



THE HUDSON COUNTY ALLIANCE  
TO END HOMELESSNESS

**Continuum of Care Meeting Minutes**  
**April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
**2:00 p.m.**

**Welcome and Introductions**

Katelyn Ravensbergen of the Hudson County Division of Housing and Community Development called the meeting to order. The group made introductions and the meeting agenda was distributed.

**Approval of Minutes**

Katelyn asked if there were any questions or comments on the December and February minutes. A motion to approve both minutes without correction was made by Anne Christensen of WomenRising and seconded by Jennifer Rejfir from the House of Faith. Both minutes were passed with no oppositions and no abstentions.

**Continuum of Care**

- *FY2019 CoC Process* – Katelyn noted that since HUD made the FY2018 funding announcement, it was time to start the FY2019 process. The initial grant inventory worksheet has already been reviewed and submitted to HUD and their current goal is to have the NOFA released in May, which would leave it due most likely by the end of the summer. Notifications will be sent out to the group as the process moves forward, but renewal projects should prepare for the desk monitoring and performance review which will take place soon.
- *CoC Data Work/Longitudinal System Analysis Report* – Katelyn thanked everyone for the work they've been doing with HMFA and Kevin to continue updating HMIS to ensure we can submit the LSA report. Kevin is still working on the report with Abt so further updates might be required. One primary thing for programs to focus on is making sure the units and beds are set up properly for their residential programs as we need this information to be accurate for the Housing Inventory Chart which needs to be submitted by the end of the month. The data quality report was provided to everyone and all were directed to reach out to Kevin with any questions.

- *Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Application* – HUD has released a third round of funding for the Youth Homeless Demonstration Program. This program would allow the CoC, if selected, to apply for funding to create a coordinated community plan to end and prevent youth homelessness and then apply for a set aside source of funding to implement programs as outlined in the plan. HUD has increased the funding available, so they are anticipating selecting 25 communities. Katelyn requested a motion to approve the Division submitting an application to the YHDP on behalf of the CoC. The motion was made by Anne Christensen and seconded by Kelly McGuinness from Soldier On. The motion passed with no oppositions and no abstentions.

**Winter Emergency Warming Center Data** – Jonique Mosley from the Hudson County Department of Health and Human Services presented data and information about the 2018 – 2019 Winter Warming Center season, which ended on March 31<sup>st</sup>. In looking at the numbers, there was an overall increase in the average clients served throughout the season, even though the average temperature was the same as last year. It was also found that more individuals were accessing the warming center through the Hoboken hub than Jersey City, but a definite reason isn't known. Anne asked what further information we have about clients whose primary connection to services is through the warming center. Katelyn and Jonique noted that additional focus is being paid to clients that are only accessing the warming center and no other services or shelters throughout the year. Based on preliminary numbers, there are about 200 clients each year whose only access point is the warming center. GSEDC outreach and URC staff have been working to target those clients for coordinated entry engagement. Numbers on warming center clients with coordinated entry engagement can be provided at the next meeting. Jonique mentioned that this was the last year for the warming center to operate under the previous contract and a new RFP will be issued shortly.

**HCAEH Strategic Plan Update** – A draft copy of the 2018 Progress Report of the Hudson County Ten Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness was provided to the group. Any suggestions for additional data or progress points that should be included can be sent to Katelyn. One additional data point that will be added is the number of newly homeless clients entering the system over the time period to see if there has been a change in the number of clients entering the system for the first time. Katelyn stated there were three categories of strategies and barriers that were identified from the CoC's Strategic Planning Session in February: Prevention and Diversion from Homelessness, Creation of More Housing Opportunities for those Experiencing Homelessness, and Improve Coordination and Access to Services – Filling in the Gaps. Through the planning process, it was suggested that a new working group of the CoC be created to help further develop and implement strategies of the CoC moving forward. All were in favor of the new working group structure,

and a notice of the first meeting will be sent out when set. The first topic the working group will focus on in establishing a landlord engagement/incentive initiative.

