



THE HUDSON COUNTY ALLIANCE
TO END HOMELESSNESS

HCAEH Meeting Minutes

August 19th, 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 June meeting were provided and passed with no oppositions and no abstentions.

CoC Business

- *FY2019 Waivers and Amendments* – Katelyn reported that all of the waivers that HUD has provided for the CoC program are still in effect. Some are based on local timeframes so she will let everyone know when they are no longer applicable. She asked that all providers make sure they notify her if they request any of the waivers HUD has released. She also stated that HUD had changed the way agencies can request amendments to their FY2018 grants, by allowing grantees to go to the HUD Exchange to download the form for amendments. HUD has now updated their website so FY2019 grants are also included in that process. As a note, any amendments made to FY2018 or FY2019 grants will only be effective for that grant year and will not impact budget line items of future grants.
- *FY2020 CoC Funding* – Katelyn also stated that we are waiting to hear from HUD regarding the FY2020 CoC competition. HUD did release the 2020 Grant Inventory Worksheet and all numbers for Hudson were correct. Usually this means the start of the competition process, but HUD has made it clear they are looking for alternatives and so locally a competition will not happen until HUD notifies the CoCs of their plans.
- *CoC Data Work* – Kevin Llangari from the Hudson County Division of Housing & Community Development updated the group on recent changes made to LSA, mentioning that HUD will require the submission of 2 years worth of data (10/1/18-9/30/19 and 10/1/19-9/30/20). This change, while big, won't impact the HCAEH providers much, since data is regularly cleaned and bed inventories are being added quarterly. Kevin also spoke about the delays in finalizing the LSA reporting, detailing the updates still being made to the LSA by HUD.

CEAS Business

- *SSH Updates* – Kiyada Pittman from the Hudson County Department of Health and Human Services reported that the current SSH contracts are set to expire in December and so there will need to be

a new RFP for the SSH funds that will start in January. Kiyada noted that everyone would be sent additional information. Jaclyn Cherubini from Hoboken Shelter asked whether the current contracts could be extended instead of doing an RFP. Kiyada stated she would find out, but since the County's contract with DFD was also expiring this year it may not be allowable.

- *NJ-211 Update* – Jaclyn Nunziato from NJ 2-1-1 gave an update on the numbers and trends being seen from the homeless hotline. Hudson County represents 4% of the call volume and 2-3% of motel placements across the last 7 months. The highest month for shelter placement was May and the highest month of motel placement was April. Jaclyn Cherubini asked how someone from another County is placed and whether there is any time they are placed in Hudson County. Jaclyn Nunziato confirmed that no one from outside of Hudson County would be placed in Hudson.

COVID-19 Work/Updates

- *Hudson County Eviction Prevention Program* – Katelyn announced the County is launching the first part of the Eviction Prevention Program on Monday, August 24th. She stated while the original thought was to create a streamlined prevention program for all current prevention funding; the County received an allocation of CARES Treasury funds and are dedicating \$9 million to prevention. So this first round of applications will focus on connecting households to that funding and once it is disbursed the County will look to open it back up for the other sources available. The application is set to close on Wednesday, September 2nd at 5pm. Anyone who is in need of back rent and can cover their rent moving forward should be referred to <https://cares.hcnj.us> Katelyn and Randi Moore from the Hudson County Division of Housing and Community Development answered questions regarding the new program and eligibility.

Ana Prado from Hoboken Shelter asked whether there was a date set yet for when Welfare will be open to the public, not for the Eviction Prevention program but for their usual services. Jacqueline Gomez from Hudson County Welfare stated there was no set date at this point, there is a plan to set up a way to do tele-connection from in the building but that is not ready to go at this point.

