

Carroll County, MD Circle of Caring Homelessness Board

Continuum of Care – Executive Board

Meeting Date: June 26, 2023

Time: 2:00 pm

Location: Virtual on GoToMeeting Platform

Chair: Celene Steckel

Topic Discussion

Attendance - Jason Martin, Danielle Yates, Stephanie Halley, Scott Yard, Vicky Kretzer, Heather Powell, Jenny Graybill, Joanna Waters, Corey Hardinger, Roberta Lawrence, Cristina Castillo, Dotty Dalphon, Debby Standiford, Victoria Parks

1. Welcome and Announcements from Board Members
 - Danielle introduced Cristina Castillo as the new HMIS Specialist; she will be training and getting up to speed her first month and then a formal introduction will take place at the next Circle of Caring meeting
2. Approval of May 22nd Meeting Minutes
 - Past Meeting Minutes will be posted online
 - Scott Yard motions to approve; seconded by Stephanie Halley; May 22nd minutes approved with no objections
3. Shelter + Care Transition – Jenny Graybill
 - Transition is going well
 - Working with landlords on livability assessments
 - Will be able to add more tenants by August/September
 - Debby Standiford is glad that the transition is going well
4. Transition COC Chair
 - Stephanie Halley has been voted in by the Circle of Caring as the new CoC co-chairperson
5. EFSP Funding
 - Awarded 7 LROS a total of \$39,461
 - Salvation Army, Boys and Girls Club Lazarus United Church of Christ, Human Services Program, Westminster Lions Club, Carroll Food Sunday, Westminster Rescue Mission
6. Strategic Planning COC Half Day Retreat – Celene Steckel
 - At the Arc on October 23rd from 12:30-4:00pm
 - Boxed lunches will be provided
 - Last time there was a retreat we did a SWOT (Strengths/Weaknesses/Opportunities/Threats) analysis
 - Westminster Rescue Mission and Access Carroll offered their spaces for retreat
7. Timeline for next NOFO – Corey Hardinger
 - Grant information sheet due end of June
 - New NOFO should drop end of July or early August
 - Hoping that the grant response period is 90 days and not 60 like last year
8. Subcommittee Updates
 - **Data Committee** – next meeting will be in September; onboarding Cristina, new HMIS specialist, and will also have the LMB Manager in place then
 - **Youth Updates** – Youth Action Board (YAB) alive and well; YAB hung in there after closure of TWOI, are combining with the Youth Council and will meet in July
 - **Youth Demonstration Project Grant** - Video submitted on Friday; video gave feedback of what its like to be a youth that's homeless in Carroll County; award comes out in August and is very competitive; it would bring \$600k to Carroll County
 - **Coordinated Entry** – co case management is meeting two times a month; focusing on coordinating services for those hardest to serve; data committee looking at coordinated entry
 - **Ending Veteran Homelessness** – meeting every month; 1 veteran received a VASH voucher in Carroll County; 1 veteran in emergency housing at Days Inn received a mainstream voucher

- **Affordable Housing Planning Subcommittee** – working on completing a Housing study with planning which closes on July 7th; once study returns then we can find areas to concentrate on; HB90 – State of Maryland reporting to the Governor – questionnaire about how we are addressing fair housing issues due July 31st; December 31st – State has to give Governor paperwork; State mandates what to do Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing
- **Outreach Committee** – will meet in July; next Resource Fair in Westminster in the Fall; thinking October at Ascension Church; will need to coordinate with police about traffic; going to be following up with Taneytown about the last Resource Fair; have seen an increase with people in encampments and a decrease in shelter use probably due to the weather; only 20-25 nightly in Night by Night; drug use is trending up; having concerns with drug use at the encampment by the Health Department; encampment has been visited for 3-4 weeks and is a growing safety concern; working with law enforcement to deescalate the site

9. Additional comments:

- The COVE – Debby Standiford
 - i. Moving forward with selected architect
 - ii. Approved additional funding from the Commissioners
 - iii. Design and Construction beginning by the end of the year, then annexation and water allocation from Westminster City
 - iv. Received 2 million dollars in 2025
 - v. Looking for citizens with lived homelessness experience to help with design
 - vi. Hoping to start construction and open family shelter by Jan 2026

*The next Executive Board Meeting will take place in person at Access Carroll on Monday, July 24th^{from}
2pm to 4pm.*