



# **EFFORTS TO ADDRESS YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IN THE COMMONWEALTH**

VEFEPA Conference  
Williamsburg  
Tuesday, October 16, 2018

# GOVERNOR'S COORDINATING COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

Purpose of GCCH is to carryout activities which may include but not be limited to:

Implement state plan to effectively address homelessness

Address policy issues

Oversee coordination among and between secretariats and state agencies

Enhance coordination and collaboration between state agencies and local organizations

# LEADERSHIP & MEMBERSHIP

**Secretary of Commerce and Trade**

**Secretary of Health and Human Resources**

Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs

Secretary of Education

Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security

DHCD

VHDA

DBHDS

DSS

DOE/State Coordinator – Project HOPE  
VA

DVS

DARS

VDH

DJJ

DCJS

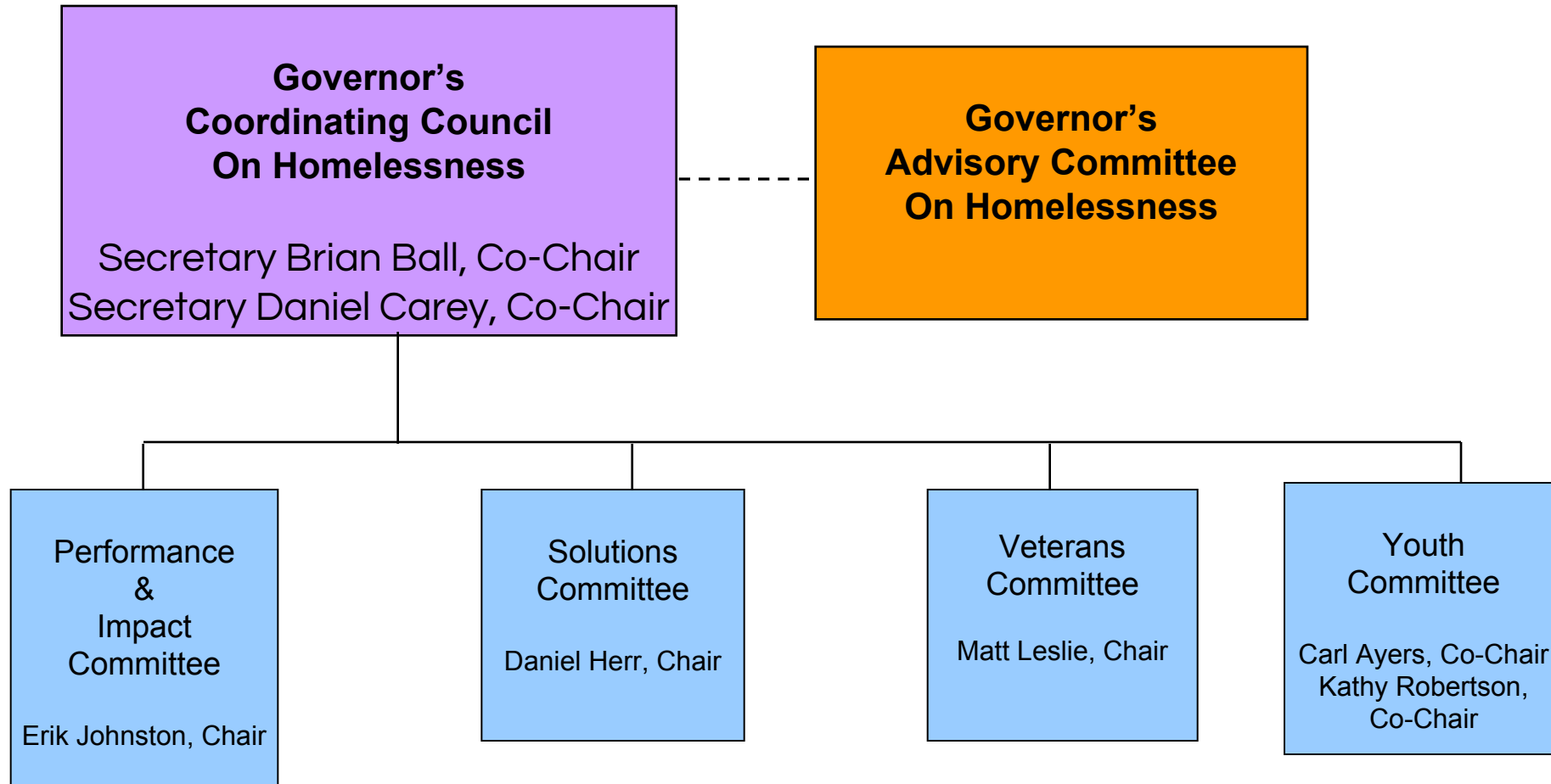
VADOC

OAG

VHA

HUD

# Governor's Initiative on Homelessness



# GCCH STANDING COMMITTEES



# PAST ADMINISTRATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## McDonnell Administration

- Goal: Reduce overall homelessness by 15% by 2014
- Actual: 16% Reduction in overall homelessness

