

Homelessness Social Work Council Meeting Notes

October 4, 2019

Attendance:

- Katie Allston
- Errol Bolden
- Katherine Fornili
- Caroline Harmon-Darrow
- Schevon Hendrick
- Samuel Little
- Coretta Mckenzie
- Yale Partlow
- Yvonne Perret (phone)
- Thelma Rich
- Kira Silk
- Mary Slicher

Opening Remarks & Introductions

We would like to welcome Kira Silk who has been hired to work closely with the Dean on the Grand Challenges. Kira has a background in Child Welfare. Field Education is committed to working on Grand Challenges, especially the ending homelessness initiative. It is our goal to grow internship opportunities within the homeless population.

Marian House Capital Expansion

Katie Allston reported that Marian House (MH) finished a capital expansion project this summer. This project took 6 years to complete. A school, convent and rectory building were acquired for the project. The school will be a 22 unit apartment complex for women in transition. Permanent housing still has funding, however our shelters have lost funding. MH works with women to help them transition into affordable housing and offers mental health and substance abuse programs. The next project will be to acquire abandoned buildings in the Penn Lucy neighborhood and create affordable housing. MH currently does not have funding for this project. The Board has put half of a million dollars aside to help with the purchase of home for this project. MH deals with many challenges in order to help those in need. 25 transitional houses in the city have lost funding and this is a big concern. MH follows the Housing First model and works to ensure that clients are educated on how to be in compliance with the model. It's about making sure they have the structure to help them acquire housing.

Yvonne forwarded a contact who focuses on individuals with behavioral health problems in the criminal justice system. The contact is Irande Altema, Esq., Policy Director of Special Populations at the Mental Health Association of

Maryland. Her phone number is (443) 901-1550 and her email address is ialtema@mhamd.org. Yvonne, Sam, Katie, Katherine, Errol and Mary will participate in a workgroup to work on the prison for profit concern and will craft a document and forward it to the appropriate entity.

UMPD Homelessness Outreach Symposium

The 2nd Annual Homelessness Symposium took place last week. Sargent Partlow has been tasked to head up the homelessness program here on campus and is working with other agencies to help with the homeless. The plan is to have case management and a 24 hour crisis response. Baltimore Crisis Response will have a 24 hour crisis response unit as well. This will happen soon. Tuerk House has this as well. Other counties are trying to get their programs up and running. The UMPD is working on street operations and hopes to have that up and running soon.

HSWC Community Fall Event

Sam Little proposed a Community Fall Event in which the School of Social Work (including representatives from the Schools of Nursing, Dentistry, and Law) would visit a neighborhood and agencies on the West side of the City. To avoid a disturbance to the agency, it would good to go to multiple agencies with a smaller group. We could also adopt an agency and have a sustained connection, instead of just a one day event; it would be more meaningful. There are also efforts that are already in existence and having the school get involved with those initiatives would be great.

- **Selected Sites to Visit**
 - Tuerk House
 - Baltimore Crisis Response
 - Project Plase
 - Paul's Place
 - Spark Center

- **Date – 2nd week of November**

- **Agenda and Logistics**