



Homelessness Taskforce

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Chairperson Statements
3. Restatement of Purpose
4. Housekeeping and meeting rules
5. Recap of 1st Meeting and Breakout Results
6. Overview of priority themes (survey results)
7. Discussion: Projects and Initiatives
8. Next Steps
9. Adjourn

Introductions



Please take a moment to introduce yourself in the Chat

Please add your name and organization



Chair Introductions

Commissioner Ken Lawrence

Kim Krauter

Dr. Tamra Williams

Purpose and Issue Statement



Purpose and Issue Statement

Reiterate Purpose Here



Housekeeping



Please remain on mute to minimize noise distraction through these meetings



Please utilize the "raise hand" feature if you want to talk and we will call on you to speak



You can type questions and comments into the "chat" and we will check periodically



The meetings will be recorded

Recap: Breakout Groups

- Questions asked:
 - Question 1: What are the priorities or priority areas this task force should address in its work on homelessness in Montgomery County
 - Question 2: Are there specific projects or initiatives this task force can complete that would address homelessness issues in Montgomery County
- Padlet Results:
 - 52 priorities and projects received
 - 7 themes identified with examples

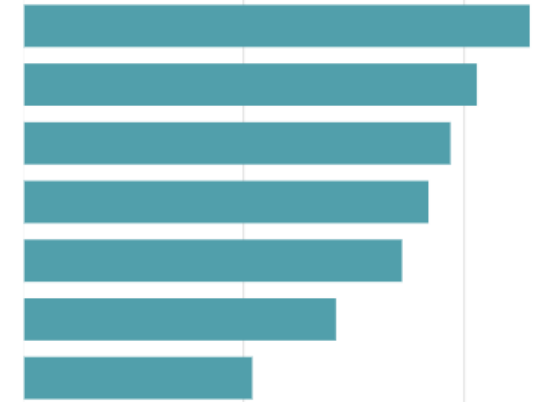
Theme	Example
Prevention	Expand an eviction prevention program that moves further upstream - provide financial, legal, and mediation assistance prior to eviction filing
	Landlord Accountability in maintaining property in accordance with township or county regulations.
Localizing Homeless Response	Emergency Beds spread across municipalities.
	Strategically place facilities/shelters throughout the county so not one or two communities become the catch-all for all (6-12 facilities)
Multi-Focus Wraparound Programs	Creation of one stop opportunities: employment +housing + services
Single Focus-Affordable Housing Availability	Advocate for more programs to offer people who are unsheltered - job training, education, housing, shelter
	Alternatives to housing solutions--ie - tiny houses, thinking outside the box, additional deployment of resources, shipping container communities, pallet shelters
Building Partnerships and Models of Success	Lack of affordable housing--triage vs. long term, expansion of the EPIC program from 8 to all district courts
	Piloting' initiatives with several willing municipalities. Demonstrate successes in several municipalities; share outcomes; replicate elsewhere
Awareness & Public Perception	Involvement of additional faith based programs through Family Promise
	How many dont even realize how close to home this problem is. Increase awareness that there are so many people experiencing this in their neighborhoods
Population Specific Approaches	Educate why it is a community issue
	A lot of people experiencing homelessness are older and have not faced this before. MH issues may have been stable prior to homelessness and have become exacerbated since homelessness.
	A lot of young kids with young parents may need a lot of additional supports to be able to maintain housing. The PIT count does not accurately pick up the homeless numbers because children may not be getting counted for fear of being removed from the family. Priority should be both kids and older adults.

Overview of Priority Themes (Survey Data)



- 1 **Prevention**--Providing resources to help people who are in immediate risk of becoming homeless
- 2 **Localizing Homeless Response**--Providing a local community response that keeps people experiencing homelessness in their own community.
- 3 **Multi-focus wraparound programs**--Providing the person the services they need with as few entry points and barriers as possible
- 4 **Single-focus programs**--Focusing on singular issues that may affect homelessness in Montgomery County. **This includes housing affordability and shelter**
- 5 **Building partnerships and models of success**--Creating partnerships with communities addressing homelessness and replicating successful strategies
- 6 **Awareness and public perception**--Providing awareness to develop an accurate public perception of homelessness in our communities
- 7 **Population-specific approaches**--Focusing on population specific issues that homelessness may exacerbate

