OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Governor's Task Force on Housing and Supports for Vulnerable Populations
Meeting of July 26, 2019

Task Force Members Present[*]

Office of the Governor	Senior Coordinator for Housing/TOD Lisa Tepper Bates
Department of Aging and Disability Services	Commissioner Amy Porter
Court Support Services Division, Connecticut Judicial Branch	Executive Director Gary Roberge
Department of Children and Families	Commissioner Vannessa Dorantes
Department of Correction	Director of Reentry Services William Murphy
Department of Developmental Services	Commissioner Jordan Scheff
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	Deputy Commissioner Betsey Wingfield
Department of Labor	Commissioner Kurt Westby
Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services	Commissioner Miriam Delphin-Rittmon
Department of Social Services	Commissioner Deidre Gifford
Department of Transportation	Deputy Commissioner Anna Barry
Office of Early Childhood	Director of HeadStart Collaborative Elena Trueworthy
Office of Healthcare Strategy	Vicki Veltri
Office of Policy and Management	Undersecretary David Wilkinson
	Undersecretary Mark Pelka
	Chief Data Officer Tyler Kleycamp
	Policy Development Coordinator Kelly Sinko
Supportive Housing Works	David Rich, CEO
Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness	Richard Cho, CEO
Connecticut Health Network	Sylvia Kelly, CEO
Connecticut Hospital Association	Elizabeth Beaudin, Senior Director, Population Health
Connecticut Nonprofit Alliance	Gian-Carl Casa, President and CEO
Corporation for Supportive Housing	Christi Staples Director, New England
Leading Age CT	Mag Morelli, President

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[*]*Leadership of participating entities may elect to appoint a designee*

Mental Health CT	Luis Perez, President and CEO
Partnership for Strong Communities	Kiley Gosselin, Executive Director
United Way of CT	Tanya Barrett, Vice President

Task Force Members Absent

Department of Economic and Community Development	Commissioner David Lehman
Department of Housing	Commissioner Seila Mosquera-Bruno

I.   Call to Order

Ms. Bates called the meeting of the Governor's Task Force on Housing and Supports for Vulnerable Populations to order at 10:35 a.m. in Room 208 of the Capitol at 210 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

II.   Welcome/Introductions

Ms. Bates introduced the task force Co-Chair, David Rich, and proceeded to provide an overview of the Task Force mandate. She noted that homelessness and housing instability touch several of our state systems – including clients of DOC, DCF, DSS, DMHAS and others. Homelessness is often a red flag indicating that there are very likely other unmet needs in this household. Further, regardless of where that household presented first; when people fall into homelessness, everything becomes harder, many conditions are made worse. As a result, households with these complex needs facing homelessness often cycle through public systems – with costs mounting and core challenges remaining unsolved. If we can meet all the critical needs of these households in a coordinated fashion, there is good reason to believe we can achieve better outcomes and also save scarce government resources.

The mission assigned by the Governor to the task force is to enhance coordination across agencies to ensure that state agencies evaluate vulnerability and prioritize resources consistently, coordinate effectively to serve shared clients, and implement best practices reliably to meet residents' housing/housing support needs with the goals of improving outcomes and conserving resources. To accomplish this, the Governor asked state agency leadership to ensure that each participating agency is represented at a sufficiently senior and accountable level. Consistent with the Governor's vision, the task force is a partnership of state agencies and nonprofit partners working together to address these challenges, leveraging what we have learned to date in Connecticut and what other communities are learning with regard to using data to drive better outcomes and coordinating services across agencies. The objective is to create a true team effort – to capitalize on the great knowledge and skill of senior state agency leadership, and to spur innovative thinking in tandem with outside stakeholders.

