



**COC BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

September 21, 2023

MEETING RECORDING LINK PENDING

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<b>Board Members Present</b>	Allegany County: Susan Malone, Dave Nedved Cecil County: Earl Grey, Gwen Parrack Frederick County: Kenneth Oldham, Michelle Ott Garrett County: Fred Polce, April Sisler Harford County: PJ Craig Southern MD: Florence Brooks Washington County: Mark Sewell, Tyrell Wilson MD Department of Disabilities (MDOD): Chelsea Hayman MD Department of Education: Patricia Julianelle MD Department of Health (MDH): Priya Arokiaswamy MD Dept. of Housing and Community Development (DHCD): Danielle Meister MD Department of Labor (Labor): Casey Tiefenwerth
<b>Board Members Absent</b>	Harford County: Robin Tomechko Southern MD: Cynthia Brown, Corae Young MD Department of Human Services (DHS): Vacant MD Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS): Vacant MD Department of Veteran Affairs (MDVA): Dana Burl
<b>Committee Chair Present</b>	Coordinated Enty: Brian Wainwright
<b>CoC Lead Present</b>	Carolyn Curry, Suzanne Korff, Danielle Meister, Becky Burrow
<b>HMIS Administrator Present</b>	Samantha Bochinski, Jason Burns

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**I. Welcome & Call to Order**

Quorum was confirmed, Mark Sewell called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.

**II. Approval of July 2023 Board Meeting Minutes**

Sewell asked for amendments or comments on the July board minutes, none were made. Sewell asked for a motion to approve the minutes, Dave Nedved made the motion, Florence Brooks seconded the motion. The board unanimously voted to approve the minutes.

**III. Committee Reports: Sewell/Wainwright**

*Executive Committee:* Sewell announced that Danielle Meister has replaced Stuart Campbell as the DHCD BoS Board representative, she will also serve as the BoS CoC Board Secretary.

*HMIS Committee:* Sewell announced that the Frederick County LHC HMIS merge into the BoS HMIS process is underway and is scheduled to be complete on 10/22/2023. The updated 2024 HUD HMIS Data Standards will start on 10/1/2023. The BoS HMIS will be updated with the new data standards on 10/7/2023, the timing may impact upcoming HUD reports; grantees should check reporting due dates to plan for any delays. The Quarterly HMIS User Forum is scheduled for 10/10/2023 at 1:30pm. TeamHMIS is working with WellSky to prepare for the upcoming LSA report, due in January 2024. TeamHMIS will provide its Bi-Annual PATH HMIS Refresher training on the second Wednesday of October at 10:00am.

*Coordinated Entry Committee:* Wainwright reported that Harford County launched the new Coordinated Entry System in August; Allegany and Garrett Counties are scheduled for November 2023, Cecil County for December 2023; Southern MD and Frederick County will be scheduled in early 2024.

#### **IV. CoC Lead Report**

Carolyn Curry reviewed several elements of the CoC Collaborative Application that required LHC feedback and participation, including efforts to reverse criminalization of homelessness policies, lived experience engagement and letters of support and public benefits training at local level. HUD announced the Youth Homeless Demonstration Project communities and the BoS was not selected for the current round; the BoS is eligible to reapply in 2024. DHCD has extended an employment offer for a new BoS Project Manger who will start at the end of September.

Danielle Meister proposed a new CoC subcommittee intended to develop CoC-wide standards for LHC HSP competition policies to ensure a consistent and transparent process in project evaluation and selection.

Sewell asked if the HSP funding will be competitive in the future, will impact need/purpose of committee.

Meister stated that DHCD doesn't yet know if the budget for next year or if there will be an increase; the purpose of the committee would be to create a toolbox for LHCs to help decide what projects to submit to DHCD for funding; there is no intention to make HSP funding competitive between LHCs or CoCs.

Sandy Washington & Florence Brooks agreed that this type of committee is necessary.

Dave Nedved stated that he doesn't see this as a bad idea, but Allegany County is a simple process since there are only a few providers.

Sewell asked if there would be consideration and technical assistance like the current shelter review process?

Meister stated that yes, the committee would develop and the Board would approve of a set of tools and minimum standards; there are currently vastly different decision-making processes between the LHCs with differing standards. The output is more about creating a toolkit for standardized practices and consistent performance measures. Meister made a motion to approve the creation of the new subcommittee.

Brooks moved and Wainwright seconded the motion. Eight yes, three no, six abstain; the creation of the subcommittee was approved.

Meister reviewed the recently released HSP Emergency Shelter Evaluation Plan and stated that the CoC team is available to support local leads and help with the workbook.

Meister stated that the BoS CoC Lead agency has additional Planning grant funds and would like feedback on potential uses.

Garrett County requested Housing First training.

Harford County requested core philosophy training, additional structure and guidance, an LHC level gaps analysis including eviction prevention, homeless prevention and diversion.

Allegany County requested SOAR, income and employment related training. Also suggested rotating, annual in-person meetings.

Southern MD would like to see an increase in training available to frontline staff to remain compliant.

LABOR can consider developing training specific to the homelessness system that could be incorporated into new staff onboarding, topics could include unemployment insurance, WIOA.

Education could offer a similar targeted training opportunity.

Health could provide SOAR training.

