



THE HUDSON COUNTY ALLIANCE
TO END HOMELESSNESS

HCAEH Meeting Minutes

April 15th, 2020

2:00 p.m.

***Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, this meeting was held over Zoom.**

Welcome and Introductions

Katelyn Ravensbergen of the Hudson County Division of Housing and Community Development called the meeting to order. Introductions were made of anyone who had called in to the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the February meeting were provided, but a vote for approval of the minutes would take place at the next meeting.

HCAEH Bylaws Update

Katelyn stated that since the last meeting in February, the final draft of the bylaws were sent out and approved by the voting members. This means that the CoC and CEAS are officially merged under the HCAEH moving forward. Katelyn noted that the next step was to ask for nominations or interested parties to serve on the HCAEH Executive Board, but due to everyone's immediate attention on COVID-19, that would be put on hold for now.

CoC Business

- *FY2019 & FY2020 CoC Funding* – Katelyn announced both Tier 1 and Tier 2 funding had been announced. The CoC received all renewal funding but unfortunately no new funding. All providers should be getting their grant agreements from HUD. Carmel Galasso from the United Way of Hudson County stated that she had still not received the grant agreement for Collaborative Solutions. Jacqueline Suarez from Jersey City Housing Authority also said they are waiting on their Hoboken Shelter program. Katelyn mentioned she would follow up with HUD about these. Katelyn also mentioned that at this time the CoC monitoring was not a top priority since everyone is focusing on the current pandemic. More information will be sent out when decisions are made about how to conduct the 2020 process, but HUD understands that everyone is focused on COVID at this point.
- *CoC Data Work* – Kevin Llangari from the Hudson County Division of Housing and Community Development discussed the overall data quality on HMIS, stating that quality remained consistent despite data entry having taken a backseat due to COVID-19. Kevin explained the upcoming HMIS reporting, such as the LSA, had been pushed back, giving providers more breathing room to focus on more pressing matters. The only current HMIS project is updating HMIS Bed Inventory Records. Candy Brewster from NJ HMFA mentioned that HUD has been releasing guidance stating

that if any shelter programs are decreasing their bed inventory they should be updating it in HMIS so it doesn't look like they are under utilized. Candy also mentioned that there is an optional COVID-19 screening tool in HMIS and they will be conducting trainings on using the tool.

CEAS Business

- *SSH Updates* – Katelyn reported that Kiyada Pittman did reach out to the state regarding the ability to serve the undocumented population. So far the state is not adjusting their requirements.

Hudson County Consolidated Plan

Randi Moore of the Hudson County Division of Housing and Community Development spoke about the Hudson County Five Year Consolidated Plan. Despite disruption cause by COVID-19, Hudson County will continue with the original schedule to get the money out as soon as possible. Additionally, the recommendations being put forward are for all projects previously funded to receive funding, reserving additional funding for possible COVID related activities. Randi announced that the public meeting will take place virtually on Zoom on Wednesday April 22nd at 4pm. Emails will be sent out for anyone interested in joining.

Randi also spoke about the new funding that would be received through the CARES Act, which is about \$600,000 through ESG and \$1.2 million for CDBG. The Division is waiting for additional guidance from HUD of the funding requirements but the County will provide updates as they have them.

COVID-19 Work/Updates

Katelyn and Randi reported that the County has been focusing its COVID efforts on providing hotel/motel placements for vulnerable clients through the Welfare Office, and opening a COVID positive shelter that is able to take clients from the hospital who are medically cleared, but are positive for COVID-19.

Stephanie Mills from Hudson Pride reported that all staff are working remotely but they are still providing services and linkage to care through Zoom. They are working to determine where they will open back up since remaining inside Christ Hospital doesn't seem to be a good option.

Michele Musumici from North Hudson Community Action stated that they are working remotely but following up with all clients who are reaching out to them and still working with GSECDC and Welfare to place clients into hotels that need them. Their office numbers go directly to their personal phones so everyone can still call their general numbers.

Caroline Caulfield from the City of Hoboken announced that if anyone had clients in Hoboken that needed groceries, they have created a program to provide grocery delivery. Flyers will be sent to the group with additional details.

