



Social Determinants of Health July-December 2016 Update 1-19-2017

Goal 3.1: Reduce the burden of poverty in Cecil County to improve the overall health of Cecil County residents.

Objective 3.1.1: By October 30, 2016, research existing and new or innovative anti-poverty programs/ initiatives for implementation in Cecil County.

Strategies:

1. Get information on the anti-poverty program recently presented at the BHA Child/Adolescent Conference.
2. Identify & research existing anti-poverty programs in the county.
3. Investigate Carroll County’s program model.
4. Review all options as a group.

Status: Information has been collected on a program that was implemented by Allegany County titled “Bridges to Opportunity.” This was shared at a BHA conference last year. The presenter expressed willingness to do a presentation here as well but not until after February.

Goal 3.2: Reduce the prevalence of homelessness in Cecil County to improve the overall health of the community and its residents.

Objective 3.2.1: By June 2018, expand services and interventions for homeless individuals/families to decrease prevalence of homelessness in Cecil County by 10%. Services/interventions will be based on three tiers including 1) emergency /immediate assistance, 2) intermediate/ short-term assistance, and 3) longer term assistance geared toward those experiencing chronic homeless.

Strategy 1: Related to all tiers, implement a county-wide coordinated assessment system for efficient linkage to services and housing options for all.

Status: Coordinated entry for chronically homeless individuals/families is currently in place. Our two permanent supportive housing projects review the county-wide interest list for those with the highest vulnerability index and attempt to fill vacancies based on that criterion. Any agency who enters into HMIS and encounters homeless individuals can add people to the interest list as they screen for chronic homelessness.

Strategy 2: Related to all tiers, participate in technical assistance from HUD to develop a

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ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES.....	410-996-5550	ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.....	410-996-5160
ALCOHOL AND DRUG RECOVERY CENTER.....	410-996-5106	HEALTH PROMOTION.....	410-996-5168
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS.....	410-996-5113	MENTAL HEALTH AND SPECIAL POPULATIONS SERVICES.....	410-996-5112
COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES.....	410-996-5130	TTY USERS FOR DISABLED: MARYLAND RELAY.....	800-201-7165
DISEASE CONTROL.....	410-996-5100	EN ESPAÑOL.....	410-996-5550 EXT 4680

by-name list to end veteran's homelessness.

Status: A subcommittee has been meeting monthly with a technical assistance representative to establish a comprehensive by-name list of all homeless veterans in Cecil County. This includes anyone staying in emergency or transitional shelters as well as places not intended for human habitation. A couple of the primary federal benchmarks are that 1) veterans are re-housed within 90 days of becoming homeless, and 2) every veteran is offered shelter immediately upon identification (via shelter, voucher, etc.).

Between 9/1/15 and 10/28/16, 85 veterans were identified as homeless and put on the list. Forty-five exited during that period as well. The median length of stay for those who exited was 66 days. The median length of stay for those still on the list was 90 days. Of those who exited homelessness, 78% went to permanent destinations, 9% went to temporary destinations, 11% went to institutional destinations, and 2% were "other."

Strategy 3: Related to all tiers, seek funding for, or develop case management/ housing search services whose sole eligibility criteria is that of being homeless.

Status: No progress

Strategy 4: Explore the possibility of a multidisciplinary meeting to review those at risk of homelessness or those with complex housing needs.

Status: Harford County DSS currently operates a multi-disciplinary meeting for adults. The Health Department has reached out to Cecil County DSS about replicating such a meeting here, however, a decision has not yet been made.

Strategy 5: Related to tier 1, create the availability of 24 hour resource assistance to people experiencing homelessness including emergency shelter during extreme weather events.

Status: Paris Foundation has been working with law enforcement on the availability and operation of an after-hours funding source for emergency housing situations that occur overnight during non-business hours of human service agencies. This is expected to be operational in early 2017.

Strategy 6: Related to tier 1, establish liaisons between law enforcement and provider agencies.

Status: While there are not official liaisons, Meeting Ground, Paris Foundation, and the Health Department all have contacts to work through in the various police departments regarding issues related to homelessness.

Strategy 7: Related to tier 2, establish a community furniture bank to assist those transitioning from homelessness back into stable housing.

Status: No progress.