



**Meeting Date:** September 14, 2021

**Time:** 8:30 am

**Virtual Meeting**

**Co-Chairs:** Celene Steckel & Tammy Black

<b>Topic Discussion</b>
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**1) Welcome & Introductions (Tammy Black) – Needs and Community / Partner updates**

Carroll County Government

- **Tiffany Fossett**, Comprehensive Planning Technician, Department of Planning
- **Corey Hardinger**, Grants Analyst, Grants Office
- **Shane Fox**, HMIS Analyst, Department of Citizen Services
- **Heather Powell**, Manager, Business Employment Resource Center (BERC)
  - a. Relief Act grant has allowed BEREC to provide rapid job training opportunities like the mobile welding classroom currently parked in front of the building.
  - b. Please contact BEREC for more information about assisting citizens with digital learning opportunities: 410-386-2820 or [hpowell@carrollcountymd.gov](mailto:hpowell@carrollcountymd.gov).
- **Debby Standiford**, Grants Manager, Grants Office
- **Celene Steckel**, Director, Department Citizen Services – Circle of Caring Co-Chair
  - a. Seniors on the Go! Expo starts tomorrow at 9 am. There will be health screenings and vaccinations, along with many resources.
- **Javier Toro**, Housing Stability Program Coordinator, Carroll County Housing & Community Development
- **Kerri Vitz**, Housing Stability Program Coordinator, Carroll County Housing & Community Development
- **Danielle Yates**, Bureau Chief, Carroll County Housing & Community Development
- **Gabby Zelaya**, Manager, Local Management Board within the Department of Citizen Services

Carroll County Health Department

- **Victoria Able**, McDaniel Student and Intern, Bureau of Prevention, Wellness, and Recovery
- **Amy Baker**, Program Director, Special Populations
- **Sarah Bilger**, McDaniel Student and Intern, Bureau of Prevention, Wellness, and Recovery
- **Michael Clavin**, PATH and Shelter Plus Care Case Manager
- **Christine Fogle**, Harm Reduction Liaison
- **Connie Giannotto**, Medical Assistance Specialist
- **Ed Singer**, Health Officer

Human Services Programs of Carroll County, Inc. (HSP)

- **Jenny Graybill**, Director of Shelter, Housing, and Economic Mobility
  - a. HSP is need of travel sized shampoo, conditioner, and lotion. You can bring these to HSP’s office (10 Distillery Drive, Ground Floor, Westminster) or to 127 Stoner Avenue in Westminster.
- **Judi Nance**, Homeless Outreach Case Worker
- **Joanna Waters**, Manager of Shelter Services
- **Scott Yard**, Executive Director

Department of Social Services (DSS)

- **LaVisha Churchill**, Intake Supervisor, Family Investment Administration
- **Vicky Keller**, Director of DSS
  - a. Julie Smith is the new Assistant Director for the Office of Child Support.
  - b. Carroll County DSS is in the process of updating their phone system. Callers will be directed in a more organized way, and more information will be available on how to reach staff.

Law Enforcement

- **Deputy Brian Colussy**, Outreach Deputy, Carroll County Sheriff’s Office
  - a. On the evening of September 14<sup>th</sup> at Springdale Preparatory School in New Windsor, an informational meeting will take place for the new GED Program in Union Bridge and New Windsor. This meeting and the GED program are free to public (the only cost is the application fee for the actual GED testing).
- **Captain Nikki Heuer**, Westminster Police Department

Other Local Agencies and Organizations

- **Tammy Black**, Executive Director at Access Carroll – Circle of Caring Co-Chair
  - a. Welcome Dr. Jasmine Gehr!
  - b. Genoa Pharmacy is running but is still waiting to receive some medications. As a licensed pharmacy they can provide services from the Distillery Building (10 Distillery Drive in Westminster), including pill packaging and delivering prescriptions.
  - c. Melissa Braun remains the Pharmacy Coordinator and can help order specialty items.
- **Lou Yeager**, Executive Director, Catastrophic Health Planner, Inc.
- **Cheri Ebaugh**, Executive Assistance, Carroll Hospital and the Partnership for a Healthier Carroll County, Inc.
- **Maureen Aversa**, Carroll County Public Library – Westminster Branch
  - a. Westminster Branch is currently closed for about eight weeks for renovation in preparation of Exploration Commons at 50 East.
  - b. Lauren Sands will begin representing the Westminster Branch in Circle of Caring meetings once renovations are complete.

