Social Determinants of Health
January- June 2018 Update
Cecil County Community Health Advisory Committee
7-19-2018

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: On hold - Bridges to Opportunity and Open Table are two anti-poverty models that communities have implemented at the local level and have been selected for further review. The next step is to determine local agency interest in implementation.

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 homelessness.

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

Status: Progressing - A coordinated entry process for chronically homeless individuals/families is already in place. Transitional housing (Deep Roots, Wayfarer’s House, Men’s Shelter) all need to be added next.

Strategy 2: Related to all tiers, participate in technical assistance from HUD to develop a by-name list to end veteran’s homelessness.

Status: Complete - Technical assistance has ended and the by name list is in place. It is reviewed on a bi-monthly basis by the ending veterans homelessness subcommittee. 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.).
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: Progressing** – Cecil County Health Department was recently awarded a grant as part of Maryland’s HealthChoice §1115 Waiver Renewal. The project, titled Assistance in Community Integration Services (ACIS) has a goal of improving health outcomes for Maryland Medicaid beneficiaries who are homeless or unstably housed through the provision of tenancy support or housing case management services. Eligible individuals are Medicaid recipients who have had 1) four or more emergency department visits or hospital admissions within the previous year OR two or more chronic health conditions, and who also meet one of the following two criteria: 1) will experience homelessness upon release/discharge from an institutional setting or 2) are at risk for entrance into an institutional setting. The CCHD has hired a case manager for the position (Cynthia Rose), who is now accepting referrals.

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

**Status: On Hold** – there are several multi-disciplinary meetings that occur already throughout the county and it has not been determined yet if housing would fit into one of those or if there should be a separate meeting.

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: Complete** - Paris Foundation has partnered with law enforcement to create an after-hours funding source for emergency housing situations that occur during non-business hours of human service agencies. Additionally, the freezing weather plan has been updated to operate under a code blue system. After hours assistance is available through the Department of Social Services on-call staff.

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

**Status: Complete** - Meeting Ground, Paris Foundation, and the Health Department all have contacts to work through in the various police departments regarding issues related to homelessness. Meeting Ground recently was awarded funding to conduct street outreach activities and will be the designated outreach partner to law enforcement agencies when encampments of unsheltered individuals are identified.

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

**Status: Progressing** – A committee of individuals will be established to work on the issue in Cecil County.