### **Ongoing Updates**

- *CEAS* – CEAS met in March. Jonique noted that DFD is having monthly meetings to find out more about what is needed in communities. She stated that Hudson County did very well on their review and that DFD is allowing the County to request additional funding, if necessary, so projects should continue to spend their current funds. The next meeting will be May 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - *Prevention:*
    - Welfare has SSH State and TANF funding available
    - BEOF has HPP, HPRP and SSH funding available
    - NHCAC has State and TANF funds available but nothing for deposits
    - Catholic Charities does have SSH TANF funds available
  - *Food and Shelter Coalition* – The Food and Shelter Coalition met in March and is working on their plans for the Anti-Poverty Summit. Unfortunately there are not enough sponsors for a 2019 summit, so the focus has moved to 2020. The focus of that summit is still to be decided, but could be landlord/tenant issues. The next meeting is May 14<sup>th</sup> and will include a breakfast.
- *Family Stability Committee* – Anne spoke about the committee focusing each of its meetings on different topics that impact homeless families. The meeting in March focused on child care, with child care partners being invited to discuss their programs and some of the gaps in the system, including late night child care. The focus for the May meeting will be mental health.
- *Mainstream Resources* – There was no report for the Mainstream Resources Committee.
- *Veterans Committee*– Kelly reported that the Veterans Committee met immediately before the CoC. Discussion focused on the information coming from the VA and HUD requiring SSVF providers to implement a Rapid Resolution program in the community, which is a diversionary program specifically for veterans. This requirement will be the focus of the committee until it is implemented and then the discussion will be had about restructuring the committee and incorporating members into the working group.

- *Youth Committee* – Katelyn noted the Youth Committee met in April and focused on updating parts of the Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Application. The next meeting will be in the beginning of June.

### **Announcements**

- Monica Yeng from Hudson County Welfare announced that the Welfare Office is looking to do more work in the community. With this, starting in May, they will have Welfare staff at the Jersey City One Stop at Jersey City Employment and Training Program (JCETP) three times a week to help connect clients that may be eligible for welfare benefits. A question was asked about the ability to do after hour's services. Monica mentioned they haven't received requests for that as of yet, but would be open to it if requested.
- Jonique mentioned that the Township of North Bergen is having a Summer Health Green Fair on June 1<sup>st</sup> from 11am – 4pm and Act Now is having their 4<sup>th</sup> Brain Health and Wellness Fair on June 26<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 2pm in Lincoln Park.
- Anne brought up the questions and concerns regarding the Bayfront Project and the percent of affordable apartments that will become available. Jersey City Together has sent out information stating there is concern that the original 35% affordability that was originally presented may be decreased to 20%. Jose Ortiz from the City of Jersey City stated that no final decisions on the project have been made and that there will be public meetings to specifically get feedback on those items. The date of those meetings will be sent out. It was recommended that anyone with concerns or wanting to provide input on the project should attend those meetings.

The meeting was adjourned with the next meeting taking place on Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 2pm.

### Voting Members Attendance

Name	Agency
Samantha Howard	Bayonne Economic Opportunity Foundation
Pilar Rodriguez	Community Hope
Lori Lewis	Covenant House
Pamela Baker	Collaborative Support Programs of NJ
Susan Milan	Garden State Episcopal CDC
Janis Pena	Helping Arms
Anthony Forbes	Hoboken Shelter
Jennifer Rejfir	House of Faith
Katelyn Ravensbergen	Hudson County Housing and Community Development
Mateo Perez	Hudson County Welfare
Jaqueline Gomez	Hudson County Welfare
Monica Yeng	Hudson County Welfare
Jose Ortiz	Jersey City Community Development
Kimberly Blackwell	Jersey City Medical Center
Michele Musumici	North Hudson Community Action Corp
Maria Crespo	North Hudson Community Action Corp
Kelly McGuinness	Soldier On
Carmel Galasso	United Way Hudson County
Kayla Schneider	Waterfront Project
Anne Christensen	Women Rising

### Non-Voting Member Attendance

Name	Agency
John P. Carey	American Legion Post 107-Hoboken
Sherina Caban	Catholic Charities SSVF
Tajhinea Coffee	Catholic Charities SSVF
Jonique Mosley	Hudson County Health and Human Services
JoAnn Northgrave	Hudson County Office of Veterans Affairs
La-Trenda Ross	Hudson County Welfare & Food and Shelter Co.
Kasey Congero	Monarch Housing
Christina Baluja	NJ Statewide HIV Housing Collaborative
Shamel Dingle	NJ Statewide HIV Housing Collaborative
Vivian J. Patino	Palisades Family Success Center