

Carroll County, MD Circle of Caring Homelessness Board

Continuum of Care – Executive Board

Meeting Date: July 28th, 2025

Time: 2:30 pm-4:30 pm

Location: In-person at The COVE

Chair: Celene Steckel

Topic Discussion

Attendance - Jason Martin, Yolandie Els, Danielle Yates, Kevin McGinnis, Stephanie Powers, Chris Burge, Bobbie Lawrence, Scott Yard, Carly Long, Emma DiBlasi, Joanna Waters, Amy Baker, Gina Valentine, Vicky Kretzer, Milo Riddle, Debby Standiford, Stephanie Halley

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Vicky Kretzer – DSS – HR1 Bill in effect; drastically changes SNAP benefits; veterans and former foster children not exempt for participation; homeless persons not exempt for work (work requirements); changes go into effect October 1, 2029
- To see the changes happening visit: mdbenefits.gov
- Amy Baker – CCHD – 988 line no longer connected to the Trevor Project due to federal funding cut on July 13th
 - i. Recovery Event – September 6th at Westminster City Park – Say Nope to Dope Walk
- Stephanie Halley – WRM – OkSOBERfest on October 4th; WRM has hired a new Food Program Director – Don Dietrich formerly of NESAP
- Kevin McGinnis – Shop with a Cop in connection with City Police and Shepherd Staff tomorrow at 1pm at West Middle School
- Gina Valentine – Citizen Services – Aging Your Way Expo September 10th from 9am-2pm at the Ag Center; must be registered and paid by August 2nd to be included in the guide; Age Friendly Initiative needs assessment released
- Joanne Waters – HSP – Jen Schofield's last day is this Friday; new staff starting in RRH – Samantha Ninner and Perm Housing – Dennis Ross
- Danielle Yates – Citizen Services – robin List and Sharon Meekins retired; Rebecca Bowles and Barb Shaffer have started in their place; Doug Klein has been hired as a Housing Stability Coordinator starting July 31st; Mike Messina is retired as part time fiscal position and Amanda Robinson has been hired and is starting at the end of August

2. Approval of the June 30th Minutes

- Scott Yard motions to approve
- Chris Burge seconded
- Minutes approved without objection

3. Shelter Utilization Report – Scott Yard

- Shared HSP excel report
- Debby Standiford asked Why are there 108 chronic at night by night but only 99 in all shelter? Scott will get an answer

4. Upcoming COC NOFO Application Update – Carly and Debby

- Will be releasing another one anytime now; We will have to re-apply for COC fund this year.
- Going to be changes but not a lot of information released yet. New project types
- Grant agreements for Perm Housing? IF taking Federal Funding, do we have to follow executive orders?
- Involuntarily commit people, possible criminalizing homelessness—Hagerstown has implemented this for the next 6 days (\$500 fine a day)
- May need to create a sub-committee to help write the application this time
- If treatment is mandatory are there even enough providers? Read recent executive order—if we're ending housing first does that change how we run our shelters?
- Carly and Debbie will let us know before next meeting if they need to pull individuals together to work on the NOFO.
- SNAP office at HUD focusing on treatment and recovery
- Vicky Kretzer – How will we fill the gaps locally caused by all the changes happening with federal funding? What are the long-term implications caused by these changes? What will we need more or less of locally?
- Stephanie Halley - everyone on EC should read the new Executive Order before our next meeting, so we can discuss the impacts on the COC grant/NOFO
 - i. How does this Executive Order change the conversation surrounding the Night-by-Night Shelter if Housing First is over?
 - ii. Where does DHCD stand on this?

5. Discussion on new policies for NBN shelter related to capacity restrictions/CE Requirements

- Served 312 people FY25; 14% only stayed one day
- Grant agreement for CE says the recipients cannot have any DEI hiring practices.
- Looked out at of County residents—20% only stayed for one night. 30 is the true capacity but with overflow can serve 42. This would only imply to “non-dangerous” nights
- How do we determine out of county- UDA question asks for zip code of last permanent address. Could we pull their reasoning for being in Carroll County?
- 75% of the nights we were already at 43 people or more
- 57% of participants stay 30 days or less
- Screening line for Night by Night during the bed bug outbreak has limited individuals from just showing up
- Having a set list has been very helpful. Incidents have been down since capacity has been down.
 - i. First Come First Serve- could cause chaos and be difficult to maintain NO
 - ii. Must go through CE- possibly remove individuals already there NO
 - iii. New list of 42 prioritize- possibly remove individuals already there NO
 - iv. Freeze list at 42- new people admitted as individuals leave, initial need based on shelter need...similar to bed bug procedure
 - v. New admissions are screened prior to entry
 - vi. Limit the amount of time they can stay there
- Is the Needs assessment appropriate for Night by Night or should we create a different assessment?

- How are other counties doing it- Mostly first come, first serve- call a number and reserve a bed. Who is the person that would answer the calls?
- How do they turn down non-county residents? Baltimore county depending on how they answer is whether they have room or not. Howard County told them no they only serve county residents. Not in any grant agreements that they need to be a county resident. Currently funded through HSP but could switch the funding if we need to.
- Can we target sub-populations? More veteran hoteling can aging hotel older adults, a youth shelter for 18-24 with the families, stop discharges from other agencies sending their clients to night by night by Uber, out of County residents.
- HSP likes a combination of 4, 5b, and 6.

6. Subcommittee Updates:

- **Data Committee – Carly Long and Emma DiBlasi**
 - i. Built for Zero
 - ii. Score card review tomorrow
 - iii. Incorporating DV clients into monthly reporting
 - iv. Updating CE case conferencing
- **Lived Expertise Advisory Board – Amy Baker and Chris Burge**
 - i. No update
- **Advocacy Subcommittee – Stephanie Halley and Dave Drezner**
 - i. Had their second meeting
 - ii. Committee Chairs Stephanie Halley and Dave Drezner; Secretary Carly Long
 - iii. Focusing on building relationships
- **Access to Housing – Celene Steckel**
 - i. Working on recommendations, just starting the discussion, meeting again 8/25 to finalize recommendations
 - ii. Still a lot of question about septic and what resources are available in the county, viable land is far away from municipalities (water and sewer)
- **Systems of Care – Scott Yard**
 - i. Creating an MOU with hospital and treatment centers and a mission statement
 - ii. Goal is to have no discharges to shelters without proper communication
- **Ad Hoc – Carly Long**
- **Coordinated Entry – Jennifer Graybill**
 - i. Next meeting in person training on new UDA and Needs Assessment
- **Ending Veterans Homelessness – Bobbie Lawrence**
 - i. Veteran moved out in July
 - ii. Two families currently in hotels have vouchers
- **Youth Homelessness – Carly Long**
 - i. starting up a subcommittee for the youth space in the new family shelter
 - ii. Will send out a poll in the next month or so
- **Outreach**
 - i. 26 packets given out at the Boston Inn pop-up
 - ii. upcoming carnivals and national night out

*The next Executive Board Meeting will take place in person on Monday, September 22nd from
2:30pm to 4:30pm at The COVE*