- **Donna Devilbiss**, The Shepherd's Staff
  - a. Our new website is updated and active
  - b. Thank you for supporting our back-to-school event – we filled 1,588 backpacks and distributed them throughout August.
  - c. The [Call for Coats](#) starts the end of September and runs from October 1, 2021 – February 28, 2022
    - i. Collecting new coats and clothing for layering (including undergarments and socks)
  - d. The Blessings Closet/other financial assistance are still being offered; simply call for an appointment.
- **Eric Brown**, Director, Westminster City Housing
- **Lillian Hardie**, CEO, Brian Safe Haven in Taneytown, MD
- **Sondra Groft**, representing the Salvation Army
  - a. The Salvation Army continues to feed about 400 weekly; 304 packages were given away since the last Circle meeting.
  - b. William Boone is the new Director.
  - c. The Christmas sign up started September 13<sup>th</sup> – simply call 410-876-9358 for an appointment.
  - d. The Poor People's Campaign did an event in Westminster over the past weekend. Todd Cherkis, Director of the Campaign in Baltimore, called me and shared that we do a great job providing services and resources to the homeless and others here in Carroll County. He said we work hard together and support each agency toward the same goal, which does not happen in Baltimore. Sondra wanted to share this with the Circle as we often don't get to see the work we all do from others' points of view.
- **Lauren Biggs**, Department of Veterans Affairs
- **Elaine Scott**, Lead Case Manager, Sheppard Pratt SSVF (formerly Alliance SSVF)
  - a. Starting October 1<sup>st</sup> there is a new two-year subsidy program through the Department of Veterans Affairs. More details to come.
- **Dona Foster**, Supervisor of Student Services-Student Support, Carroll County Public Schools
- **Stephanie Halley**, Executive Director, Westminster Rescue Mission
  - a. Visit the Westminster Rescue Mission this Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 am for their produce giveaway.
    - i. This produce giveaway occurs every other Saturday – come right at 7 as the produce goes quickly!
    - ii. Contact Stephanie with any questions: [shalley@westminsterrescuemission.org](mailto:shalley@westminsterrescuemission.org), 410-848-2222
  - b. There are currently beds available in the men's long-term treatment program, in the women's long-term treatment program, and the women's transitional housing program.
- **Carol Riggles**, Homeownership Program Manager, Interfaith Housing Alliance
- **Ashley Wantz**, Case Manager, Springboard Community Services
- **Caroline Babylon**, Executive Director, Carroll County Food Sunday
  - a. All Food Sunday sites are still open, and we are seeing a slow increase in our numbers.
  - b. We ordered turkeys for Thanksgiving and will provide a full Thanksgiving dinner, and we will have hams for Christmas.
  - c. New Carroll County Food Sunday cards – contact [ccfs@qis.net](mailto:ccfs@qis.net) if you want cards to hand out to your clients.
- **Scott Swartz**, Executive Director, Habitat for Humanity

- a. Visit the Pub Dog Brewery October 13<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 for our [Hammer and Ales](#) fundraiser. This will help kickoff our critical home repair program which focuses on seniors/those aging in place and veterans.
- **Nelda Caballero**, Family Facilitator, Together We Own It
  - a. Lots of our clients are in need of housing
  - b. Together We Own It is in the process of adding an additional space to provide resources for youth aged 18-24. The tentative opening of the first half of that new space is planned in January.
- **Myrna Stuart**, St. Vincent de Paul
  - a. Our office at St. John’s Catholic Church Parish Center is open from 8-12 Monday-Friday. We encourage everyone to call for an appointment to ensure volunteers are on-site.
    - i. The St. Vincent de Paul Society office number at the St. John Parish Center is 410 848 8693, Monday-Friday 10 am - 12 pm.
  - b. We have plenty of food in our pantry and we are still doing our Wednesday Soup Kitchen carryout at the Ascension Church.
- **Pastor Marty Kuchma**, St. Paul’s United Church of Christ
  - a. Stop by St. Paul’s UCC this Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 5 for an ice cream social sponsored by PFLAG and provided by The Cow.
- **Laurie Galloway**, Executive Director, On Our Own of Carroll County (OOOCC)
- **Crystal**, Administrative Assistant, OOOCC
- **Nicholas Baginski**, Westminster Maryland Veterans (WEMDVETS)
  - a. Stop by/recommend vendors participate in our Veteran Swap Meet at Godlove Farm on October 30<sup>th</sup> from 10-4.
  - b. A portion of these funds will be donated to PTSD and suicide prevention efforts for veterans.

