

Homelessness Social Work Council

December 4, 2018

Meeting Notes

Present: Katie Allston (Marian House), Chris Buser (VAMC), Sarah Butts (UMSSW), Amanda DeStefano (United Workers), Donna Earling (UMSSW), Angela Jachelski (UMSSW), Samuel Little (UMSSW), Ingrid Lofgren (Homeless Persons Representation Project), Angie McAllister (United Way of Maryland), Gene Severance (UMSSW), Mary Slicher (Project PLASE),

Guest: Renee Pope, Assistant Director of Community Services, Prince Georges County DSS

Opening Remarks

Samuel Little welcomed members of the Council and introductions were made.

Housing Bill Endorsement

Dr. Little mentioned that a housing bill was introduced last night, and a request was made for the Council to endorse it. The bill states that landlords cannot discriminate and turn away anyone if they use vouchers. Historically this has been a problem nationwide. Affordable rental housing in Baltimore County will move forward and if we can get non-discrimination in the bill for the City, it will have a great impact. There is opposition from the landlord lobby.

We will include the bill with the meeting notes and ask for feedback from members to endorse it.

Rapid Results 100-Day Challenge

Renee Pope from Prince Georges Department of Social Services introduced the 100-Day Challenge to End Youth Homelessness effort. With support from the Rapid Results Institute, one of the challenges being explored is the creation of safe, stable, and sustainable solutions for college students who are homeless or at risk. These non-traditional students become homeless during school breaks. The effort is engaging

universities and system leaders to look at this problem and how it can be prevented. How are universities applying policy on and off campus? How does it affect student learning and educational outcomes?

They are also exploring funding streams to see if housing costs for these students can be covered. Is there a way to subsidize the school breaks to create continuity? There have been conversations around the impact on student learning, particularly at the macro level. Maybe the universities can collaborate and share their resources, for example, shared dorms.

How do we reach out to these students and provide counsel? Sarah Butts suggested that they look at financial aid students who are independent.

This is a tremendous effort. It's important to bring other systems to the table and have them recognize the value of their connections. HRPR offered to collaborate. Renee explained that the team will be meeting with the system leaders to share progress halfway through. She will send an update. If anyone has an interest in promoting or engaging in this work, please contact Renee.

Fund the Trust Act

Amanda DeStefano from United Workers has been working with the Baltimore Housing Roundtable. The Roundtable recently put forth the Fund the Trust Act. This Act would create a brand new funding stream that would not affect the state budget. The revenue will be obtained by means of an excise tax from the transfer and recordation of properties over 1 million dollars. It is expected to raise about 13 million annually. The funds will be a resource for housing services, eviction prevention, and developing affordable housing, perhaps a local voucher program. Legislation passed in September and the Mayor will sign it next week. All are invited. Amanda will keep us updated. Congratulations Amanda!

Ending Homelessness Event

Sara Butts gave an update on the UMB campus homeless event. She had a conversation with the dean who would like to invite other schools to talk about their challenges and how they tackled it. She is looking for similar anchor institutions and plans to assemble a leadership panel to meet in February/March. She asked the Council for suggestions on who could be on the panel to inspire the leadership and get their buy in.

- Mary Slicher will give Sara the contact information for a good speaker who spoke on the issue of trauma.

- Liz Murray is an amazing speaker. She wrote a book, Homeless to Harvard, which evolved into a movie.
- Corporal Jevon Thompson is our homeless liaison.
- Southwest Community Partnership has people from Maryland, our police department, Alice Gray. They would like someone for the SSW to join the meeting. There seems to be a lot of groups on campus.

Open Discussion & Lunch

The Ronald McDonald House is moving. We are looking into it as a possible hub for servicing the homeless and those at risk.

Discussion ensued about changes in policy and the impact on homeless shelters and what they need to do to get funding.

The meeting adjourned at 12:08 PM.

The next Homelessness Social Work Council meeting is scheduled February 1, 2019.