Steckel, Danielle Yates, Kevin McGinnis, Stephanie Powers, Chris Burge, Bobbie Lawrence, Debby Standiford, Kaysy Connell, Scott Yard, Jennifer Graybill, Carly Long, Tammy Black, Cathy Baker, Heather Powell, Lisa Crook

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Stephanie Powers – Wing Eating Contest at Green Turtle on April 4th from 6-6:30pm; Glow Yoga event downtown Westminster

2. Approval of the February 24th Minutes

- Scott Yard motions to approve
- Jennifer Graybill seconded
- Minutes approved without objection

3. Shelter Utilization Report – Kaysy Connell

- Shared HSP excel report
- Working on a deep dive into chronic homeless and will drill down to update
- Will update questions

4. Prioritize/Plan for potential of Federal Budget Cuts – Celene Steckel/Scott Yard/Debby Standiford

- Zero Bases Budgeting Exercise
 - i. Services
 - Night by Night costs \$220k to run year round
 - Collect some cash donations and also in-kind food donations each year
 - Number of participants in shelter is growing and that means costs and expenses are growing
 - Wages of staff are up as are more people using shelter
 - Grants issued from new administration are stating no more housing to DEI or illegal immigrants; will need to increase verification services to comply with new policies
 - Highest priorities are Year-Round NbN, Housing Stability, and Family Shelter

5. Discuss CDBG CV 3 Grant application – Debby Standiford/Celene Steckel

- Application is before the Board this Thursday for \$391k

6. FY26 HSP Grant application – Debby Standiford/Carly Long

- Homeless Solutions Programs grant
- Application is out and due at the end of April
- Project performance for annual report

7. Subcommittee updates:

- Data Committee – MD data collaborative did data scorecard – help to track people flowing into and out of housing program
 - i. Have a follow up meeting with consultant in 4-6 weeks
 - ii. System Performance Measures delayed; due April 12
 - iii. Working on a new draft with DHCD on Data Sharing Warehouse – mechanism to protect a person's data who doesn't want information shared
 - iv. Reaching out to WellSky for a data dictionary
 - v. Emma Diblasi – new HMIS specialist starts Thursday
- Equal Access is still the law and must be followed
- HUD anticipated 50% cut in staff
- Homelessness staff cut 84%

- COC awards have been removed from HUD website
- Need to start messaging with landlords and developing contingency plans
- FY26 HSP Grant should be out today
- Anticipate Housing First will go away
- HUD not subject to the restraining order
- YHDP application information is gone from website
- FY26 for the federal government starts October 1st
- Emergency contingency plan
 - i. Where do we start with what gets funded and what does not
 - ii. Need to develop a template for all agencies to organize what programs are federally funded
 - Agency
 - Program
 - Cost
 - Number served and who is served
 - Cost per individual
 - iii. Creative solutions??

8. FY26 HSP Grant application - supposedly out today and due April 26th

9. Subcommittee updates

- Data Committee – Carly Long
 - i. Suzanne Korff and Chris Pitcher met with committee to answer questions about data warehouse
 - ii. Reviewed WellSky solutions to lock down shared data
 - iii. Suzanne Korff will edit the agreement and send back to the committee; have not received yet
 - iv. Next meeting is March 6th and 11th
 - v. Kaysy needs a data dictionary
- Lived Expertise Advisory Board – Amy Baker
 - i. Added a new member is Lisa Crook
 - ii. Looking for additional members
 - iii. Will have a table at the Resource Fair in April
 - iv. Discussion on transportation issues and needs
 - v. Want to do more listening sessions and surveys to gather information about how we can provide further assistance
 - vi. Ideas from the committee include hosting a Voucher 101 class (clinic) at soup kitchens to discuss all the housing voucher options; using QR codes for information; rental application fee assistance needed and working on developing
 - vii. Next meeting is March 21st
- Housing Subcommittee – Celene Steckel
 - i. New name
 - ii. Planning is having Open Houses to share information on the Master Plan upcoming in Taneytown and Eldersburg
- Systems of Care – Scott Yard
 - i. Tammy Black has stepped down as Chair and Scott Yard has volunteered to be the new Chair of the committee

- Ending Veteran Homelessness – Bobbie Lawrence
 - i. 2 veterans got housed in February and 2 in January Have not met in January
 - ii. 5 veterans housed in emergency hotels with significant health issues
 - iii. Have 15 VASH vouchers all occupied
- Outreach –
 - i. Meeting on Thursday
 - ii. Yearly Taneytown Resource Fair in the Spring
- Youth Homelessness - Ed Singer
 - i. No updates to report

10. Artificial Intelligence Discussion and article - Celene Steckel

- AI discussion – stay vigilant of AI jumping on virtual meetings

11. COC NOFO Update

- No update to report – NOFO is now a 2-year writing cycle

12. Upcoming training for Circle of Caring

- How to raise private funding
- Enough Act – Adison Eslinger

***The next Executive Board Meeting will take place in person on Monday, March 24th from
2:30pm to 4:30pm at The COVE***