## McAuliffe Administration

- Goal: Functionally End Veteran Homelessness by November 2015
- Actual: First state in the Nation to Functionally End Veteran Homelessness



# YOUTH

- Housing Stability Pilot in Petersburg Schools
- Tenant Rights Handbook
- Engaging youth through Social Media
- Single Points of Contact (SPOCs)
- Learnings from GEAR UP

# PETERSBURG CITY SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP HOUSING STABILITY PILOT

## **Housing Stability for Chronically Absent Homeless Students**

*Partnership of: The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development,  
Petersburg City Department of Social Services, Petersburg City Public Schools, and St.  
Joseph's Villa*

### **Available Services (provided by St. Joseph's Villa):**

- Housing stabilization case management
- Resource referral and follow-up
- Landlord mediation
- Housing location assistance
- Short-term rental and utility assistance
- Host home support (including financial)







# FAMILY & CHILDREN'S TRUST

- The Family and Children's Trust Fund (FACT) was created by the General Assembly in 1986 as a public-private partnership to raise funds for the prevention and treatment of family violence, including child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and elder abuse and neglect. FACT is governed by a Board of Trustees, appointed by the Governor, to raise and distribute funds for family violence prevention and treatment efforts, as well as to promote public awareness of family violence issues across the Commonwealth.
- FACT recently completed a series of Issue Briefs on trauma informed care across the lifespan. Briefs highlighted trauma-informed schools, trauma-informed homeless services, and trauma-informed approaches to elder abuse.
- <http://www.fact.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/2018-FACT-Annual-Report-Final.pdf>

# DEFINITIONS OF HOMELESSNESS

## HUD

A person is considered homeless only when s/he lives:

On the street,

In a place not meant for human habitation (e.g. cars, campsites, and abandoned buildings),  
in an emergency shelter,

In transitional or supportive housing (for people coming from streets or shelter), or

In any of the above places prior to entering a hospital/institution for short-term (30 days or less).

A person is also considered homeless if he/she is being:

Evicted within a week from a private dwelling, or

Discharged within a week from an institution where they stayed long term, 31 days or more

## Federal Department of Education

Homeless children are "individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence." The act provides examples of children who would fall under this definition:

Children and youth sharing housing due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason

Children and youth living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camp grounds due to lack of alternative accommodations

Children and youth living in emergency or transitional shelters

Children and youth abandoned in hospitals

Children and youth awaiting foster care placement

Children and youth whose primary nighttime residence is not ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation (e.g. park benches, etc)

Children and youth living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations

# FEDERAL GOAL TO END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

## Goal

End Youth Homelessness by 2020

## Criteria

1. The community identifies all unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness.
2. The community uses prevention and diversion strategies whenever possible, and otherwise provides immediate access to low-barrier crisis housing and services to any youth who needs and wants it.
3. The community uses coordinated entry processes to effectively link all youth experiencing homelessness to housing and services solutions that are tailored to their needs.
4. The community acts with urgency to swiftly assist youth to move in to permanent or non-time-limited housing options with appropriate services and supports.
5. The community has resources, plans, and system capacity in place to

# HOW DOES VIRGINIA EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS YOUTH HOMELESSNESS?

- Virginia does not have a coordinated system to identify unaccompanied youth and young adults.
- There is no coordinated system collecting data on the characteristics of the youth and young adults who enter homelessness, which makes it difficult to determine how to prevent homelessness.
- Exploring the development of a pilot that will determine what a “coordinated community response to ending youth homelessness” looks like in Virginia.

# VIRGINIA'S HOMELESS PILOT PROJECT

- Using the federal criteria to guide the pilot
  - Communities has a process to identify unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness
  - Communities use prevention and diversion strategies
    - Immediate access to low-barrier crisis housing and services
  - Communities have a coordinated entry processes to effectively link all youth experiencing homelessness to housing and services solutions
  - Communities act with urgency to swiftly assist youth to move into permanent or non-time-limited housing options
  - Communities have resources, plans, and system capacity in place to continue to prevent and quickly end future experiences of homelessness among youth



# FEEDBACK AND Q&A

# CONTACT INFO

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