



**Cecil County Inter-Agency Council on Homelessness**  
**Minutes**  
**4/15/15**

Attendees: Gwen Parrack, CCHD; Shelly Gullede, CCHD; Earl Grey, Cecil County Housing Agency; Jason Burns, HMIS Administrator; Gerry Crockett, CCHC; April Miller, CCHC; Pat Marks, Meeting Ground; Susan Lebowitz, UBCSS; Mike Brandon, The Paris Foundation; Julie Wright; CCHD, Jean Marie Donahoo, Union Hospital of Cecil County; Dotty Fritz, Immaculate Conception Church; Jane Bellmyer, Cecil Whig; Jenny Shields, CCHD; Joyce Duffy, Harford Family House; Marianne Redding, CCHD; Daryl Martin, Settlement House; Kevin Hornberger, House of Delegates

Jason handed out and reviewed the 2015 PIT Survey Results with the group. Pat Marks requested a filter to narrow down causes for the first time homeless data, if possible, to help with working on fixing why exactly they are becoming homeless. Jean Marie Donahoo also said this information would be helpful. Earl Grey suggested a smaller breakdown of “between 1 to 12 months” in length of time without permanent housing section of the survey to “1 to 3 months”, “3 to 6 months”, “6 to 9 months”, etc. It was also suggested to put a process in place to help capture individuals using multiple services. Jason informed the group that there is a way to make that possible on the HMIS system.

Joyce Duffy from Harford Family house gave an overview of the program. Harford Family House is a 25 year old shelter founded by the local Episcopal Church. This program is a six month emergency shelter that serves families with children, specifically. They offer a one year transitional housing program and currently have two Housing First houses and seven houses for those with disabilities. The program served a total of 117 families last year but turned away 930. Joyce met with Tari Moore to discuss bringing a similar program to Cecil County. This program, Family First Housing Program of Cecil County, would be a privately funded Housing First model that would work with families for as long as needed to get them stable. Counselors would visit the homes on a regular basis and assist with job placements, etc. This program will take about one year to get up and running. The main barrier will be finding landlords in Cecil County willing to allow the family and program to co-sign a lease with the consumer, due to bad credit, etc. The Housing First model in Harford County has been in place for around seven months, with four families currently utilizing the services. The success rate is around 70 or 80 percent. Joyce would like to meet with providers on an individual basis. If interested, she can be contacted at 410-273-6700 or by email at [jduffy@harfordfamilyhouse.org](mailto:jduffy@harfordfamilyhouse.org).

Gwen raised the issue of whether a resource directory specific to the homeless population was needed as occasionally this subject comes up. It was reported the school system currently has one in place. Gwen will request a copy from Joan Swanson. Senior Services might also have one. It was suggested to talk with Eileen Ondra to find out specifics. ADRC also has one available. Dotty Fritz has a listing of all local outreach programs. There did not seem to be a need or desire to create another one.

The group worked on looking over what other counties are using and compiling information for creating a coordinated assessment form for use in Cecil County. The evidence based VI-SPDAT was reviewed but there were concerns with the current length that would take about an hour to complete correctly and that this version does not identify inconsistencies, as honest answers for the personal questions included may be hard to get from first time clients. The group will continue to look at other vulnerability scales.

There is a Technical Assistance Call at 10:00 am on May 1, 2015 with APT Associates. It will specifically focus on CoC grant and funding. Anyone interested to participating in the meeting should email Gwen.

April Miller informed the group of the upcoming Flashback 60's event on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, at the Dove Valley Winery from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm. The cost is \$15.00 per person and includes live music and hors d'oeuvres. Reservations can be made 410-658-8388 or online at [www.missiontix.com](http://www.missiontix.com).

Earl Grey reported a 2 ½ to 3 year wait time for housing vouchers.

Mike Brandon reported that meal numbers are down at the Paris Foundation and that is viewed as a positive trend.

Marianne Redding informed that group that the CSA is low on client support funds, the funds used for housing assistance, etc.

April Miller informed the group that DSS still has \$41,000 available to help eviction prevention, 1<sup>st</sup> month's rent, and security deposits (for supportive housing only). Rose or Katie are the contact persons for these services. Consumers should come with job verification and documentation on where they are moving, in hand.

Shelly informed the group of the CSA's upcoming Resource Networking event on Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, in the CCHD auditorium. Lunch will be provided.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 1:30 pm**, in the Cecil County Health Department auditorium.