

PARTNER Update

Ending Homelessness in the Fairfax-Falls Church Community

November 9, 2009

HOST HIGHLIGHTS

Housing Opportunities Support Teams (HOST) provide flexible and adaptive services needed to help individuals and families obtain or maintain housing. The primary function of HOST is to coordinate and manage prevention, housing placement, and supportive services for those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Members of the HOST team will serve as a liaison to his or her organization/system and will work closely with other HOST members to create a cohesive and seamless system of service delivery.

❖ November 16: Launch Date for HOST System ❖

HOST Implementation

It has been an exciting six months as **many of the community partners have actively implemented the core concepts and services of the HOST model.** As additional community members come to the table with resources, readiness and experience, the model is enhanced and made available to the client body at large.

- **Community Case Manager** – We are excited to announce the hiring (by nonprofits) of three community case managers (CCMs) who will be an added resource to the community. **Community case management services will be available beginning Nov. 16.**
- **Housing Locator Vendor Selected** – Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services was selected through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process to now hire two housing locator staff to work countywide on identifying available housing resources and building capacity for housing locator services.
- **Standard forms** – (including a standard intake form) are in the final stages of development and will be distributed to the community in electronic format within the next two weeks.

HOST Training

In mid-October, the first of the direct service trainings was held at the Mondloch House II community shelter in Alexandria. Over 15 people participated in the intake training with representation from five different homeless shelters, as well as other community partners. A second intake training that focused on the singles' community was conducted in late October. **All of the shelter's intake staff has now been trained on the universal forms and process that will be used in the HOST model.**

A second dual training is scheduled for Nov. 12 at the Jubilee Christian Center in Fairfax. The first half of the day (9 a.m. to noon) will focus on the community case management process and the second half of the day (1 to 4 p.m.) will focus on the intake process. **Anyone interested in attending either one or both of these trainings should RSVP to Toya Taylor at toya.taylor@fairfaxcounty.gov.**

HOST Site Development

Three sites have been developed as HOST service sites in our community. In the southern region, the United Community Ministries (UCM) located in Alexandria will be a site host; in the central part of the region, Families and Fairfax Area Christian Emergency & Transitional Services (FACETS), located in Fairfax, will be a site host; and in the northern part of the region, Connections for Hope, located in Herndon, will be a site host.

These nonprofits will be hosting the new CCMs at their locations in order to meet the needs of clients in their respective areas. As an initial step, New Hope Housing will be providing services at the UCM site, Shelter House will be providing services at the FACETS site, and Reston Interfaith will be providing services at the Connections for Hope site. We are finalizing details around the provision of [Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board](#) (CSB) services at each site, as well.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Update

Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) configuration and end-user training have been completed.

A number of key pieces have been introduced and adopted to facilitate and support information sharing, these include:

- **A new HMIS notice and universal authorization** to use and exchange information forms.
- **Masked client's social security number** (only last 4 digits are visible) to protect client's identity.
- **A standard operating procedure** for the use of the HMIS notice and the universal authorization to use and exchange information forms.
- **Updated HMIS configuration** to comply and support the adopted information sharing practice.
- **Recreated user IDs in HMIS** to comply and support the adopted information sharing practice.

Upcoming training sessions are scheduled for Nov. 10 - HPRP training (8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.); and Nov. 17 – Hypothermia training (9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.), at the [Fairfax County Government Center](#), 12000 Government Center Pkwy, Suite 364, Fairfax.

PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Nan Roman Speaks at Governing Board Meeting

The Governing Board of the Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness welcomed National Alliance to End Homelessness President Nan Roman at its Oct. 27 meeting. Ms. Roman provided a progress report on efforts to end homelessness nationwide. She believes the landscape has changed dramatically since the 10-year plans have been introduced, and addressed the importance of setting clear numerical goals around key interventions.

Friends of Falls Church Homeless Shelter

The Friends of Falls Church Homeless Shelter (“Friends”), in partnership with New Hope Housing since 2000, will open its 15th year of operations of the Falls Church Winter Shelter on Dec. 1. The Friends are part of the Fairfax-Falls Church community's hypothermia prevention effort to assure that at-risk neighbors have a safe place to sleep, are served with dignity in a clean, non-judgmental environment, and find support for ending their homelessness cycle.

In Oct. 2008, as part of the Housing First strategy, the Friends began subsidizing rent for a former chronically homeless resident of the shelter. She has now completed one year in her new home! This season, the Friends is contracting a part-time case manager, to work with other willing residents, helping them meet their goals of housing, employment, and services. **The case manager will work within the newly established HOST system.**

From the beginning the Friends has been a grassroots enterprise utilizing over 200 volunteers each season and receiving 80 percent of its funding locally from Falls Church residents, businesses, faith communities, civic organizations, foundations and schools. **For more information, contact Ron Brousseau at 571-218-5411 or visit the Friends of Falls Church Homeless Shelter at <http://www.fallschurchshelterfriends.org>.**

Hypothermia Prevention Program Update

The hypothermia prevention program (an extension of the Fairfax County's emergency shelter program) serving unaccompanied adults is gearing up to begin providing shelter soon. Over 30 churches will host in this year's program. Faith-based communities will provide additional support in coordination with the HOST sites, such as food donations, meal preparation, and donations of clothing and gift cards.