III.   Maximizing the Impact of State Resources: the importance of Coordination, Data, Leveraging Resources & Performance

Undersecretary Wilkinson spoke to the centrality of making better use of data and coordinating across agencies more effectively to improve performance and to conserve resources. In an era in which substantial additions to budgets are unlikely, it is increasingly important that we make the best use of existing levels of resources – with an emphasis on the type of work this task force will undertake. Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon noted highly successful pilot programs through DMHAS and DOH to use data from DOC and from Medicaid in tandem with Connecticut's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), administered by the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH), to target clients who would benefit most from housing and supportive services, experiencing better health and stability outcomes while ending expensive crisis cycling of these clients through systems like emergency rooms and jails. Commissioner Gifford and Kate McEvoy, the state Medicaid Director, flagged the fact that the healthcare system is increasingly focused on forging paths to better address the social determinants of health, which are increasingly accepted as the factors that account to a significant degree for population health. Gifford noted that the mission of the task force aligns wholly with the direction state policy must move in order to improve population health and control Medicaid costs. Undersecretary Marc Pelka reviewed the data match recently completed by OPM, DOC, and CCEH between the DOC database and HMIS. He noted that the match reflected an overlap of more than 50% between clients of DOC and those who had experienced homelessness – in contrast to the 30% or so estimate of overlap previously understood and based on self-reported data on HMIS alone.

IV.   Open Discussion

Chief Data Officer for Connecticut Tyler Kleycamp noted that technology is no longer the issue: we can do the matching across systems. The challenge is rather one of ensuring that there is commitment and will among support staff and of legal staff within departments. Leadership across agencies would be needed to by Commissioners to get their staff on board. United Way of CT Vice President Tanya Barrett flagged the fact that it would be important to ensure adequate protections for the privacy of clients served.

Commissioner Dorantes underscored how important it was to see an effort like this putting children and families at the center; OEC representative Elena Trueworthy concurred. Dorantes flagged the fact that the task force work offered an opportunity to advance efforts to take a "2-Gen" approach to meet the needs of both children and parents in the target population: what happens to families today, both good and bad, can have an impact on families for generations.

CCEH CEO Richard Cho flagged his perspective, based on experience working at the state and federal levels, that data integration is critical to improving outcomes for clients with complex needs. He noted that there is a growing cohort of elderly people among Connecticut's homeless. Bates noted that unlike many previous groups focused on homelessness, the task force includes the Department of Aging and Disability Services, as well as Leading Age's CEO Mag Morelli. Commissioner Scheff noted that DDS clients are often among the most vulnerable households facing housing and support challenges, and he was glad also to be able to represent the needs of that community.

Bates outlined the draft plan for a data match to focus on identifying and coordinating services to meet the needs of the top 500 homeless/housing unstable, multi-system frequent user households (which may including individuals and families. She stressed that this pilot is only a starting point, but could be both a concrete opportunity to pilot service coordination as well as to start seeking patterns of utilization with an eye toward working toward a prevention framework. (Draft attached.)

V.   Next Steps and Committees:

The task force members agreed to form a Sub Committee on Data to carry forward the work to establish parameters and procedure for the multi-system data match described in the draft. Tyler Kleycamp agreed to chair the Sub Committee, and task force members were asked to consider candidates from their agencies who could participate in that discussion. CSSD Executive Director Gary Roberge noted that there may be utility to forming a specific criminal justice subcommittee in future, given the high degree of overlap between the homeless/housing unstable population and the DOC and CSSD populations

VI.   Meeting Logistics

Task force members agreed to a standard meeting time of the fourth Friday of the month, meeting at 10:30am-12:00pm, with no meeting in August or December. Bates noted that the task force would operate in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), and all documents would be posted under a task force tab on the Governor's website.

VII.   Other Business

Bates noted that as this first meeting of the task force was a "special meeting" not noticed by a standard calendar of meetings, there could be no addition of agenda items under "other business" according to FOIA. She noted that in future, for example, every effort would be made to allow for public comment at task force meetings, although that agenda item could not be added for this special meeting.

VIII.   Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn; the meeting adjourned at 12:30.