

Greater Virginia Peninsula Continuum of Care Task Force on Homelessness

PREVENTING ■ INTERVENING ■ ENDING HOMELESSNESS

Annual Report 2009-2010

Our progress over the last year was made possible through commitment, perseverance, and hard work. Starting with the adoption of the Virginia Peninsula Regional Plan to End Homelessness in July 2009, our region experienced ongoing success in preventing, intervening, and ending homelessness. Engaged and dedicated service providers in the public and private sectors, policy-makers, and community stakeholders continued to rise to the many challenges faced. This report will highlight accomplishments and activities that have taken place over the last year that truly set the stage for the dynamic system changes needed to end homelessness in our communities.



Accomplishments Supporting The Virginia Regional Plan to End Homelessness

Prevention

- Increased federal funding to the region through the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (federal stimulus funding)

Permanent Housing

- Added 6 new permanent supportive housing units for the chronically homeless
- Piloted Housing Broker Team in Newport News with future replication across the Peninsula
- Endorsed and provided referrals to Virginia Housing Development Authority's (VHDA) web-based affordable housing inventory (www.virginiahousingsearch.com)

Coordinated Services

- Adopted regional Standards of Care for services for all agencies participating on the Greater Virginia Peninsula Continuum of Care Council (GVPCCC) Taskforce on Homelessness
- Strengthened subcommittee structure under the Task Force on Homelessness

Education and Advocacy

- Established website dedicated to providing homeless specific resources and information
- Established weekly Task Force on Homelessness email which provides a variety of news and information

Systems Change

- Expanded Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) coverage to include more users
- Instituted HMIS evaluation and monitoring



HMIS FACTS

- 98% of all HUD required HMIS data elements were entered into HMIS
- HMIS users increased from 24 to 33 over the last year
- Currently there are 9,983 clients entered into HMIS

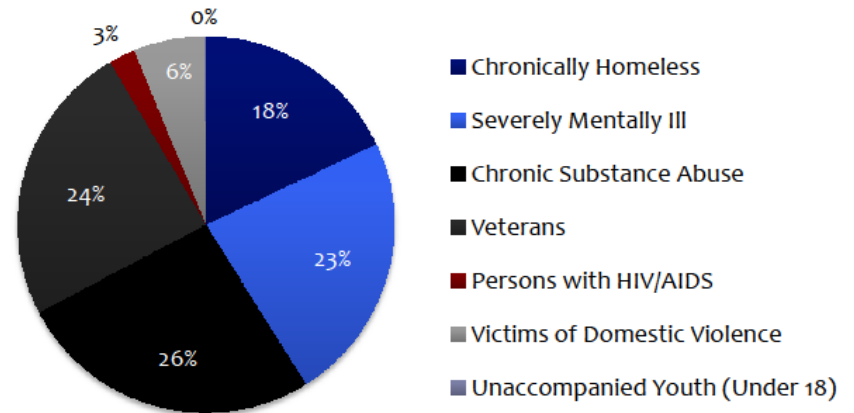
Activities

2010 Point-In-Time Count

The GVPCCC Task Force on Homelessness conducted the annual count on January 27th and 28th. During the 24-hour count **607 persons were identified as being homeless**. This compares to a total of 569 persons counted in January 2009. The following table and chart provides a breakdown of the 2010 results.

	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Singles	414	34	448
Persons in Families (adults and children)	159	0	159
Total	573	34	607

2010 Point-In-Time Count Subpopulations



Brown Bag Trainings

In 2009, the Task Force on Homelessness began offering case managers and front line service providers regularly scheduled opportunities for professional development and information.

Brown Bag Training Topics

Crisis Intervention
 Conflict Resolution
 Motivational Interviewing
 Legal Aid
 Social Security and Disability
 Veterans Affairs

Funding and Resources

2009 Continuum of Care (CoC) Homeless Assistance Awards

The Greater Virginia Peninsula Continuum of Care continued to perform well in 2009-2010. The CoC met or exceeded HUD's outcome standards for persons staying in permanent housing for at least 6 months, persons moving from transitional housing to permanent housing, and persons employed at program exit.

In December 2009, **nine programs were awarded a total of 1.6 million dollars in funding**. These CoC funded programs serve individuals and families and address a variety of barriers that impede self-sufficiency.

Funding and Resources

Awards

Permanent Supportive Housing Programs	Transitional Housing Programs	Homeless Management Information System
ACCESS AIDS Care	Avalon: A Center for Women and Children	The Planning Council
Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board	Transitions Family Violence Services	
LINK of Hampton Roads		
Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority		

Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP)

In February 2009, President Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Re-investment Act (ARRA). As a result, **the region secured 1.3 million dollars in HPRP funds** to serve individuals and families over two years. From October 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

the region's combined HPRP funding has assisted 773 people within 344 households by utilizing 41% of the total funds available during the program's first eight months.

