



MARYLAND
BALANCE OF STATE
CONTINUUM OF CARE

COC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 16, 2024

[Meeting Recording](#)

Board Members Present	Allegany County: Dave Nedved, Margaret Paul Cecil County: Earl Grey, Gwen Parrack Frederick County: Michelle Ott Garrett County: Fred Polce, Shawnee Reynolds Harford County: PJ Craig Southern MD: Florence Brooks, Jacquelyn Culver Washington County: Mark Sewell, Tyrell Wilson MD Department of Disabilities (MDOD): Char McCready MD Department of Education: Patricia Julianelle MD Department of Health (MDH): Priya Arokiaswamy MD Department of Labor (Labor): Casey Tiefenwerth MD Department of Veteran Affairs (MDVA): Dana Burl
Board Members Absent	Frederick County: Kenneth Oldham Harford County: Robin Tomechko Southern MD: Cynthia Brown, Corae Young MD Dept. of Housing and Community Development (DHCD): Danielle Meister MD Department of Human Services (DHS): Vacant MD Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS): Vacant
Committee Chair Present	Coordinated Entry: Brian Wainwright
CoC Lead Present	Carolyn Curry, Kristen Halsey, Suzanne Korff, Tiffany Little
HMIS Administrator Present	Jessica Jones, Brandy Yant

I. Welcome & Call to Order

Mark Sewell called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm, quorum was confirmed.

II. Approval of March 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

Sewell asked for amendments or comments on the March meeting minutes, none were made. Sewell asked for a motion to approve, Dave Nedved made the motion, Brian Wainwright seconded the motion. All approved the March minutes.

III. Committee Reports

Executive Committee: Sewell introduced new board member Charmeda “Char” McCready; Director of Housing Policy and Programs with the Department of Disabilities. Char is replacing Chelsea Hayman.

Sewell reported that the BoS will convene an HSP ad hoc committee later in the summer to prepare for the SFY26 competition. Need to review how projects are being evaluated for funding, the LHCs are in different places and want to set a certain standard. The committee will develop tools to help better oversee projects and help communicate standards. LHCs will have the option to use developed tools next year. The goal is to have a standardized plan by January.

HMIS Committee: Sewell introduced Brandy Yant and Jessica Jones; ICA staff who have been assigned to serve as the BoS HMIS System Administrators. The new team will be conducting an analysis of our current system setup, provider settings, policies and procedures now through June 30th and will work with Wellsky on system updates. TeamHMIS will continue to serve as the HMIS System Admin team through June 30th and ICA will become the fulltime HMIS System Administrator team as of July 1st. End users will be notified of the changes and any new processes starting in June and should continue to submit support requests via the Help Desk.

Sewell provided an overview of the 2024 PIT and HIC Results, the data will be posted to the BoS website. Sewell also reviewed the System Performance Measure data broken out by the LHC level.

Coordinated Entry Committee: Wainwright announced that the BoS facilitated a Coordinated Entry roll out training for Southern Maryland on April 2nd; the LHC is continuing to identify appropriate partners and timelines to “go live” with the new system CE training for Frederick County is on hold until Becky returns from leave. The CES “Phase 2” Planning will start later in the year, BoS worked with HUD TA to identify next steps once all LHCs are trained on the CES fundamentals. The next phase will include identifying ways to reduce inflow and coordinating the system front door (Emergency Shelter / Diversion / Prevention), landlord engagement efforts, developing performance standards and data points, and create system monitoring plans.

MD Interagency Council on Homelessness: Suzanne Korff announced that the June meeting has been rescheduled to June 28th and will be virtual, all are welcome to attend.

IV. CoC Lead Report

Carolyn Curry reported that the YHDP application should be released by HUD imminently and the BoS intends to apply again. The CoC NOFA is traditionally released in late June and the team will work to update all policies, procedures and performance measurement tools for Board approval in the next 2 months.

