

Carroll County, MD Circle of Caring Homelessness Board Half-Day Retreat

Continuum of Care – Executive Board

Meeting Date: October 23, 2023

Time: 12:30 pm-4:00 pm

Location: In-Person at The Arc of Carroll County

Chair: Celene Steckel

Topic Discussion

Attendance - Jason Martin, Ed Singer, Danielle Yates, Celene Steckel, Stephanie Halley, Kevin McGinnis, Tammy Black, Scott Yard, Sue Doyle, Cathy Baker, Heather Powell, Corey Hardinger, Roberta Lawrence, Cristina Castillo, Victoria Parks, Jennifer Graybill, Gina Valentine, Samantha Garcia, Judi Nance, Joanna Waters, Amanda Chase, Dennis McConnville, Eric Brown, Garnell Brunson, Jenna Stambaugh, Rachael (Access Carroll), Javier Toro, Emma Sparks, Patrick Webber, Jason Sidock, Dee Ann Weber

1. **Lunch - Welcome and Introductions**

2. **Data Review** – Corey Hardinger shares PowerPoint presentation

- **Overview of Prevention and Diversion Data**

- i. Moderate barriers to low barrier 6 years ago
- ii. Carroll County does not turn away out of County individuals where as some counties only support their own residents
- iii. Federal money requires Carroll County to receive residents from any county

- **Coordinated Needs Assessment Data**

- i. Coordinated entry is a requirement of the COC NOFO funding
- ii. Housing First – can't address other issues individuals are having if they are homeless; follows the funding
- iii. Other counties are moving people in and out of Rapid Rehousing in 60 days by using their own county funding; some bypass coordinated entry, but Carroll County doesn't
- iv. Carroll County Returns to homelessness in the NOFO are not terrible
- v. How frequently is the Coordinated entry process reviewed? It's really dependent upon the individual's situation

3. **SWOT Analysis** – Prevention and Diversion

- **Strengths**

- i. Coordinated Entry is an easy process
- ii. Agency to agency communication; collaboration in general
- iii. Community support and leverage
- iv. Turn around process is fast
- v. Night by Night is a connection as well as Outreach workers – 50% of NbN participants are there for 7 days or less; 25% are only there for 1 night
- vi. Housing Stability goes to Eviction court to help prevent evictions

- Seeing numerous Hospital ER discharges as well as from mental health institutions

- What data do we need to see to track these discharges?

- **Weaknesses**

- i. Enough resources to meet all the need (\$\$)
- ii. Case management is not a requirement
- iii. Funding cuts – weatherization and Housing Counseling no longer available in this county
- iv. No widespread reentry programs
- v. Hospitals have to link everyone with services when discharged

- **Opportunities**

- i. Hospitals and Detention Centers need to work together to develop a reentry plan
- ii. Need to get a developer that will support Affordable Housing in Carroll County and a community buy-in
- iii. Increase Fair Market Rent (FMR)
- iv. Affordable Housing Planning Subcommittee meet possibly before the first BOC session in November
- v. Home project based units in Carroll County – Bishop Garth and Westminster Overlook
- vi. Chronic homelessness is not successful in the Housing program
- vii. SROs – single room occupancy

viii. Westminster City does not allow SRO's

- **Threat**

- i. Long wait times

4. SWOT Analysis – Shelter

- **Strengths**

- i. Great Continuum of Care
 - ii. Access to shelter all year round and places for adults to go
 - iii. Night by Night Shelter not having an intake process
 - iv. The amount of referrals
 - v. Location of shelters and closeness to services

- **Weakness**

- i. Youth aren't included in Shelter Services
 - ii. Limited space and capacity
 - iii. Case management not required
 - iv. Having no Day Center
 - v. Transportation barriers and obstacles
 - vi. Prohibited from placing requirements on shelter participants

- **Opportunities**

- i. Require Case management
 - ii. Shelter for Seniors
 - iii. More Family shelter and a Medical Respite

- **Threats**

- i. Capacity
 - ii. Covid benefits and SNAP benefits stopped or reduced
 - iii. Evictions on the rise
 - iv. Funding uncertainty
 - v. Losing good staff
 - vi. Substance abuse
 - vii. State cutting 20% of shelter funding and repurposing to Diversion
 - viii. Discharges from Hospitals of mental health cases and sending them to shelter

5. SWOT Prioritization and Action Planning

- Shelter Action Plan – cross agency training on homelessness services
- Is there advocacy of the Circle of Caring?? – give people ideas
- Jenny Graybill to email Cathy Baker and Marie Liddick to talk to providers about discharges
- Forming a discharge committee (Scott Yard -chair??)
- Diversion and Prevention – statewide committee under Planning – Tiffany Fossett
- Accessory dwelling – need to change the zoning
- Lived Experience Committee – (Amy Baker??)

- Advocacy of COC – explore Advocacy committee at the next Circle of Caring meeting

*The next Executive Board Meeting will take place in person on Monday, November 27th from
2:00pm to 4pm VIRTUALLY*