Disability could provide training on ADA compliance and Section 504 technical assistance.

Washington would like to address racial equity issues and identify what is most lacking from the HUD perspective and use funds to fill the gap.

Cecil would like to look at all of the disparities among the homeless population.

**V. Local Homelessness Coalition Reports / Peer Support & Resource Sharing: Sewell**

*Allegany County:* Susan Malone reported that the executive committee met yesterday, the discussion focused on the most recent Community Resource Day held 9/15; 100 attended, 44 experiencing homeless, looking at other services to offer to make next year bigger. The local primary SOAR staff is stepping down, will need to find a new agency to get SOAR trained.

*Cecil County:* Gwen Parrack reported that the LHC met last week, the main focus was ensuring the FY24 contracts are in place, encouraging partners to spend the remaining CV2 funds and reviewing Bonus expectations. The LHC will start to plan for winter shelter in October.

*Frederick County:* Michelle Ott reported that the Frederick County HMIS merge in process, have been meeting weekly with TeamHMIS staff, so far all is well. Ken Oldham reported that the LHC is looking forward to the 2024 PIT and Frederick County taking on Local Lead role.

*Garrett County:* April Sisler reported the overall need for more housing, there is an increase in homelessness, there are no hotel vacancies due to tourism and nowhere to put people.

*Harford County:* Wainwright reported that the next LHC meeting is 9/27/2023. The LHC first case conference is scheduled for 10/4/23. The LHC is pre-planning for the cold weather shelter process in January. Looking to identify funding opportunities and considering a rotating shelter model within the faith-based community for Jan- March. Hotel funding not as available this year. Eviction prevention services are much needed in the county; need to think about alternatives to shelter beds. HOME ARP funding may allow us to start strategizing shelter alternatives.

*Southern MD:* Sandy Washington reported that the LHC has looked at diversion and rapid exit strategies to add to local strategic planning efforts; looking for direction from the BoS to better engage PHAs, don't have level of engagement needed right now. Working on the local crisis response system to make it as transparent as possible. Planning for Community Resource Days across all three counties, will target prevention efforts as well. The LHC was able to recruit a Job Source staff as voting member of the LHC, working to strategically pull in members in areas that need to be addressed. Will be uploading information to the BoS Website to better promote services.

*Washington County:* Sewell reported that the LHC recently met to discuss the increase in homelessness and the conclusion of ERAP funding. The LHC is moving in a good direction, focusing on diversion and non-fiscal supports. We're coordinating broad mobile services outreach, CAA goes throughout county, the mobile hospital and goodwill mobile workforce go out. The mobile outreach provides breakfast throughout the week, 75 people show up within 15 minutes off the street. They are getting medical care, SOAR applications, DSS services and CES intakes all at once. The efforts focus on the social determinants of health, able to focus on all at once -seeing good numbers as the program is growing.

## **VI. State Agency Updates**

*Maryland Department of Disabilities:* Chelsea Hayman reported an upcoming Tenant Training opportunity on 9/28/2023; there is no charge for attendance and is intended to train case managers and housing support staff on how to help a tenant moving into an 811 unit, interested participants can contact Chelsea for more information. The annual property manager / case manager meeting is 10/5/2023 with a key note presentation on land use and zoning barriers to housing, there will be a session on self-care for direct support work force. There is an Alternate to Adult Guardianship training in development.

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=lj79tucab&oeidk=a07ejy260mp8a8635ac>

Tenant Training 101 course for 9/28; 9-4pm in Glen Burnie

*Maryland Department of Education:* Patricia Julianelle reported that the 3-year grant is out and is due 10/24/2023. There is a modified formula for the ISD amounts and more bonus funding available for small rural areas. An in person professional development training is scheduled in October for ISD staff and community partners with limited space.

*Maryland Department of Health:* N/A

*Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development:* Meister reported that DHCD is in the process of reestablishing the MD ICH schedule and updating the membership. Cabinet turnovers require new designation of department secretaries. The plan is to schedule the next ICH meeting at the end of November then meet quarterly moving forward. All workgroups will be relaunched,

some with a focus on creating a new ICH strategic plan. Will attempt to have an updated list of committees at the next board meeting.

*Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs: N/A*

*Maryland Department of Human Services: N/A*

*Maryland Department of Labor: Casey Tiefenwerth reported that she was heartened by the system collaboration demonstrated in the CoC project applications while serving on the Performance Review Committee and would like to see more opportunities to collaborate. The ICH Workforce Subcommittee is now meeting quarterly, the next meeting coincides with year one of the workforce grant. Grantees will be joining to share their experiences and seek technical assistance. Would like to have more homeless providers on the subcommittee, there are plenty of workforce related members. The next meeting is 10/3/2023 from 1-3pm.*

**VII. Future Board Meeting Agenda Items**

None

**VIII. Public Comment**

None

**IX. Adjournment**

Sewell made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Wainwright made the motion, Nedved seconded, all approved, meeting adjourned.

**Vote Summary**

- July 2023 Meeting Minutes Approved
- Ad Hoc Committee Creation Approved

**Upcoming BoS CoC Board Meetings**

November 16, 2023: 1-3pm      January 18, 2024: 1-3pm      March 21, 2024: 1-3pm