Housing Broker Team

In addition to providing financial assistance and supportive services to those facing or experiencing homelessness, HPRP provided the capacity to create a Housing Broker Team (HBT) in the City of Newport News. HBTs, identified as a best practice, work to

- Increase the inventory of affordable housing units within a community by recruiting landlords
- Act as an intermediary between landlords and clients to resolve issues that may lead to loss of housing
- Ensure long term housing stability by providing case management services to clients placed

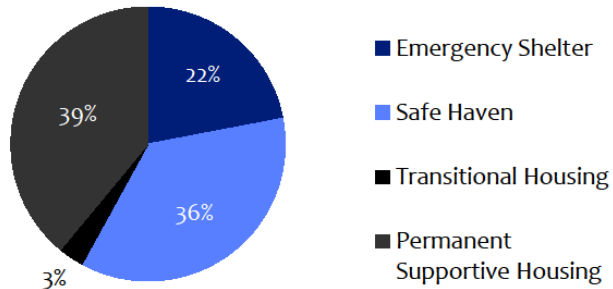
Since December 2009, the Newport News Housing Broker Team has **placed 29 clients and recruited 32 landlords who will offer affordable housing units**. The HBT also averted or waived \$3,477 in fees, which resulted in savings to the client and funders.



Funding and Resources

Housing Inventory

This housing inventory chart illustrates the distribution of designated homeless beds in our region.



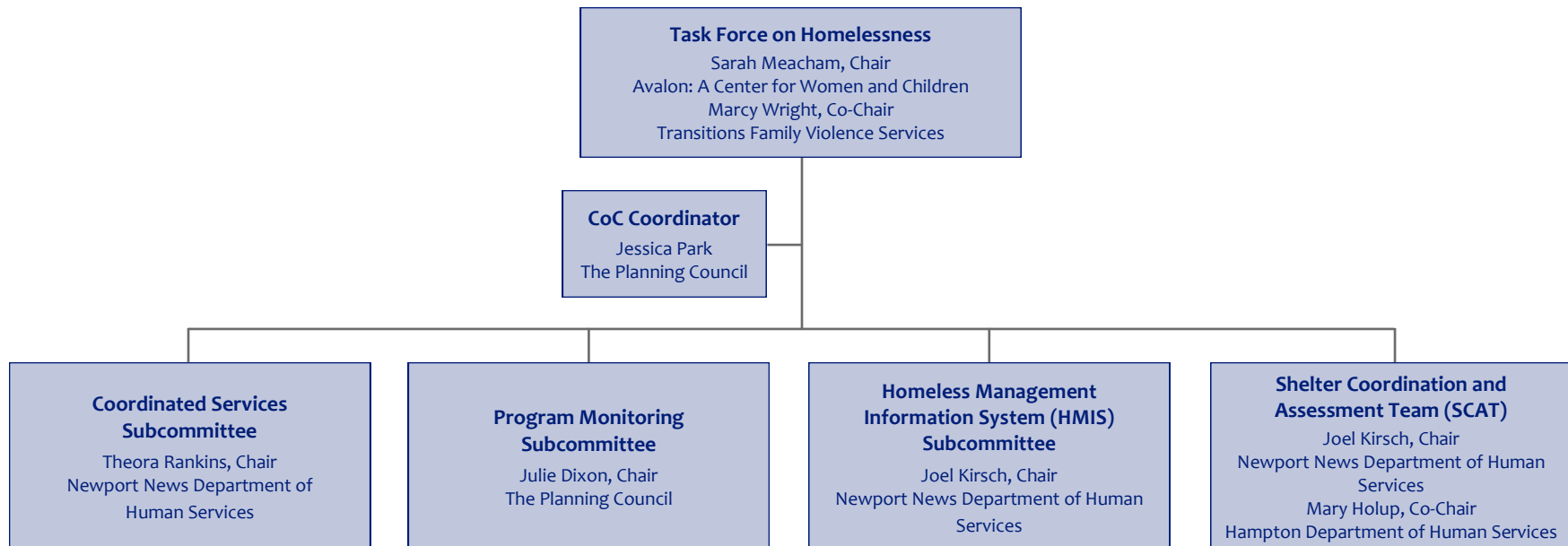
Note: CoC and non-CoC funded beds



Task Force on Homelessness Structure and Participating Agencies

With a mission to work collaboratively to prevent, intervene, and end homelessness on the Greater Virginia Peninsula, the Task Force on Homelessness is a vigorous and collaborative entity that is open

to any and all agencies, programs, and individuals interested in working on all issues related to homelessness.