**2) Approval of July Circle of Caring Homelessness Board Meeting Minutes**

- a) Motion to Approve: Lou Yeager
- b) Second: Jenny Graybill
- c) Opposed: None

**3) Community Spotlight Presentation**

- a) [Interfaith Housing Alliance, Inc.](#) (IHA) – Carol Riggles, Homeownership Program Manager
  - i) IHA works mostly in Frederick County but can also serve Carroll County residents.
  - ii) IHA serves households of low- and very-low income by partnering with the USDA. The services are free and include:
    - (1) Affordable housing opportunities through rentals and homeownership (with income limitations);
    - (2) Financial education;
    - (3) Assistance in preparing clients with the transition from homelessness;
    - (4) On-on-one work with clients;

#### **4) Virtual Meetings to Continue**

- a) The Circle of Caring Homelessness Board will begin meeting virtually once again.
- b) Carroll County Government is operating under a socially distanced policy. Meeting attendees should remain socially distanced (at least 6 feet apart); if this is not possible, then virtual meeting formats are recommended.

#### **5) Shelter Services – Utilization and Capacity / Waiting Lists – Joanna Waters**

- a) Night by Night Shelter – HSP
  - i) We increased our capacity to 22 total people (8 women max) from 18 total people (6 women max).
  - ii) We served 51 diff adults since August 1<sup>st</sup> (35 different men and 15 different women) and have had an influx of new people over the last week. So far, we've served a max of 21 people at one time.
- b) Adult Shelter – HSP
  - i) We served 42 different adults since August 1<sup>st</sup>. We have two official openings for men and two official openings for women.
  - ii) We are possibly adding another bed to the male room to increase capacity.
- c) Family Shelter – HSP
  - i) The Family Shelter currently has 7 families and is at maximum capacity.
  - ii) There may be one family currently on the Family Shelter waiting list.

#### **6) Day Centers – Updates / Utilization – HSP**

- a) The Day Center is in the basement of St. Paul's United Church of Christ on the corner of Bond Street and Green Street in Westminster.
- b) The Day Center is for street homeless people only and is open from 10 am-8 pm and will operate until mid-March 2022.
- c) Dinner is served between 5:30-6:30 and is donated from a local group (different every evening).
- d) Services include: Computer access/wi-fi, laundry, shower, food, coordinated entry/outreach services, harm reduction program on Wednesdays from the Health Department, referrals to other agencies/services in the community
- e) 57 people have utilized day center since August 1<sup>st</sup>. We've served 140 people since it opened and see 10-15 individuals per day; most of these people are now at the Night by Night shelter, so we are providing wraparound services throughout day and night.

#### **7) Funding Updates – Celene Steckel**

- a) The 2021 COC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) has been released! View the [Press Release here](#).
  - i) "The Carroll County Circle of Caring Homelessness Board is inviting applications from new or existing CoC agencies to provide housing for homeless populations in Carroll County, Maryland. ...the CoC has \$20,515 available for an eligible new or expansion project. In addition, the CoC has \$50,000 available for a new eligible project serving victims of domestic violence."

## 8) Access to Mainstream Benefits

### a) Energy Assistance – Scott Yard, HSP

- i) HSP can help clients with electric bills which include electric, gas, and non-utility heat (gas, oil, propane, wood).
- ii) Anyone can apply for Office of Home Energy Programs (OHEP) assistance, although there are some strict income guidelines.
  - (a) A single-person household's gross monthly income must be \$1,878 or less. If the applicant is 67 years or older, then their gross monthly income must be \$2,147 or less.
  - (b) Even if you are ineligible, you get a 55-day extension after applying which prevents shut offs during those 55 days.
  - (c) HSP can also access partnerships to assist with those funds
- iii) Once approved, energy bill assistance can be applied in split payments on your monthly bill or as one lump sum.
- iv) The Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) is just for heat and offered typically during heating system. Apply in November/December for a lump sum for your heating bill.
- v) The Arrearage Retirement Assistance (ARA) grant can provide up \$300-\$2,000 for up to 5 years if there is a significant back bill.
- vi) Want to apply? Come to HSP's lobby (10 Distillery Drive, Ground Floor in Westminster), call HSP (410-857-2999) to ask to have an application mailed to you, or go to [www.mymdthink.maryland.gov](http://www.mymdthink.maryland.gov) to apply