- *DCA and Hudson County Rapid Rehousing Programs* - Katelyn reported that the DCA and Hudson County ESG-CV funds are being used for rapid rehousing programs for literally homeless clients. She stressed connecting clients in hotels, shelters and unsheltered locations to Garden State for coordinated entry so if they are eligible or appropriate, they can be referred to those programs.
- Vivian Patino from the Palisades Family Success Center announced that they are open but are doing limited hours and are by appointment only. They are still having virtual classes and support groups and calendars will be sent out.
- Candy Brewster from NJ HMFA announced that HMFA has released a project for small landlords who have between 3 and 10 units and clients who have fallen behind on their rent. HMFA will help cover up to 4 months of back rent that tenants owe. Application is open and available through August 26th.

Ongoing Updates

- Family Stability Committee – Anne Christensen from WomenRising stated that the committee met virtually in July to provide updates on where everyone is and how to move forward. The committee will meet again on September 21st at 10am. Anne also asked where the County was with the new Housing Navigator program. Katelyn let the group know that a Housing Navigator program will be funded through CSP to focus specifically on the ESG-CV rapid rehousing program as a pilot to them determine successes to see how we can expand it from there. Pam Baker from CSP announced that they just hired someone for that positions so it should be starting soon.
- Veterans Committee – Katelyn stated the committee met right before the HCAEH meeting. The next meeting will be a closed meeting to do case conferencing of veterans on the by-name list. Veterans who apply to the Eviction Prevention Program will be connected with SSVF providers. Kimberly Blackwell from the MASSH program asked whether veterans who are receiving TRA are still eligible for SSVF services. Kelly McGuinness from Soldier On responded that if the veteran is already in permanent housing they would not be eligible but if they are still homeless and not in line for housing they would be eligible.
- Rebecca Symes from the Waterfront Project asked if there was a time frame regarding the other CDBG funding awards. Randi stated that we just received the CDBG-CV Notice. Since there are other programs covering what CDBG likely would and additional information is supposed to be released, early fall is likely the earliest recommendations for the CDBG funds would be made. There will be a comment period when recommendations are being made, so everyone will be notified.

Announcements

- Katelyn announced that the RFP for the Warming Center Operations is out and open. Responses are due in September.
- Ana asked whether there was a good contact for the local DCA office. Katelyn said she would follow up with her offline with Susan Milan from Garden State Episcopal CDC to find the best contact.
- Jaclyn stated that testing through the COVID shelter has been extremely beneficial to clients and staff.

The meeting was adjourned with the next meeting scheduled to take place on Wednesday, October 21st at 2pm.

Voting Member Attendance

Name	Agency
Donna Cullen	Bayonne Economic Opportunity Foundation
Claudia Marks	Catholic Charities
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
Jaclyn Cherubini	Hoboken Shelter
Katelyn Ravensbergen	Hudson County Housing and Community Development
Kevin Llangari	Hudson County Housing and Community Development
Randi Moore	Hudson County Housing and Community Development
Kiyada Pittman	Hudson County Specialized Health & Housing Services
Jacqueline Gomez	Hudson County Welfare
Jose Ortiz	Jersey City Community Development
Kimberly Blackwell	Jersey City Medical Center
Angelique Williams	Let's Celebrate
Michele Musumici	North Hudson Community Action Corp
Kelly McGuinness	Soldier On
Jennifer Rejfir	The House of Faith
Rebecca Symes	The Waterfront Project
Kayla Zimmer	The Waterfront Project
Jacqueline Padilla	United Way Hudson County
Anne Christensen	Women Rising

Non-Voting Member Attendance

Name	Agency
Kemi Gbadamosi	Catholic Charities
Yanil Mendoza	Catholic Charities
Carmen Esquilin	Hudson County Housing Resource Center
Alma Santana	Jersey City Health and Human Services
Deena Foster	Monarch Housing Associates
Kristina Portella	Monarch Housing Associates
Lisa Falcone	Monarch Housing Associates
Jaclyn Nunziato	NJ 2-1-1
Michelle Latona	NJ HIV Housing Collaborative
Candy Brewster	NJ HMFA
Joni Owen	NJ Veteran's Affairs
Vivian Patino	Palisades Family Success Center
Stanley Enzweiler	St. Matthew's Trinity
William Paige	The Waterfront Project
Janet Aponte	The Waterfront Project