



Mayor's Workgroup on Homelessness Minutes

Meeting Details

Wednesday, March 22nd, 2017, 9am-11am

University of Baltimore, Liberal Arts and Policy Building, Room 112 (10 W. Preston Street)

Members Present: Damian Haussling, Jeff Hettleman, Tina Hike-Hubbard, Amy Kleine, Kevin Lindamood, Ingrid Lofgren, Janice Miller, and Molly Tierney

Staff Present: Terry Hickey and Hannah Roberts

Agenda

I. Introductions, background, and review agenda

Tina Hike-Hubbard welcomed the workgroup members to the meeting.

Terry Hickey recommended that the workgroup establish a secretary to support the group's activities and made a motion nominating Hannah Roberts to fulfill this role. The motion was seconded by Damian Haussling and was unanimously approved by all workgroup members present.

Terry Hickey facilitated introductions and provided background on the establishment of the Mayor's Workgroup on Homelessness, noting Mayor Pugh's commitment to an in-depth exploration of homelessness in Baltimore City. The workgroup will be given 60 days to establish written recommendations and submit them to Mayor Pugh. The final recommendations will be public and all workgroup meetings will be executed in accordance with the Maryland Open Meetings Act.

Key activities will include meetings with Mayor Pugh and/or her team, Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) staff, and the Mayor's Office of Human Services (MOHS) staff. Input from the Continuum of Care (CoC) will also be incorporated.

Tina Hike-Hubbard reviewed the agenda and Hannah Roberts provided an overview of resource materials provided to the workgroup. Workgroup members suggested additional resource materials.

II. Define the mission and objectives of the workgroup

Terry Hickey introduced framing themes to the workgroup and members suggested revisions to emphasize housing, policy reform, interagency collaboration, relevant historical context, and the full spectrum of necessary interventions. The workgroup defined objectives for the development of a report that presents an overall strategy with easily digestible, clear priorities. The report will provide educational value and specific policy recommendations.

A subset of workgroup members will incorporate suggestions and present a revised framework in April.

III. Provide education on current structure and function of homeless services

Terry Hickey provided an overview of the MOHS structure, staffing, and relevant changes.

IV. Discussion: Setting priorities

Topics of discussion on establishing priorities included the following:

- *Landlord and property owner engagement*
- *Importance of reducing the influx of people experiencing homelessness and exiting people from homelessness as quickly as possible (house analogy)*
- *Diversion and prevention strategies; reducing evictions*
- *Understanding the landscape (i.e. neighborhood representation, incidence of substance use)*
- *Blending of funding streams to address array of needs (i.e. priority access for employment, appropriate supportive services)*
- *Interagency collaborations*
- *Leadership*
- *Clarifying roles between the CoC and City; value of clear responsibilities and partnerships and understanding this landscape; strategies for effective collaboration*
- *Funding sources: examine availability and use of private, local, state, and federal funding sources; explore possibilities for significant resource enhancement*
- *Income stability*

Discussion on Key Domains: The workgroup discussed strategies to reframe the key domains with action-oriented terminology.

A subset of workgroup members will incorporate suggestions and present revised key domains in April.

V. Next steps: Setting a plan and timeline to proceed

The 60-day timeline for the development of recommendations will begin at the next meeting on April 18th. Thereafter, the group will meet every other Thursday from May 4th-June 15th with recommendations due on June 18th.