Tiffany Little reported on the Racial and Social Equity Workshop, a 12 week learning series hosted by HUD. The BoS has four participants in the workshop: Brian, Corae, Suzanne and Tiffany. The purpose is to assist, develop and implement equity related efforts with thoughtful consideration. The series provides one on one technical assistance, peer sharing and guided tool kits. The group is working on potential outcomes, including efforts to increase awareness, competency and education. There will be a deeper look at data at the county level to identify areas of opportunity.

Curry announced that the Housing Package passed in the 2024 Legislative session and provided a timeline for the development of 2026 priorities. DHCD is seeking input from partners and advocates – any comments or feedback can be sent to Danielle Meister throughout the summer.

V. Local Homelessness Coalition Reports

Allegany County: Dave Nedved reported that the Union Rescue Mission is moving to a new location, growing from 12,000 to 32,000 square feet, 62 to 150 beds. URM serves more than half of those homeless in the county. The LHC met with the Executive Director of URM in May, the number one concern is MD SB11.07 – the Emergency Shelter Licensing Bill. URM informed by lawyers that the bill would be regulated by the LHC and has been advised to no longer participate in LHC meetings. URM has stated that if the bill is fully implemented after they study, they will close the shelter. The LHC is asking if there can be an exception to the licensing rules?

Korff explained that the LHC will not be responsible for regulation, that would be the state role. At this time, not much is known about possible exemptions. The study will help determine issues and possible exemption options – there may be more focus on accessibility, health and safety versus religion. Nedved said that the religious aspect not issue for short term stayers, more so long term program participants.

Cecil County: Gwen Parrack said the Heart Light foundation is a new provider to the LHC and will provide services to street homeless. Deep Roots, the family shelter, added a 24/7 hotline that allows immediate intake for families needing short term emergency shelter. The LHC should now have enough resources to prevent families with children from being homeless. The challenge for the LHC now is the lack of providers to provide prevention services.

Frederick County: Michelle Ott reported that the LHC is still transitioning the lead agency responsibility and HSP application process; the first year went really well.

Garrett County: Shawnee Reynolds reported that the LHC Coordinated Entry process is going well and appreciates the support received during the transition.

Harford County: Brian Wainwright reported that LHC case conference is going well, the by name list is down to 2 military affiliated clients and both have been assigned a voucher, focus is on the chronic households next. The LHC is in need of prevention funds. The PATH grant has transferred to HCAA and will start July 1st.

Southern MD: Jacquelyn Culver reported that the LHC completed the HSP process and has submitted it to the state. The LHC prioritized permanent housing opportunities and is reviewing projects with poor performance and implementing any needed corrective action plans. The LHC wants to have a strong QA team and to provide support to agencies so they can understand their data and performance. Sandy Washington reported that the QA team is very strong and had to make tough decisions this year and is in alignment with the BoS. We've sent survey to providers since the LHC Coordinated Entry training in April to identify who wants to fulfill the system roles; have also hosted De-escalation trainings locally for front line staff.

Washington County: Sewell shared LHC data points – over 764 clients served in Coordinated Entry in the past 12 months, 50% of those moving into positive housing destinations were families, seeing people move from street outreach services to housing, the median length of stay was 90 days. The LHC is seeing movement and progress, we're looking at the data and understanding who we're serving, better learning the faces of homelessness. The recent unexpected closing of a family shelter has brought the LHC together, more partners than expected and able to collaborate. The LHC was able to quickly set up a new family shelter

VI. State Agency Updates

Maryland Department of Disabilities - none

Maryland Department of Education - none

Maryland Department of Health – none

Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs – none

Maryland Department of Human Services – none

Maryland Department of Labor - none

VII. Future Board Meeting Agenda Items

Wainwright requested a deeper dive into recently passed legislation and how it will impact programs and case management.

VIII. Public Comment

None

IX. Adjournment: Sewell called for motion to adjourn, Wainwright made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Nedved seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm.

Vote Summary

- March Meeting Minutes Approved

Upcoming BoS CoC Board Meetings

July 18, 2024: 1-3pm

September 19, 2024: 1-3pm

November 19, 2024: 1-3pm