

Carroll County, MD Circle of Caring Homelessness Board

Continuum of Care – Executive Board

Meeting Date: January 27th, 2024

Time: 2:30 pm-4:30 pm

Location: In-person at The COVE

Chair: Celene Steckel

Topic Discussion

Attendance - Jason Martin, Ed Singer, Joanna Waters, Carly Long, Amy Baker, Victoria Parks, Celene Steckel, Danielle Yates, Tammy Black, Kevin McGinnis, Stephanie Halley, Stephanie Powers, Chris Burge, Corey Hardinger, Heather Powell, Bobbie Lawrence, Debby Standiford, Jennifer Graybill, Vicky Kretzer

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Victoria Parks – Veterans Celebration, May 4th 12noon-4pm at the Carroll County Farm Museum
- Vicky Kretzer – changes have been made to the customer service lines which has resulted in improved wait and service times
- Bobbie Lawrence – Caregivers course offered on Saturday, February 1st; Grandparents Conference scheduled for March 30th
- Amy Baker – looking to get the Health on Wheels RV out to more events; RV offers blood pressure screenings, reproductive health services, tobacco cessation, and HIV screenings; partnering with the Westminster Rescue Mission food distributions; looking to hire

a suicide prevention coordinator; May 2nd conference focusing on DEI; Harm Reduction event Show the Love February 14th from 1-3pm

- Celene Steckel – PIT count recap; Westminster Rescue Mission is completing their woman and children recovery home purchase; Aging Your Way Expo meeting tomorrow for Expo on September 10th
- Stephanie Powers – gearing up for April which is Child Abuse Awareness and Sexual Assault Awareness month; support groups starting in February – teens, adult survivors, female survivors, and male survivors; no waitlist for therapy
- Heather Powell – Alex Brown no longer with the State Department of Labor so in between with Veteran Services
- Jenny Graybill – tax prep season if you make less than 67k get taxes done for free at HSP; have 2 Spanish speaking tax volunteers
- Joanna Waters – HSP shelter services has been staying open for longer service hours during cold weather

2. Approval of the November 25th Minutes

- Vicky Kretzer motions to approve
- Jennifer Graybill seconded
- Minutes approved without objection

3. Shelter Utilization Report – Jennifer Graybill

- Shared HSP excel report

4. Subcommittee updates

- Data Committee – Carly Long
 - i. No meeting in January
 - ii. Meeting next week to go over final draft of data elements form
 - iii. Shared the Data Warehouse handout
 - iv. One more session with HUD for T/A with Data Committee which Celene plans on attending
- Lived Experience – Amy Baker
 - i. Met on January 10th and renamed committee to Lived Expertise Advisory Committee
 - ii. Looking for additional members
 - iii. Want to do more listening sessions and surveys to gather information about how we can provide further assistance
 - iv. Focusing on the influx of older adults in homelessness
 - v. Gathering feedback from the listening sessions
 - vi. Discussing having stipends to join the committee
 - vii. 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
 - viii. Chris Burge has two new possibilities for members
- Affordable Housing – Celene Steckel
 - i. Planning is having Open Houses to share information on the Master Plan
 - ii. 5 areas throughout the County are having open houses
- Ad Hoc/Coordinated Entry – Carly Long
 - i. Sent out Community Needs assessment last month
 - ii. Will present to Executive Committee
- Systems of Care – Tammy Black

- i. Met with Spanish Speaking Community of Maryland
 - ii. Will be offering services 1 day a week at Access Carroll – translation services and immigration assistance
 - iii. Lots of concerns surrounding DEI and immigration status
 - iv. Medical Respite demo starting next month
 - v. Demo at The Cove in March and possible groundbreaking ceremony
 - vi. Might need to change the next date of the Circle of Caring meeting
- Coordinated Entry – Carly Long
 - i. No update, meeting regularly
- Ending Veteran Homelessness – Bobbie Lawrence
 - i. Have not met in January
 - ii. 8 veterans have been serviced with emergency housing in December and January
 - iii. Seeing severe issues with older adults
 - iv. 2 veterans housed in hotels with significant health issues
 - v. Reviewed 19 veteran cases
 - vi. Have 2 veteran pending VASH vouchers; have 13 HUD VASH vouchers total
- Outreach –
 - i. Did not meet in January
 - ii. Pop Up event planned for Eldersburg
 - iii. Yearly Taneytown Resource Fair in the Spring
- Youth Homelessness -
 - i. CCYSB staffing changes – Holly Cushin
 - ii. Ed creating a data survey for unaccompanied youth mapping
 - iii. Brian Gass updated us with DJS changes
 - iv. YHDP funding announcement just dropped, application due in April

5. PIT Count Discussion

- Great day with Mike Clavin
- 26 different volunteers from 8 agencies participated
- Unsheltered count got 9 surveys completed; 9-10 additional individuals that we are aware of that were not found
- Sheltered individuals that night was 127; 4 wanted to seek out case management services
- In 2023 PT Count there was 23 unsheltered and 99 sheltered

6. COC NOFO Update

- Received award last week for NOFO submitted in July
- Received an additional \$58K, but not for the bonus project

7. Upcoming training for Circle of Caring

- Spanish Speaking Community of Maryland for March 11th
- Gentleman from Warfield – nonprofit housing developer
- Angel and the Westminster Youth Project
- Sheppard Staff new location at 77 John St.

8. Other topics:

- AI – incorporate it into WorkForce Development
- Need a lawyer to talk with landlords about emotional support animals
- Domestic Violence – Violence against women act meeting to change reporting
- Concerns about new administration and a contentious legislative session

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