### b) SOAR/SSI (SSI/SSDI Outreach Access and Recovery) – Amy Baker, CCHD and Tammy Black, Access Carroll

- a. SOAR is an expedited application process for SSI/SSDI for those experiencing homelessness/at risk of homeless AND who also have serious and persistent mental diagnoses.
  - (a) Examples of such diagnoses include Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia Spectrum disorders, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), personality disorders, etc.
  - (b) SOAR was created because individuals who are experiencing homelessness and/or individuals with serious and persistent mental health diagnoses have difficulty maintaining substantial gainful employment (monthly income over \$1,090).
  - (c) SOAR services are free/do not take any amount of an applicant's back payment.
- b. Process takes 16-25 hours per applicant and involves several meetings to learn about their disabling conditions.
  - (a) Medical and treatment records (including behavioral health history, medication problems, work history, etc) are gathered and put in a package with a medical summary and sent to the Social Security Administration (SSA).
  - (b) It helps a SOAR application when there is well-documented medical history/narrative that can be pulled together.
- c. SSA will make a decision 3-4 months/up to 6 months after submission (versus 2-year turnaround for non-SOAR applicants).
  - (a) Carroll County has ~85% approval rate and 6-month turnaround.
  - (b) If denied, SOAR Case Managers can assist with an appeal.
- d. As the SOAR lead, all applications go through Amy Baker at the Health Department. There is typically a waiting list.
  - (a) Monthly meetings are held for SOAR Technical Assistance on applications/updates from SSA.
  - (b) SOAR-trained Case Managers: Mike Clavin (Health Dept.), Stacia Smith (Health Dept.), Tasha Byrd (Health Dept.), Laurie Galloway (OOCC), Trish Ruther (Access Carroll)

c) Substance Use Programs – Amy Baker, CCHD and Tammy Black, Access Carroll

i) General Substance Use Services in Carroll County

- a. Anyone seeking services needs an evaluation to determine the Level of Care needed. Evaluation providers:
  - (a) Access Carroll
  - (b) Check the [Behavioral Resource Guide](#) through the Partnership for a Healthier Carroll County
  - (c) Check the directory that Amy Baker/the Health Department is working on.
- b. All levels of service are provided for Substance Use in Carroll County.
  - (a) Intensive Outpatient (Access Carroll, YSB, Mountain manor),
  - (b) Partial Hospitalization
  - (c) In-patient (Mountain Manor, Shoemaker, Addiction and Healing Center at the Westminster Rescue Mission)
  - (d) Low, Medium, and High Residential care, etc.
- c. Those seeking services can call:
  - (a) Local Service Coordinators at the Health Department: 410-876-4449, ask for Lauren Dauzat or Jenny Paul
  - (b) Peer Recovery Support Services at the Health Department: 410-876-4449, ask for Stacia Smith
- d. Most service providers accept Medicaid, some accept Medicare, and some accept neither.
- e. Many providers are also fully integrating Medically Assisted Treatment (taking suboxone, vivtrol, etc. to help reduce cravings)
- f. Mapping of these services is currently ongoing – keep an eye out for a directory from the Health Department

ii) Access Carroll's Substance Use Services

- a. Access Carroll serves regardless of clients' ability to pay by utilizing a sliding scale fee, and accepting Medicaid, Medicare, and some private insurances
  - (a) Access Carroll encourages clients to see their regular providers first; they can “fill in the cracks”/act as a specialty provider.
- b. Services offered:
  - (a) Walk-In Substance Use Disorder assessments offered 7 days a week (always someone on call, weekends open 9-1).
  - (b) Mental Health Evaluations offered by appointment
  - (c) Level I and II.1 Substance Use Disorder services
  - (d) Individual, family, group counseling, and Intensive Outpatient (IOP) services
  - (e) Full-time psychiatry for adult and adolescent care with Dr. O’Leary who has 30+ years’ experience in both age groups
  - (f) Primary Service Provider with Carroll County Drug Treatment Court (provide case management)
  - (g) Jail Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services
    - (i) Staff members and social workers visit the jail and provide assessments, screenings, outreach, and case management
  - (h) Naloxone (Narcan) training
    - (i) All Access Carroll staff are trained. Both the Health Department and Access Carroll can provide this training.
  - (i) Theracoustic Spa Sound Wave Therapy - free