Carmel reported that the United Way is working remotely but still in touch with all clients, and is still working to house new clients, with two clients moving into apartments the day before the meeting.

Ivette David from Catholic Charities SSVF announced that the SSVF program is still active and working with veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Specifically working to help older, more vulnerable veterans. Her number is 973-220-5768

Jacqueline stated that the Jersey City Housing Authority is working remotely, and appointments are being handled through telephone. Clients can call 201-706-4646 and will be directed to the proper person.

Susan Milan from Garden State Episcopal CDC reported that 514 Newark and PERC shelter are still open, with anything that is possible being done by phone or online. Staff is rotating with 50% at home/office, so the drop in hours have changed from 9am-3pm.

Jaclyn Cherubini from Hoboken Shelter stated the shelter is still open, with changes to work procedures including only allowing 22 people in at a time to each meal and 6 feet social distancing in place for the shelter.

Angelique Williams from Let's Celebrate reported they are still serving breakfast and lunch as to-go meals and food pantry is still operating.

Kayla Zimmer from The Waterfront Project stated they are working remotely and asked that if any providers have clients being threatened or pressured by landlords to evict, they should reach out to the Waterfront Project: 551-256-7578. Randi also thanks the Waterfront Project for putting the Tenant FAQ sheet that was shared with everyone.

Angelo Hunt from St. Lucy's Shelter reported that the shelter is open, but the pantry and volunteer services are on hold currently.

Anne Christensen from WomenRising reported that Village of Families is doing well, and they were able to raise money for chrome books to help bridge the digital divide for their clients. The Domestic Violence shelter is also still open and clients are being checked on remotely.

Pam Baker from CSP stated that the drop in center is open but services are conducted curbside. CSP is still working with Welfare to get clients placed in hotels, but the ID program has slowed down since the government is partially shut down.

Kelly McGuinness from Soldier On SSVF reported they are working remotely, and that the CARES Act has awarded additional money, with SSVF grantees receiving a 53% increase in funding.

Ongoing Updates

Katelyn reported that there were no subcommittee updates since subcommittees are not meeting during the shelter in place order.

Announcements

- Jaclyn reported that the Fema Emergency Food Shelter Board met and for Phase 35 & 36 they are waiting for the final report dates and Phase 37 has been funded but waiting for final release date, as well as possible additional funding.

The meeting was adjourned with the next meeting scheduled to take place on Wednesday, June 17th at 2pm.

Voting Member Attendance

Name	Agency
Claudia Marks	Catholic Charities
Angelo Hunt	Catholic Charities
Caroline Caulfield	City of Hoboken
Pilar Rodriguez	Community Hope
Hillary Powell	Covenant House
Pamela Baker	Collaborative Support Programs of NJ
Susan Milan	Garden State Episcopal CDC
Donald Weinbaum	Helping Arms
Janis Pena	Helping Arms
Jaclyn Cherubini	Hoboken Shelter
Randi Moore	Hudson County Housing and Community Development
Katelyn Ravensbergen	Hudson County Housing and Community Development
Kevin Llangari	Hudson County Housing and Community Development
Claire Sweeney	Hudson County Specialized Health & Housing Services
Jose Ortiz	Jersey City Community Development
Kimberly Blackwell	Jersey City Medical Center
Jacqueline Suarez	Jersey City Housing Authority
Angelique Williams	Let's Celebrate
Michele Musumici	North Hudson Community Action Corp
Kelly McGuinness	Soldier On
Jennifer Rejfir	The House of Faith
Kayla Zimmer	The Waterfront Project
Carmel Galasso	United Way Hudson County
Anne Christensen	Women Rising
Gloria Acosta-Nelson	York Street Project

Non-Voting Member Attendance

Name	Agency
Ivette David	Catholic Charities SSVF
Nidia Colon	EMET
Ana Viela Ohiwerei	Hudson County Housing Resource Center
Stephanie Mills	Hudson Pride
Nadine Anzari	Monarch Housing Associates
Candy Brewster	NJ HMFA
Joni Owen	NJ Veteran's Affairs
Vivian Patino	Palisades Family Success Center
Troy Mack	Township of Weehawken