

Carroll County, MD Circle of Caring Homelessness Board

Continuum of Care – Executive Board

Meeting Date: September 29th, 2025

Time: 2:30 pm-4:30 pm

Location: In-person at The COVE

Chair: Celene Steckel

Topic Discussion

Attendance - Jason Martin, Chris Burge, Bobbie Lawrence, Scott Yard, Carly Long, Emma DiBlasi, Joanna Waters, Amy Baker, Gina Valentine, Vicky Kretzer, Stephanie Halley, Corey Hardinger, Celene Steckel, Jennifer Graybill, Melissa Zahn, Danielle Stansbury, Danielle Yates, Amanda Coshun, Yolandie Els, Adison Eslinger, Milo Riddle, Dorita Dorm, Heather Powell, Marie Liddick

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Stephanie Halley – Westminster Rescue Mission – OkSOBERfest – October 4th, 2-6pm; inflatable costume race
- Vicky Kretzer – MD House Bill 1123 – releasing Aging incarcerated individuals +60 year old and older considered for parole; MD parole commission – risk assessment required; will release 100-300 geriatric individuals into the general public with significant needs; last day the government is open before the shutdown tomorrow; SNAP not effected, VA benefits not effected, medicare and Medicaid could have delayed payments

2. Approval of the August 25th Minutes

- Scott Yard motions to approve
- Gina Valentine seconded,
- Minutes approved without objection

3. Bridges Out of Poverty

- Training completed and now seeking feedback; contact Adison Eslinger to provide any feedback
- There will be a second training that goes more in depth and has a different trainer
- Carly Long gave positive feedback

4. Shelter Utilization Review

- Shared HSP excel report
- Street homeless is on the rise
- Shelter is closed for new entry at this time
- Discussion on pets and homeless and the effect that pets have on shelters and housing
- Contact the Humane Society to get them actively involved in the COC and invite them to the Executive COC retreat

5. Upcoming COC NOFO Application Update – Carly and Debby

- Met with Danielle from DHCD
- NOFO has not dropped yet
- Current funding ends in January; NOFO will not drop before government shutdown
- Projects could expire
- Could pass recommendation to keep 2nd year of award the same
- New NOFO will have ties to funding and population we can provide services for including immigration status
- Focus will be on treatment and more competitive funding tier 1 and tier 2
- Grant inventory sheets released today at 3pm
- Could be prohibited from doing Housing First; focus will be on transitional housing
- Nothing written to fund harm reduction and drug paraphernalia

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

- Added in based on vulnerability under new participants
- Define services
- Change of funding source
- Medical accommodation needed if you cannot use a top bunk
- In order to stay in shelter need to enroll in Coordinated entry within 30 days

7. Habitat Project – Jenny Graybill

- Habitat for Humanity is building 25-30 houses behind the Health Department
- The entire site has been surveyed
- Geo map of area and plotted out where the encampments are
- Need to have a plan for exit strategy of 13 individuals
- Will have short term and long-term housing options and will allow pets
- Provide a joint letter from the County and the Health Department for the encampments

8. Subcommittee Updates:

- **Data Committee – Carly Long and Emma DiBlasi**

- i. HUD changes are coming
- ii. Retiring the “gender” field and adding “sex” field
- iii. Universal data elements
- iv. Retiring primary language and translation assistance needed
- v. Changes taking effect 10/1
- vi. COC’s have 90 days to implement changes
- vii. MD State Data Warehouse had meeting to discuss opt out option for those that don’t want data shared
- viii. Doing a pull for FY25
- ix. Focusing on street outreach right now
- x. GIS tracking discussion possibility
- xi. Amy Baker to send PATH info every month for utilization report

- **Lived Expertise Advisory Board – Amy Baker and Chris Burge**

- i. Met today
- ii. Finalizing Charter but not ready to submit to Exec COC for review
- iii. Discussed getting a bank account for community foundation – getting donations for the LEAB for rental application assistance
- iv. Chris Burge is the chair of the LEAB; Lisa Crooks is remaining on the LEAB
- v. Health Department is having a medication, sharps, and hazardous liquids take back event on October 9th

- **Advocacy Subcommittee – Stephanie Halley and Dave Drezner**

- i. Met in August and next meeting is October 6th – first Mondays from 23pm
- ii. Working on 1 page information sheet about the Circle of Caring
- iii. Committee Chairs Stephanie Halley and Dave Drezner; Secretary Carly Long
- iv. Focusing on building relationships and developing a contact list
- v. Working on 1-page summaries for COC and Advocacy subcommittee

- **Access to Housing – Celene Steckel**

- i. Recommendations to make positive impacts in our community presented to Planning and Zoning Committee and the BOCC in the next month
- ii. Prioritize recommendations for next steps

- **Systems of Care – Scott Yard**

- i. MOU document is ready for signature
- ii. Goal is to have no discharges to shelters without proper communication
- iii. legal review by Springfield and Carroll Hospital
- iv. Possible adoption of MOU at the upcoming Exec CoC retreat

- **Coordinated Entry – Jennifer Graybill**
 - i. Working on revamping the list with Carly and Emma
 - ii. Focusing on incoming and exits in real time
 - iii. Continue to meet and co-manage case list
- **Ending Veterans Homelessness – Bobbie Lawrence**
 - i. Didn't meet in September; next meeting is October 10th
 - ii. Currently have one family in emergency housing
 - iii. Tony Roman continues to work with veterans
 - iv. Submitted Kahlert grant on September 1st
- **Youth Homelessness – Ed Singer**
 - i. Supposed to meet next week
 - ii. Working on solutions for kids at a transitional age with nowhere to be and not fit for adult shelter
 - iii. YAB – planning a hygiene drive; outreach at Back-to-School event ; printing out a brochure for the community
 - Boys and Girls Club interested in partnering with the YAB
 - Had 2 YAB members at the Bridges Out Of Poverty training
- **Outreach**
 - i. Handing out resource packets
 - ii. Pop up event at NESAP on Nov 19th

The next Executive Board Meeting will take place in person on Monday, October 27th at The ARC from 12noon to 4:30pm