- 1 **Prevention**--
- 2 **Localizing Homeless Response...**
- 3 **Multi-focus wraparound prog...**
- 4 **Single-focus programs**--
- 5 **Building partnerships and mo...**
- 6 **Awareness and public percept...**
- 7 **Population-specific approache...**



Projects and Initiatives

- In this discussion we want to focus on projects and recommendations that are actionable.
 - Actionable projects are specific and attainable. They will allow you to take concrete steps to achieve them and are reasonable enough that they can be attained and completed.
 - Timing:
 - We are looking to implement projects within a 6-8 month time frame (by November). Not all action needs to be complete but it should be well underway.
 - The following projects we want to do a high level poll to determine which projects we can and should move forward. We will be asking you to determine as best you can the ranking using a high, medium, low rating.
 - Barriers:
 - Cost Expectation:
 - Overall Efficacy:

Impact Ranking Poll & Discussion

- Poll
 - Barriers: Do you anticipate this project or initiative will encounter a high/medium/low number of barriers.
 - Cost expectation: Do you anticipate this project will require a high/medium/low financial expense.
 - Overall Efficacy: Do you believe this project has a high/medium/low overall chance of success
- Discussion:
 - What are some barriers you anticipate for this project
 - What are some cost estimates you have for this project
 - What are some initial steps to take and points that need to be considered to ensure success for this project

Prevention

- Describe the Project(s) Briefly:
 - (16) Increase rental subsidy program
 - (15) Expanding eviction prevention programs
- Poll:

Localizing Homeless Response

- Describe the Project(s) Briefly:
 - (21) Strategically place facilities/shelters throughout the county and increase the number of these facilities to keep people closer to their community
 - (14) Creating a “fair share” formula to determine the number of beds, housing units, and programs needed in each municipality
- Poll:

Multi-Focus Wraparound Programs

- Describe the Project(s) Briefly:
 - (15) Mobilized services that go out to people currently living outside
 - (13) Programs that serve people currently living outside: housing + job training+ health services+ social services +education...
- Poll:

Single-Focus Programs

- Describe the Project(s) Briefly:
 - (14) Alternatives to traditional housing options such as tiny houses, pallet shelters, shipping container communities
 - (11) Zoning issues that prevent housing affordability efforts
 - (11) Increasing affordable housing options
- Poll:

Building Partnerships & Models of Success

- Describe the Project(s) Briefly:
 - (15) Engaging with local legislators who are focusing on homelessness issues
 - (13) Establishing partnerships with faith-based organizations
- Poll:

Awareness and Public Perception

- Describe the Project(s) Briefly:
 - (15) Address the myths of homelessness
 - (14) Educate on why it is a community issue and needs a community response
- Poll:

Population Specific Approaches

- Describe the Project(s) Briefly:
 - (14) Behavioral health or substance use disorders
 - (14) Age related issues (senior adults, children, college, and/or transitional age youth)
- Poll:

Project Selection

Prevention	Localizing Homeless Response	Multi-Focus Wraparound	Single Focus Programs	Build Partnerships & Models of Success	Awareness and Public Perception	Population Specific Approaches
Increase rental subsidy program	Strategically place facilities/shelters throughout the county and increase the number of these facilities to	Mobilized services that go out to people currently living outside	Alternatives to traditional housing options such as tiny houses, pallet shelters, shipping container	Engaging with local legislators who are focusing on homelessness issues	Address the myths of homelessness	Behavioral health or substance use disorders
Expanding eviction prevention programs	Creating a “fair share” formula to determine the number of beds, housing units, and programs needed in	Programs that serve people currently living outside: housing + job training+ health services+	Zoning issues that prevent housing affordability efforts	Establishing partnerships with faith-based organizations	Educate on why it is a community issue and needs a community response	Age related issues (senior adults, children, college, and/or transitional age youth)
			Increasing affordable housing			

Deeper Discussion

For each selected project

- What are some barriers you anticipate for this project
- What are some cost estimates you have for this project
- What are some initial steps to take and points that need to be considered to ensure success for this project

Next Steps

We are still inviting members to join the Operations/Work Group

If you are interested please email Jim Walters
James.Walters@montgomerycountypa.gov

The first operations/work group meeting will be held virtually on **Tuesday, June 20th at 11am**

Adjourn

Closing Comments

Future Meetings are scheduled for the last Friday of the month at 12:00pm through November 2023

THANK YOU