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A young man stood at the edge of a great desert and imagined the adventure of crossing it.

But then he thought of the heat. He thought of the distance and of what he was leaving behind. And he soon forgot all about the dream that had brought him there in the first place.

He considered his troubles and thought of writing them down, but then remembered the perfection of Shakespeare’s sonnets, and he never wrote down one word.

He thought of drawing them in the sand, but then he recalled Michaelangelo’s flawless ceilings, and he never drew one line.

He thought of just singing out, but then heard a Mozart’s aria mocking him, and he never sang one note.

He thought and he thought. He looked out and he thought some more.

And he hesitated.

And there he stood an old man, still thinking.

- Author Unknown

One of my grandmother’s favorite sayings was, “Without a vision, people perish.” She always emphasized the importance – the necessity – of having a vision, a plan; of having aspirations and goals that would not only give direction to life, but would propel us forward towards a specific purpose. She recognized that a heart purposed to help others, to change the world for good, needed to have a mind filled with vision. However, she often followed that up with, “Without works, faith is dead.” She knew that vision had to be coupled with action.

As we work to continue creating HHS’ very first strategic plan, a great vision for our future – the future of HHS and for the people that we serve – is coming more and more into beautiful focus. It is a burgeoning vision of strengthening ourselves as one, cohesive department, and better positioning ourselves to do the greatest good for the people of Montgomery County.

Of course, with any vision there are risks; there are deterrents; there may be nay-sayers and doubters. But, at HHS we are determined to create a plan that is courageous, bold, unabashedly responsive to the needs of our entire community – all in the spirit of collaboration and partnership with all of you, for no big vision can be achieved alone.

Unlike the young man in the story above, we are determined to see our strategic plan through. It will not be just words on a page, but a living, breathing guide for all of our work. They will not just be thoughts; they will be very real actions. And although the needs are great, we will not stand still. In the words of one of my favorite poets, Maya Angelou: “Ain’t nothing to it but to do it!”

In the next couple of months we will be sharing a draft of our strategic plan during "town halls" for your feedback and input. More details on locations and dates follow this page. We sincerely hope you will join us, for together we are better!

Happy 2020, Everyone!
YOU ARE INVITED! HHS TOWN HALLS

You are invited to participate in an upcoming information and discussion session for us to gather feedback on priority areas important to YOU!

Why?
We would like your honest feedback so we can learn from our richly diverse County residents. We hope to reach residents connected to public Human Services due to professional or personal circumstances as well as other residents who are passionate about the well-being and future of our county.

What?
You will learn about and participate in a discussion about the draft Strategic Plan. The draft plan includes input received from staff and residents during focus groups and a survey conducted this past Fall.

When?
Monday, March 9, 2020 - Thursday, March 12, 2020

RSVP
Registration is encouraged, but not required. Click here to register for the session you plan to attend.

Background
Montgomery County Government has contracted with Public Consulting Group (PCG), a consulting organization with more than 30 years’ experience helping government organizations improve services to and outcomes for individuals and families they serve, to help with this effort. Experienced facilitators from PCG will manage the discussions in ways designed to make it as comfortable as possible for participants to share what is on their minds. To further encourage participants to be open and honest, PCG facilitators will gather and report participant feedback to County leaders in ways designed to protect the anonymity of individuals.

mission.
The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services collaboratively provides an accessible network of resources that fosters, supports and enhances the health and well-being of Montgomery County residents.

vision.
Optimal quality of life for Montgomery County residents through coordinated services in vibrant, healthy and safe communities.

guiding principles.
Community

Inclusive
Holistic. Compassionate. Respectful.

Responsive
Effective. Integrated. Accessible.

Excellence

Printable flyer for posting on page 4
YOU'RE INVITED!

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES STRATEGIC PLAN TOWN HALL MEETINGS

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Registration is encouraged, but not required. Scan the QR code with your smart phone camera to register or go to https://bit.ly/38FsA1z
Connect With Us

[ digital + social ]

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Montgomery County Board of Commissioners:
  Valerie A. Arkoosh, MD, MPH, Chair
  Kenneth E. Lawrence, Jr. Vice Chair
  Joseph C. Gale, Commissioner