



CECIL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

STEPHANIE GARRITY M.S., HEALTH OFFICER
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CC Inter-Agency Council on Homelessness October 22nd, 2014

Attendees: Gwen Parrack, CCHD; Julie Wright, CCHD; Shelly Gulledge, CCHD; Earl Grey, Cecil County Housing Agency; Dana Brady, UBCSS; Kathryn Barakat, DSS; Pat Marks, Meeting Ground; Trish Dana, DSS; Jean Marie Donahoo, UHCC; April Miller, Help Center; Gerry Crockett, Help Center; Eileen Ondra, SSCT; Barbara Bessicks, Union Hospital; John Blakely, Perry Point VA; Carole Hires, Chesapeake City Ecumenical Association; Susan Lebowitz, UBCSS; Cynthia Osborne, Elkton Housing Authority

Gwen reported an update on Continuum of Care. She reviewed scores for last year's competition, which showed that Cecil County's ratings were slightly below the national average. HUD wants the focus to be placed on Permanent Supportive Housing that targets the chronically homeless. This year's submission is due by October 30, 2014. This year's priorities are similar to last year. The Rating and Ranking committee is in place and will have to rate and rank, then submit online. All project applications have been received, with most likely no cuts this year. This upcoming year is the first time that there is a possibility of \$36,000.00 for a bonus project. Programs interested in these funds will have to use a Permanent Supportive Housing/ Housing First approach and serve exclusively those who meet the definition of chronically homeless.

Gwen reported an update on the Strategic Planning Committee. The committee will be focusing on centralized/coordinated intake/assessment. The committee will also need to get the coordination process in writing. Gwen will be contacting the committee members to get the next meeting date scheduled.

Gwen informed the group that there is now an interfaith meeting group. This group consists of local faith based organizations within Cecil County, primarily the Elkton area, that offer outreach coming together to find a better way to organize their efforts. Chesapeake City has a large centralized space that offers outreach on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. The Elkton group is looking to possibly replicate this model. Shelly will send out the faith based resource list to the group.

Gwen handed out literature on the Criminalization of Homelessness to the group. She discussed the Crisis Intervention Team Conference (CIT) and the innovative ideas that are going on around the country. The group discussed the possibility of having someone from the police department come to a future meeting to discuss what is happening with the tent community.

Earl Grey informed the group that the Section Eight application is now available online as a fillable PDF file that will need to be printed, signed, and mailed- easier process.

Pat Marks informed the group that the Mary Randall Center is currently hiring a part time staff member to work 20 to 25 hours per week. This position will handle the intake for the rotating shelter as well as other duties at the center. Hours vary so candidates must be able to work a flexible schedule.

The Help Center has fresh produce, donated by the Maryland Food Bank, on the first Wednesday of each month, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. They currently serve about 400 families each month.

Cindy Osborne from the Elkton Housing Authority explained how the program is looking to become a non-profit and change their focus. They desire less restrictions imposed by federal funding and therefore may forgo

some of the federal in a quest for other more flexible sources. They want to focus on rental assistance and helping people obtain home ownership. The section 8 office may pick up and manage voucher based assistance that the Elkton Housing Agency might give up.

Free skin cancer screenings being offered through Union Hospital on November 4th from 5-8pm. Please call in advance to schedule. –Jean Marie Donahoo

Eligible individuals who are homeless may be served through new Community First Choice program.

The next meeting of this group will be on **Wednesday, November 19th, at 1:30 pm**, in the Health Department Auditorium.