Baltimore City Continuum of Care Bi-Monthly Meeting

Pleasant View Gardens
March 19, 2014

Mayor's Office of Human Services
Homeless Services Program

Agenda

I. Welcome & Introductions

II. Mayor's Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness

III. HUD Guidance on Serving Transgender Clients

IV. Coordinated Access & Assessment

V. Data Unit & HMIS News

VI. Questions, Feedback, Adjournment

Mayor's Challenge

- **Goal: End Veteran Homelessness in 2015**
  - Rare and brief: no veteran on street or in emergency shelter for longer than 30 days

- **VA Medical Center and Mayor Rawlings-Blake signed on to ensure Challenge success**

- **Timeline: May through November**

- **Creates the framework to achieve future national goals of ending chronic homelessness by 2017 and family & youth homelessness by 2020**

Mayor's Challenge

- **Key Strategies**

  - **Data Sharing –** HMIS will be data-sharing tool to track veterans experiencing homelessness and housing placements across City—VA outreach and HUD-VASH to be new participants

  - **PR Campaign –** Increase community awareness and opportunities to support Challenge through resource coordination, donations & sponsorship

  - **Landlord Summit –** Increase the awareness and pool of landlords to accept HUD-VASH vouchers

  - **Fundraising/Resource Development** – Identify resources to help veterans overcome common barriers to the housing process: ID, deposits, furniture, household goods

Mayor's Challenge

- **Current Progress:**
  - MOHS and VA meeting regularly to coordinate efforts
  - Working out data-sharing logistics
  - Recruiting key partners and funders
  - Setting up goal tracking and communications tools
  - Collecting data, assessing veteran needs and housing inventory

- **Official details to come at our May meeting!**

Serving Transgender Clients

- **New HUD Notice (CPD-15-02 , issued 2/20/2015)**
    - Builds on *Equal Access to Housing in HUD Programs Regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity* final rule (77 FR 21 5662)

- **All projects funded by MOHS required to comply**

Serving Transgender Clients

Why is this necessary?

According to the National Transgender Discrimination Survey…

- 19% of transgender people have experienced homelessness at some point because of discrimination

- 29% of transgender people seeking shelter were turned away outright,

- For those that were allowed into shelter, 55% were harassed, 25% were physically assaulted, and 22% were sexually assaulted

- 42% of transgender shelter-seekers were told by shelter staff to live as the wrong gender in order to be allowed to stay

- Nearly 50% ultimately left shelters due to abuse or poor treatment in shelter

Programs Must

- **Respect the self-reported gender of the individual, and place accordingly**

- **Permit any clients expressing concern to use bathrooms and dressing areas at a separate time from others in the facility**

- **Make reasonable accommodations requested on an individual basis for safety reasons, which may include:**
  - the addition of a privacy partition or curtain
  - provision to use a nearby private restroom or office
  - separate changing schedule

Programs May Not

- Ask about sexual orientation or gender identity to determine eligibility (except in cases of shared sleeping areas or bathrooms)

- Ask transgender people intrusive questions about their bodies or medical histories

- Require the person to submit documentation of anatomy, sex or gender

- Deny access or services based on the gender on a person's identification

- Deny access or services, or make an assignment based on another person's discomfort with transgender people

Coordinated Access Workgroup Report

- Adrienne Breidenstine, The Journey Home (Subgoal lead)
- Adrienne Melendez, VA
- Amy Kleine, Weinberg Foundation
- Andrea Fyffe, HEESU
- Andrew Timleck, AIRS (Subgoal lead)
- Brandi Nieland, 2-1-1 Maryland
- Carolyn Johnson, HPRP (Subgoal lead)
- Colleen Velez, CSH
- Craig Cook, VAMHCS
- Danielle Meister, MOHS-HSP (Subgoal lead)
- Diana Hood Project, PLASE SSVF
- Dimitrios Cavathas, People Encouraging People
- Gabby Knighton, MOHS-HSP (Workgroup facilitator, Subgoal lead)
- Heather Sheridan, Maryland DHR
- Irvin Moore, BHSB

- Jackie Adams, VAMHCS (Subgoal lead)
- Janice Miller, House of Ruth
- Kelley Camarote, VAMHCS
- Leroy Fowlkes, Mercy Supportive Housing
- Margaret Flanagan, HCH (Subgoal lead)
- Meaghan Messner, Community Solutions
- Mike Brown, Project PLASE SSVF
- Patricia Cobb, YES Drop-in Center
- Patricia Lane, VAMHCS
- Robert Brashears, Social Justice Advocate
- Sara Hoffman, Bon Secours
- Saundra Bond, 2-1-1 Maryland
- Shonelle Calhoun, Project PLASE SSVF
- Teresa Pittman, VA
- Victoria Wynn, NVHOH SSVF Program

Coordinated Access Workgroup Report

Current dashboard:

- Over 1,800 clients completed the BDAT

  - 70% singles, 30% families.

  - 886 (47%) scored high on the BDAT.

- 414 clients were assisted by navigators to become "document-ready."

- 220 were matched with housing units.

- Housing data still pending (need to improve navigator report-backs)

Coordinated Access Workgroup Report

Outcomes during this phase included:

- We are close to getting permission for the VA to share data through HMIS.

- We revised pre-screening process to ensure clients cannot be inappropriately screened out and are referred to legal services when appropriate.

- We are meeting with HABC to identify strategies to accelerate lease-up process.

- We created a "How to explain Coordinated Access to Clients" document.

- We conducted System Overview, BDAT and Navigator Trainings for agencies

- We facilitated a brainstorming meeting with PSH Providers to improve match and intake processes.

Coordinated Access Workgroup Report

Next steps:

☐ Implementation Phase 2 ended February 6. Phase 3 will launch March 26.

☐ The current priority is transitioning the PMCP to HMIS.

HMIS Training

- New User Training next week: March 24th and 25th
  - Email HMIS@baltimorecity.gov by 3 pm Friday, March 20th if you have staff that need to participate
  - Email user authorization forms for new users by
- Refresher training tentatively postponed to early summer
- If current users need to attend training sooner, they can attend New User Training
  - Will NOT count as refresher training

Backdated Data

- All agencies currently active in HMIS must bring all required HMIS data up to date by April 15th.
- This includes:
  - All past data that was collected on paper
  - Clients enrolled at any point after 10/1/14 must be updated to meet new data standards
  - Checking in and out of clients into beds and units for housing projects from 1/1/15 and later

Backdated Data (cont.)

- All housing projects must have complete client data on clients who stayed in their facilities on January 25th, 2015 updated by March 31st

- In April, the MOHS Data Unit will restart data quality monitoring

- Guidance Webinar Monday, March 30th at 1 pm

PIT and HIC

- This year, the Housing Inventory Count and Point in Time Count are based on the night of Sunday, 1/25/15

- HIC forms must be completed and returned to HMIS Office by April 3rd.

APRs

- MOHS Data Unit has been working to answer HMIS questions effecting APRs

- Prioritizing APR questions as much as possible

- If you have not heard from us but submitted an issue in the past, please resubmit.

- Quick Start and Trouble Shooting Guides available

State Reports

- Thank you for submitting reports from the last six months

- Reports are completed for entire year, regardless of when funds were received

- We need July and February reports by Tuesday March 24th at 3 pm.

- Future months will be due on the 10th of the month after reporting month
  - March reports due on April 10th

SAVE THE DATE – 2015 COC MEETINGS

May 21, 2015 – 2pm-4pm

July 16, 2015 – 2pm-4pm

September 17, 2015 – 2pm-4pm

November 19, 2015 – 2pm-4pm

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