Task Force on Homelessness Structure and Participating Agencies

2009-2010 Task Force on Homelessness Subcommittees

Coordinated Services Subcommittee works to provide current and consolidated listings of community resources available and is working to build a seamless, comprehensive homeless services system across our region. Achievements for 2009-2010 include:

- Updated list of resources and distributed to agencies and providers
- Created agency information spreadsheet (who, what, when, where of all agencies)
- Created and distributed street information card for the homeless
- Routinely collected and distributed information regarding services on the Peninsula

Program Monitoring Subcommittee plays an integral piece in Continuum of Care (CoC) planning and the annual U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development CoC application process. The subcommittee has worked to achieve the following in 2009-2010:

- Instituted annual priority setting exercise for all Taskforce members
- Conducted peer review of supplemental applications for each project funded by HUD
- Reviewed and updated elements of the CoC application (Housing Inventory Chart, Strategic Goals, Housing Performance, etc.)
- Reviewed new project proposals and made recommendations for improvement
- Reviewed announced changes in policies (Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act) and documentation (Annual Progress Reports and HMIS) to be implemented in 2010
- Monitored occupancy issues within housing programs
- Announced and reviewed available trainings and reports relevant to improving HUD-funded programs
- Initiated the coordination of a Standards of Care peer review swap with Norfolk CoC

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Subcommittee has made great strides in data collection since forming in 2009. The regularly scheduled meetings provide the HMIS Administrator the opportunity to address issues, such as data quality, that HMIS users may be encountering. As a response to the growing demand for building and maintaining a comprehensive, quality HMIS, this subcommittee has:

- Increased participation continuum-wide of **agencies entering client-level data into HMIS to 17 agencies, 33 user licenses and 3 Advanced Reporting Tool (ART) licenses**
- Adopted HMIS Policies and Procedures manual for all user agencies within the continuum
- Improved data quality among all user agencies
- Participated for the first time in the Annual Homeless Assessment Report
- Implemented monthly HMIS committee meetings

Shelter Coordination and Assessment Team (SCAT) was formally recognized as a Task Force on Homelessness subcommittee in May 2010. SCAT provides a forum for the coordination of services as clients are presented. This enables providers across the region to serve clients as expeditiously as possible and serves as an outlet for identifying and correcting systems issues. SCAT's unique collaboration builds strong relationships between local government human service agencies, non-profits and faith-based service providers.

Point in Time (PIT) Subcommittee meets semi-annually to coordinate the annual PIT count. Its duties include updating survey forms, forming and scheduling street outreach groups, informing homeless service providers when to conduct their on-site counts, coordinating volunteers, collating data and developing reports to the Task Force on Homelessness, cities, and funding agencies.

Task Force on Homelessness Structure and Participating Agencies

Participating Agencies

ACCESS AIDS Care
All Nations Church
Avalon: A Center for Women and Children
Catholic Charities
Hampton Ecumenical Lodgings and Provisions
Hampton Department of Human Services
Hampton Military Affairs Committee
Hampton Neighborhood Office
Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board
Housing Development Corporation of Hampton Roads
James City County Office of Housing and Community Development
Joyce O'Brien
Lighthouse for Women

LINK of Hampton Roads
Menchville House Ministries
Natasha House
Newport News Department of Human Services
Newport News Development Department
Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority
Malachi House
Office of Human Affairs-Newport News
Paul's Online
Peninsula Homeless Intervention and Rehabilitation, Inc.
Peninsula Institute for Community Health
Resurrection Lutheran Church
St. Vincent de Paul
Taylor Family Housing and Empowerment

The Salvation Army-Peninsula
The Salvation Army-Williamsburg
The Planning Council
Transitions Family Violence Services
United Way of Greater Williamsburg
United Way of the Virginia Peninsula
Veterans Affairs Medical Center Hampton-Homeless Outreach
Virginia Employment Commission
Williamsburg Department of Social Services
Williamsburg James City County Community Action Agency
York County Division of Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization
York-Poquoson Department of Social Services

Mayors and Chairs Commission on Homelessness (COH)

The Commission on Homelessness (COH), comprised of members appointed from each of the six jurisdictions within the CoC, collaboratively addresses the issue of homelessness within the region. Since its inception in 2005 the COH, with support from the GVPCCC Task Force on Homelessness and local community stakeholders, worked diligently to develop the Virginia Peninsula Regional Plan to End Homelessness. In July 2009 the plan was successfully adopted by each of the six localities. As the COH moves forward, its primary focus has shifted from development to monitoring the implementation of the 10-Year Plan.

Mayors and Chairs Commission on Homelessness Members

Alan Archer, City of Newport News
Wanda Rogers, City of Hampton
Vaughn Poller, York County
Barbara Watson, James City County
Peter Walentisch, City of Williamsburg
Judy Wiggins, City of Poquoson
Joy Cipriano, Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board





The Planning Council

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