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	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	MAYOR'S OFFICE OF HUMAN SERVICES ROOM 223, CITY HALL		
	SUBJECT	Council Bill #14-0155R Informational Hearing		

DATE:

TO

Honorable President and Members of the City Council
c/o 409 City Hall

March 20, 2014

The Mayor's Office of Human Services (MOHS) is pleased to have the opportunity to provide updates on the implementation of *The Journey Home, Baltimore City's Plan to End Homelessness* and the Homeless Services Program.

The Journey Home

- **The Journey Home Board**

The Journey Home Board was established in December 2013 to support the implementation of *The Journey Home*. The Board will also serve as the Continuum of Care (CoC) Board, which is a HUD requirement. The Board met on January 16, 2014 and accomplished two key tasks: 1) approved the Journey Home Board Charter, which provides bylaws for how the Board will function, and 2) adopted the Journey Home Strategic Priorities, which outlines key actions that will reduce homelessness in Baltimore. Both documents are available on the Journey Home website at www.journeyhomebaltimore.org.

- **Journey Home Strategic Priorities**

In January 2014, the Journey Home Board adopted the Journey Home Strategic Priorities. The purpose of these priorities is to create a strategic framework for continued commitment and collective action as we move to the next phase of Plan implementation. The Board has already started to structure its work around the strategic priorities through establishing Board workgroups and specific initiatives. The Journey Home Strategic Priorities and the Journey Home Plan are complementary documents that contribute to the vision that *homelessness in Baltimore will be rare and brief*.

- **The Journey Home Children's Coordinator Program**

The Journey Home Board approved to spend \$208,000 of private funds raised through the Journey Home benefit to fund the Children's Coordinator Program for a third year. The Children's Coordinator Program provides funding for four education liaisons that are placed in four family emergency shelters in Baltimore. The coordinators work with families to ensure the educational needs of children living in shelters are met. As of December 31, 2013, this program served nearly 400 parents and children.

Comments



Homeless Services Program

- **HUD Review of Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP)**
Baltimore was awarded \$9.5 million through HPRP. This amount was allotted to address a small portion of the goals within the *Journey Home*, Baltimore's plan to end homelessness. The HPRP funding was intended to achieve two key tasks: (1) to assist certain persons who were homeless, as well as persons at imminent risk of homelessness, and (2) to get funds quickly into the economy. HUD conducted a review of Baltimore's HPRP grant and found that close to \$6 million of the HPRP funding was used and DOCUMENTED in exactly the way that HUD determined in its audit that funds should have been spent. However, HUD has called into question the documentation of eligibility and use of \$3.7 million and seeks return of that money to the US treasury.
- **Home for Good Campaign**
Baltimore participates in the 100K Home Campaign through the Home for Good Campaign. This campaign has set the goal to end chronic homelessness in Baltimore by 2015, which aligns with *Opening Doors*, the federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness. Since January 2013, outreach teams made 256 housing placements mostly using the set-aside vouchers provided by the Housing Department. We've made significant strides with this effort but need to house an additional 429 placements to end chronic homelessness by 2015. This can be achieved with some of our existing resources, however, new housing opportunities and services are required. The Journey Home Board is working with housing developers and other key stakeholders to determine how to create new housing opportunities and services funding.
- **Homeless Management Information System**
MOHS-HSP is transitioning to a new Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) that will bring large improvements to the quality of the data collected about our clients, their needs, and the services that they receive. It will be a better tool for providers to offer case management and to use data to track the impact they are having in the community. And most importantly, the system will help the City collect better data across the entire homeless services system, which will improve our capacity to assess trends in homelessness and measure unmet needs and outcomes achieved. The new HMIS will be an essential tool in measuring progress of the *Journey Home* plan, and will play a key role in the upcoming coordinated intake and assessment system.
- **Coordinated Intake and Assessment System**
MOHS-HSP is leading the effort to plan and implement a coordinated intake and assessment system. The goal is to create an efficient intake assessment system for individuals and families at-risk of a housing crisis or immediately experiencing homelessness to have an equitable and centralized process to access services in the community. The coordinated assessment system will consist of two walk-in sites, phone-based access via 2-1-1, and street outreach teams. The coordinated intake assessment system will provide a clear and equitable process to ensure eligible households are referred to appropriate programs, reduce unnecessary "run-around" by households in need, and target of resources to households that will benefit most.