- (i) Help with anxiety, PTSD, eating disorders and sleep disorders
- (j) Acupuncture/accudetox services
- (k) Crisis response Services – assisting with triage/crisis beds placement
- (l) Peer Recovery Support Specialist on staff
- (m) Partner with Mobile Crisis team
- (n) On-site Pharmacy – Genoa Pharmacy
- (o) Connect every weekday with the Hospital Navigation Team

d) Medicaid Enrollment – CCHD

- i) Connie Giannotto, Medical Assistance Specialist at the Health Department, is available Monday-Friday 8 am-5 pm.
  - a. Call 410-876-2152 or 410-876-4960 to reach her.
  - b. Medical Assistance covers doctor visits, prescriptions, pregnancy care, hospital emergency services, mental health and Substance Use Disorder treatment, family planning/birth control, hospitalizations, basic vision and dental care, lab tests, etc.
  - c. Individuals can apply through the Health Department (walk-in or call) or log onto Maryland Health Connection/download App
  - d. Applications can be completed in one day. Eligibility is determined by:
    - (a) Maryland residency (the Carroll County Health Department can help people from any MD county apply)
    - (b) Based off age, household size and income, and US citizenship status
    - (c) Max of \$1,482 for one person (children’s limits are higher than adults’)
  - e. After an application is approved, it takes from 5-7 days for the Medical Assistance number to become active
    - (a) Anyone eligible must enroll in Managed Care Organization (MCO) plan
      - (i) Encourage patients to contact doctors and specialists to see what plans they take

e) SNAP/TANF Enrollment – DSS

- i) Refer to the FIA Programs Presentation by LaVisha Churchill of DSS.

**9) SAVE THE DATE!**

- a) Please join us for our special virtual COC Training Opportunity on October 12<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-10:00 am where we will have the following four presentations:

**1) 8:40 am – Connecting Program Participants to Education, Job Training, & Volunteer Opportunities:**

- Heather Powell, BEREC
- Jenny Graybill, HSP



**2) 9:00 am – Ensuring Families are not Separated as they Enter Services**

- Jenny Graybill, HSP

**3) 9:10 am – Equal Access to Housing Regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity**

- Monique Nettleford-Bruce, Legal Aid
- Shauna Lee, Legal Aid

**4) 9:40 am – Understanding Racism and How it Impacts Homelessness**

- Amy Baker, CCHD

b) Captain Nikki Heuer will be providing a four-hour trauma-informed presentation in October (exact date and details to follow)

**10) Next Circle of Caring Meeting**

a) VIRTUAL: November 9, 2021 from 8:30 am – 10 am

**Do you have information you want pushed out to the Circle? Please send your information to Leslie Wagner during Claire Payne's absence – Leslie Wagner, [lwagner@carrollcountymd.gov](mailto:lwagner@carrollcountymd.gov)**

Attachment A is on the following page.

**ATTACHMENT A: Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data – Shane Fox**

**Clients Served w/ an Entry - FY 21 (7/1/20 - 6/30/21)**

<u>Provider</u>	<b>Total Served</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Child</b>	<b>Total Households</b>	<b>Household w/ child + adult</b>	<b>Clients in Households</b>	<b>Singles</b>
Coordinated Intake	456	334	122	294	88	250	206
Family Shelter	69	29	40	23	22		
Adult Only Shelter	119	119					
Rapid Re-Housing	61	38	23	28	7		21
CV Rapid Re-Housing	8	8	0	7	0		7
Perm Supp Housing I, II, VIII	28	23	5	22	2		20
Perm Supp Housing Transition	17	12	5	9	1		8
Street Outreach	57	57	0	49	0		
Shelter + Care	11	11	0	10	0		
Night by Night	89	89					
CV Temp Shelter	167	167		167	0		
Homeless Prevention Program	13	10	3	6	2		4
CV Homeless Prevention Program	42	20	22	14	12		2

**\*Each individual provider is an unduplicated count of total served**

- Total unduplicated persons served in Emergency shelter and Perm Housing (7/1/20 – 6/30/21): **293**
  - For comparison purposes, total served during the previous year (7/1/19 – 6/30/20): **326**