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: Partially Achieved – Anti-poverty programs were explored but none identified for 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 in place. Transitional housing (Deep Roots, Wayfarer’s House, Men’s Shelter) and all other homeless services need to be incorporated. This is a HUD mandate and will continue beyond the timeline of the Community Health Improvement Plan. Funding and staffing are key barriers to full implementation of coordinated entry. A merger of Cecil County and Harford County Continuums of Care was explored but is not moving forward based on mutual agreement.

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

Status: Completed - The by name list is in place. It is reviewed on a monthly basis by the Ending Veterans Homelessness sub-committee. Primary federal benchmarks are 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: Partially Achieved** – Cecil County Health Department’s Assistance in Community Integration Services (ACIS) Housing Stabilization and Case Management program recently completed its first full year of operation. The service aims to help Medicaid recipients who are homeless and have chronic medical conditions find stable and permanent housing. In FY19, 26 participants were enrolled in the service, five unsheltered individuals obtained permanent housing, two obtained shelter, and three became stably housed.

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

**Status: Completed** – Standing multi-disciplinary meetings occur throughout the county where situations of vulnerable individuals who are homeless or whose housing is at risk may be reviewed for potential interventions. One is chaired by the Mental Health Core Service Agency and the other is chaired by the Aging & Disability Resource Center through the Department of Community Services.

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: Completed** - 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: Completed** - 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: Completed** – Community Coalition for Affordable Housing has implemented a small scale furniture bank, has a small inventory, and is currently accepting requests and soliciting volunteers.