



Talbot County Senior Citizens Task Force
Thursday, November 13, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.
Talbot County Health Department
510 Cadmus Lane, Easton

Archived audio of the meeting is available at:

[Talbot County Meeting Videos - Talbot County, Maryland](https://talbotcountymd.gov)
(talbotcountymd.gov)

Attendance:

Julie Lowe	Rachael Cox
R. Andrew Hollis	Carrie Ottey
Shannon Joyce	Jennifer Marchi
The Honorable Robert Rankin	Clay Stamp
The Honorable Robert C. Willey	Nancy Andrew
William Wieland	Shalunda Collins
The Honorable Lynn L. Mielke	

1. Call to Order— The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am.

2. New Business

- a. Discussion of additional Task Force Members.** Following discussion, task force members agreed to consider two additional members to include social services and the faith community: Lee Newcomb from Talbot County Department of Social Services (or their designee) and Father James Nash of Sts. Peter and Paul.
- b. Task Force Leadership.** It was moved an approved to name Jennifer Marchi as chair through June 2026.

Vote 12-0-0-1

FOR: 12- Lowe, Hollis, Joyce, Rankin, Willey, Wieland, Mielke, Cox, Ottey, Stamp, Marchi, Collins
AGAINST: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 1

3. Work Session

- a.** The meeting moved into a work session to brainstorm about data/info that the task force needs and to go over visioning success for the task force moving forward.

53 During the work session Jennifer Marchi discussed the background on why this
54 task force was created which included the need for housing for seniors in Talbot
55 County, the 5-7 year waiting list for senior housing that has become a barrier as
56 well as seniors that are sleeping outside due to shelters being full or a lack thereof
57 in Talbot County.

58 b. The work product from this session is included as an attachment to these minutes.
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60 4. **Next Meeting** – Thursday, December 11, 2025 from 10-11am at the Talbot County
61 Health Department. A tentative schedule for the Task Force meetings is the second
62 Thursday of the month. The agenda will be posted to the county website.

63 a. Community members may sign up for email updates and stay informed about the
64 ongoing Talbot County Senior Citizens Task Force process at
65 <https://www.talbotcountymd.gov>
66

67 5. **Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 11am.
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OUR NORTH STAR – Task Force Purpose:

Senior citizen homelessness and housing insecurity including the intersectional challenges that contribute to housing insecurity.

Breakout Group Notes

1. WHAT WE NEED TO LEARN

INFORMATION NEEDED

- Info on other senior shelters (examples from other communities; and are there best practices?)
- Upcoming projects/housing in progress
 - E.g. info on the new St. Mark's 2.0 project
- Resource Directory
 - List of what organizations are doing now (++transportation needs++)
- Land inventory for possible sites
- Define what it means to serve the homeless (transitional housing)

DATA NEEDED

- Quantify the issue (e.g. # homeless, fixed income, ALICE households) – disaggregate the data (by race, age, gender, income, etc.)
- Wait time for current housing in the county
- Collect Social Determinants of Health data (capture homeless and insecurities-at risk people)
- Point in time survey Feb 2026 (Mid Shore Behavioral Health)
- Data on hospital and nursing facilities (overstays and readmissions)
- Data from churches/food pantries on need/people being served
- Review needs assessments already completed by various health/social service agencies (e.g. Talbot Family Network, Neighborhood Service Center; plus Upper Shore Aging is currently doing strategic planning)
- Set up a data dashboard that could be used broadly for various human service challenges.
- Complete public surveys

PARTNERSHIPS

- Collaboration between the towns and county
- Collaboration with realtors
- Collaboration with Shore Regional Health

DEFINING SUCCESS – SHORT TERM (6-months)

- Complete preliminary report and submit to Talbot County Council by June 2026
- Obtain data/information to inform task force work and recommendations
 - ID data that will help the task force quantify the problem
 - Identify needs/gaps and how to meet needs
 - ID costs and sources of funding
- Complete map of resources in place
 - Make recommendations on what organizations would be able to spearhead
- Understand the role of zoning in the current circumstances (what it allows; what it doesn't, and where there may be unintended negative consequences)
- Find out information on old Easton hospital property - communicate the need to Shore Regional Health Officials and how they may be able to contribute to solutions
- Raise awareness (community education)

Long Term: Success

County has a continuum of housing options for people across the lifespan and across economic levels

Permanent physical structure to provide housing for seniors (hospital site?)- Long term and transitional

Shelter for cold weather emergencies

Low barrier shelter

Elimination of waitlists. System capacity is expanded; increased beds

Scalable framework to identify and bring in people to the system and obtain additional resources (emergency to stability)

Housing that provides the additional resources needed by seniors: food, transportation, mental health, memory care, mobility, socialization

Centralizing services (hospital related), short-term goal possibly

Services support self-sufficiency

Sustain economic