The four nonprofit providers working in the four geographic areas of the county to ensure this sheltering service is provided in several different places include: FACETS in central county; Volunteers of America in east county; New Hope Housing in south county; and Reston Interfaith in north county. Sites will open Dec. 1, except for FACETS' program that begins Nov. 22. The county shelters serving unaccompanied adults year-round already opened their in-house hypothermia programs on Nov. 1, where they serve a limited number of adults on a first-come, first-served basis. **Clients seeking hypothermia prevention shelter should be referred to any of the following three shelters that serve adults:** Eleanor Kennedy, Bailey's Crossroads, or Embry Rucker, where clients will be directed to the appropriate hypothermia location from there.

Homeless Youth Initiative

The Homeless Youth Initiative Program is up and running. Several program participants, defined as students attending school who are homeless, have been housed and are receiving support services. Services are provided by Alternative House in coordination with the [Fairfax County Schools Homeless Liaison Office](#). The program reaches out to the community for support with housing arrangements through its "host homes coordinator." **For more information visit <http://www.fcps.edu/dss/ips/homelessinfo/index.htm>.**

SIDEBAR

Continuum of Care Update

Applicants have been working on their applications and encountering a number of problems with the on-line applications system, e-snaps. For this reason, and to correct some errors in the original Notice, **on Oct. 26, HUD issued a Notice of Technical Corrections for the errors and extended the due date by approximately two weeks. Project applications should now be completed by Nov. 12** to allow time for review and incorporation of necessary data into the overall community application being prepared by the [Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness](#).

Shelter House Awarded Domestic Violence Contract

As part of the continuing redesign process in the [Fairfax County Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services](#) (OFWDSVS), **a contract to manage the Artemis House family violence shelter has been awarded to Shelter House.** Though the day-to-day operation of Artemis House will be operated and managed by Shelter House staff, the Domestic and Sexual Violence Services of OFWDSVS will continue to provide counseling services to its residents. This collaborative effort will provide high quality, client driven and holistic services to those seeking shelter and support. Commitment is being directed toward the inclusion of Artemis House services into the county's plan to prevent and end homelessness. **For more information contact Jewell Mikula at jewell.mikula@shelterhouse.org.**

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Invitation to Regional Meetings Related to Homelessness

To share information broadly and provide multiple opportunities to learn about current Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH) initiatives, Department of Systems Management for Human Services Regional Directors have begun using existing regional meetings to disseminate information to local partners. Please refer to the information below to attend a meeting in your region.

Regional meetings will act as another vehicle to get updates about countywide developments related to homelessness. More specific training opportunities will be made available in the coming weeks.

- **Region 1**, Nov. 9, noon to 2:00 p.m., American Legion Post 176, 6520 Amherst Ave., Springfield.
- **Region 2**, Dec. 14, 10:00 a.m. to noon, 6245 Leesburg Pike, Suite 300, Falls Church..
- **Region 3**, Nov. 16, 10:00 a.m. to noon, Reston Community Center at Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston.
- **Region 4**, Nov. 13, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., Mott Community Center, 12111 Braddock Rd., Fairfax.

Corporation for Supportive Housing Meets at Stevenson Place

Kimberly Black, Director of the Corporation for Supportive Housing Mid-Atlantic Program, along with her colleagues Nancy McGraw, Chief Development Officer, and Managing Director Sue Augustus attended a meeting at Stevenson Place. The diverse group of nonprofit, Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, OPEH and county leaders explored potential areas for partnership and how they may strengthen supportive housing efforts in Fairfax County.

Five-Year Consolidated Plan for FY 2011-2015 Kicked Off

Public input for the new Five-Year Consolidated Plan for FY 2011-2015 kicked off the last week in October with two input forums, one in Reston on Oct. 28, and one at the South County Government Center on Oct. 29. The focus topics for both of these were Affordable Housing and Community and Economic Development. **On Nov. 6, a public input forum on homeless and other special needs populations was held** at the Fairfax County Government Center. A summary of these public input meetings and other documents will be posted online later this month at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/>. A second opportunity for input will be during the formal public review and comment period for the Draft Consolidated Plan, which will be released in February 2010.

Butler Family Fund

Butler Family Fund Executive Director Martha Toll joined us for the first time here in Fairfax County at the Embury Rucker shelter for a discussion on rapid re-housing with Kerrie Wilson, Reston Interfaith; Pam Michel, New Hope Housing; Jewell Mikula, Shelter House; Gerry Williams, Communities of Faith United for Housing; and other Reston Interfaith staff.

SAVE THE DATE

Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless for up-to-date information on future and past events.

What's Happening in the Homelessness Community – Jan. 21

The next Community Forum on Homelessness will take place on Thursday, Jan. 21, from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m., at the Providence Presbyterian Church, 9019 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. **Persons**

interested in ending homelessness are encouraged to attend. Network - Discuss - Get Your Questions Answered!

Event sponsored by the [Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness](#) (OPEH). **For more information or to request reasonable ADA accommodations, call 703-324-9492, TTY 711.** Allow 7 working days in advance of the event.

Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 561, Fairfax, VA 22035. For more information or to request this information in an alternate format, call 703-324-9492, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless. This is a Fairfax County, Va., publication.