

PARTNER Update

Ending Homelessness in the Fairfax-Falls Church Community

Sept. 3, 2009

HOST HIGHLIGHTS

Prevention and Diversion

The "Prevention, Diversion, Shelter Screening" tool is being field test by [Fairfax County Coordinated Services Planning](#) so that any final changes can be made before countywide implementation. The "Housing Targeting Tool" also has been distributed to test with shelter, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing providers and their current clients in the next few weeks. The information gathered through this process will help determine the use of a scale on which the appropriate housing intervention is assigned. For more information, contact [Samantha Batko](#) at the [National Alliance to End Homelessness](#).

Community Case Management

The Community Case Management task group has recently rolled out the first draft of the Community Case Manager position that will focus on prevention and diversion as defined by HOST. With the use of HPRP funds, Fairfax County will partner with 3-4 existing nonprofit organizations to hire 3.5 FTE's. Those organizations are Shelter House, Reston Interfaith and New Hope Housing. The goal for these positions is to work with each regionally based HOST site. Nonprofit organizations will start hiring for these positions in early to mid-September. Efforts are now being made to coordinate with the Intake and Assessment, and Prevention and Diversion task groups to identify strategies for determining eligibility for potentially homeless community members to access HPRP funds and Community Case Management.

Housing Locators

[Department of Administration for Human Services \(DAHS\)](#) worked with the Housing Brokerage Group (T7) and others to develop an abbreviated RFP that will be published by the end of this week to support the hiring of two housing locator positions funded by HPRP funds. Efforts also are underway to extend the existing shelter contracts of Reston Interfaith, New Hope Housing and Shelter House to support the hiring of community case managers who will each work with a regionally based HOST site. More information will be coming next issue on each site and how those are progressing. DAHS will also be providing administrative support making payments to third party entities (landlord utility companies, not directly to clients) and reporting on assistance.

Mapping Process

HOST Prevention and Diversion committee (T2) has been charged with identifying key start-up processes related to HOST operations and implementation, along with specific recommendations for creating a connected network of partners to support HOST prevention and diversion activities. T2 launched a comprehensive mapping process to identify cross-cutting issues that impact HOST implementation efforts and illustrate the "No Wrong Door" access for those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Facilitated by Chip Gertzog, [Fairfax County Department of Systems Management](#), and supported by the Systems Change (T10) team members, T2 invited representatives from each of the task groups to participate in the mapping process. Four sessions were held in July; two sessions focused on mapping the route families take from the point of becoming homeless and/or identifying as precariously housed through accessing and receiving services from HOST; and two sessions focused on singles' journey through this process. All sessions have been well attended and have effectively incorporated much of the substantial work and thinking that has been occurring within each of the task groups. A preliminary map has been constructed upon some key principles:

- The redefined process is intended to quickly **move families and singles through the system; minimize (and prevent, when possible) shelter stays; and foster community engagement.**
- CBO's, FBO's and Fairfax County Government agencies will be **trained to conduct a universal HOST intake and assessment form, and to determine appropriate service options** for consumers. In some cases consumers will be served and stabilized through these organizations, and in some cases a referral to CSP will best serve the consumer. **The new HOST process is being designed to ensure that all consumers receive comprehensive support, regardless of their entry point.**

Looking ahead, T2 is excited to build on this work to date and **next steps include:**

- **Ensure the community is ready to access HPRP direct assistance funds.** T2 will recommend criteria and procedures for accessing these funds, and working with the Intake and Assessment task group to further develop our HPRP screening process. We will then determine the key points in the overall HOST process where HPRP services and financial assistance may be assessed and accessed.
- **Assist in identifying the partners** (primary and secondary HOST activities and resources) **in each human services region** and identify **roles for those who provide services countywide.**
- **Continue to refine the HOST process** to ensure that once a consumer enters HOST, services are provided and available in a seamless manner.
- **Conduct an HMIS mapping process scheduled for Sept. 11** to ensure a seamless and comprehensive overlay of HMIS utilization throughout the HOST process.
- **Conduct domestic violence mapping process scheduled for Sept. 9** to ensure overlay of utilization for those individuals who are experiencing domestic violence.

PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Kristen Amundson Joins the Governing Board

Kristen Amundson represented the 44th District in Virginia's General Assembly from 1999 to 2009. Prior to joining the General Assembly, **Amundson served for nearly a decade on the Fairfax County School Board**, including two years as its chairwoman. Amundson also has served as the chief patron of Governor Mark Warner's Education Efficiency Audits program, which has returned millions of dollars from administrative expenses to classrooms across Virginia. She was elected as the Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus. Governor Kaine has appointed her to Virginia's P-16 Council and of the Southern Regional Education Board.

Toya Taylor Joins OPEH

Please join us in welcoming our newest staff member, **Toya Taylor**, to the Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness! Toya will start in her new role as the Program Manager for OPEH on Sept. 14. In her new role, Toya will be in charge of a **wide range of facilitation, planning, brokering and communication activities** with public, private, nonprofit and community partners in order to move us forward with the 10-Year Plan. She brings **many years of leadership experience in working with homeless prevention and homeless services.** Most recently she has served as the director of the Katherine K. Hanley Family Shelter – the first Housing First model homeless family shelter in Fairfax County. In addition, Toya has worked at the Embury Rucker Community Shelter and Opportunities, Alternatives and Resources (OAR) of Fairfax County. We are excited to welcome Toya in to our team. **She will be a great asset in helping us implement the 10-Year Plan.**

SIDEBAR

Continuum of Care Update

The registration of the CoC with HUD for the 2009 Homeless Assistance applications has been submitted and approval from HUD is currently pending. The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)

has not yet been released. **Potential applicants for a possible new project should submit a concept proposal to william.macmillan@fairfaxcounty.gov by this Friday, Sept. 4.** Information was sent out on Aug. 13, 2009.

Check out www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless

Work continues on improving the partnership's Web presence. **Check our Web page www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless frequently for updates; news design will be revealed by the end of this week!** If you have any questions or comments regarding the Web site or communications, contact the [Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs](#).

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.