

A Message from the HHS Director

VISION and ACTION
Our Commitment

A Story...

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**

By: Tara Gaudin, Director

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 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!