



THE HUDSON COUNTY ALLIANCE
TO END HOMELESSNESS

Continuum of Care Meeting Minutes

August 21st, 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 June minutes. There were not, and Anne Christensen from Women Rising motioned to approve the minutes with a second by Jennifer Rejfir from House of Faith. June minutes were passed with no oppositions and no abstentions.

Continuum of Care

- *FY2019 CoC Process* – Katelyn announced that applications for the FY2019 Continuum of Care funding were due the beginning of August, with the HCAEH Executive Board meeting the day before, August 20th to make final recommendations. Notifications to all agencies who applied will be sent out by the end of the week. Katelyn noted that since the amount of new funding available for providers is decreasing, the CoC has to make increasingly more difficult and strategic decisions. For this reason, Katelyn will be conducting another thorough monitoring of all programs in FY2020, with a focus on unspent funding. Katelyn stated in the notifications to all providers will be the deadline for esnaps submission, which will most likely be either September 6th or September 13th.

In addition to the updates on the process itself, Katelyn requested feedback from providers on their strategies as they related to employment and volunteer connections for clients in their programs. Providers identified their use of in house and contracted employment specialists, job fairs, career centers, as well as volunteer opportunities that they provide their residents. Katelyn noted that all input would be used to respond to some of the questions in the CoC Collaborative Application for HUD.

- *CoC Data Work/Stella* – Kevin Llangari from the Hudson County Division of Housing and Community Development thanked all attendees who participated in the prior HMIS training, which focused on the newly implemented HMIS Bed Inventory Module. Kevin explained that this new module was important, as data collected in the module would be used for critical reports such as the Longitudinal System Analysis and the Housing Inventory Chart report.

Kevin also spoke about and provided a demonstration on HUD's new data visualization tool called STELLA. The tool allows communities to interpret their data through simple yet informative graphics, and offers greater insight into homeless data collected. Kevin cautioned using the tool in its current state as the data it presently uses is not accurate, but that hopefully for next year that data would be improved to the point that STELLA could be used.

Katelyn explained that STELLA is currently to be used by CoC leads to system wide analysis, but she mentioned that the County is working on building data visualization and dashboards that individual agencies and programs will have access to.

- *Fair Housing Policies and Procedures* – Katelyn provided the group with an updated version of the HCAEH Policies and Procedures regarding Fair Housing and Equal Access. Katelyn stated that the updates were made to provide clarification that the expectations were regarding both Fair Housing and the Equal Access requirements, but that nothing would be changing as far as implementation, as all agencies were already in compliance with both. Jaclyn Cherubini from Hoboken Shelter asked if these updates had any implications on changes for agencies that work with individuals clients, which Katelyn stated they didn't as the requirements around families were specific to family programs. With no further concerns or questions, a motion to approve the amended policies was made by Pam Baker from Collaborative Support Programs and seconded by Mateo Perez from Hudson County Welfare. The updated policies passed with no oppositions and no abstentions.

2019 Point in Time Count

Since the full 2019 Point in Time Count report had been released by Monarch since the prior meeting, Katelyn went through a comparison of the 2018 and 2019 reports focusing on more significant changes. Katelyn cautioned everyone to remember that this is a one day count and so there could be changes that occur due to a number of factors. All Point in Time Count reports can be found on Monarch's website at www.monarchhousing.org under the NJ Counts section.

Jaclyn asked how agencies should approach the question “how many homeless are there in Hudson County?” wondering if the PIT is the best number to reference in this instance. Katelyn stated that the PIT can be used, as it is easily accessible, but to ensure that anyone using PIT numbers also provides the context.

Anne asked if, in the future, there would be an opportunity to overlay PIT data against affordable housing availability, to compare the changes in PIT numbers to the changes in housing availability. Katelyn stated that this is something she could follow up on.

Ongoing Updates

- *CEAS* – Jaclyn mentioned that CEAS is still working to determine the next lead of the group, as the current leaderships terms are expiring. She also noted that she had recommended a merger between CoC and CEAS, a topic which Katelyn mentioned was being looked into. The next CEAS meeting is Tuesday, September 10th at 1:30pm.
 - *Prevention:*
 - Welfare has SSH TANF funding, but no more SSH State
 - BEOF has both SSH and HPRP funding available
 - NHCAC has TANF, State, FEMA and Homeless Trust Funds available
 - United Way has been approved for HPP funding, but it has not been awarded yet
 - *Food and Shelter Coalition* – no update was provided
- *CoC Working Group* – Kasey Congero from Monarch Housing stated that the CoC Working Group is focusing on a Landlord Appreciation event, which is being aimed for October. The goal is that landlords currently working with the CoC will be recognized for their partnership and will hopefully help landlords feel they have a partner in the County. Katelyn mentioned this will also aim to connect landlords to programs such as the County’s Lead program and Housing Finder, so they see the benefits in continuing to partner with providers. Since space will be limited, Katelyn will be reaching out to providers for lists of landlords who should be invited.
- *Family Stability Committee* – Anne reported that the Family Stability Committee met in July and focused on children’s behavioral health, with Georgina Anzivino being the primary presenter. The next meeting in September will focus on how providers could collaborate to provide trainings and services for clients.

- *Veterans Committee*– Kelly McGuinness from Soldier On stated that the committee is focusing on the VA’s new diversion policy, Rapid Resolution. Kelly explained that SSVF providers are still receiving new guidance, so the committee will continue work on ironing out the details as more information is provided. Kelly also mentioned that moving forward the structure of the committee would be shifting, with the focus of the first half of the meeting being a closed meeting for case conferencing, with the second half being open for general attendees and initiative. Lastly, Kelly mentioned that the group is exploring using HMIS to collect information on the benchmark tools, which is continuing as a focus for the committee.
- *Youth Committee* – Katelyn explained that the youth committee is focusing on options for a new youth shelter. The committee is also working to identify areas that the CoC can focus on that would be required if the CoC were to receive YHDP funding, including conducting a comprehensive needs assessment. YHDP announcements are likely to happen at the end of August.

Announcements

- Alma Santana from Jersey City Health and Human Services made the following announcements:
 - Information regarding the partnership for a Healthier Jersey City was provided. Additional information can be found at www.healthierjc.com
 - There will be a Health Community Wellness Fair on Wednesday, August 28th from 12pm – 4pm at 1 Jackson Square in Jersey City
 - There will be a free citizenship clinic and workshop on Saturday, September 14th from 10am – 1pm at 1 Jackson Square in Jersey City
 - There are a series of free Stop the Bleed trainings being provided between August and October. Registration can be found at www.bleedingcontrol.org
- Jaclyn provided an update regarding FEMA – EFSP: Phase 36’s first installment of funding was released. The interim report and request for second payment is due.
- Jaclyn announced that the veteran’s housing project in Hoboken held its ribbon cutting in July and that they should be letting in their first veteran at the end of the month.
- Jaclyn also announced that Ana Prado would be Hoboken Shelter’s new Shelter Operations Manager and so she will be attending more meetings on Hoboken Shelter’s behalf.

- Mateo noted that they have been seeing increased participation in the Welfare mobile office at the JCEPT program. He mentioned how impactful programs can be if they are in the right locations, and that they are feeling very positive about the addition of this location.
- Candy Brewster from NJ HMFA introduced Kayla Phillips, stating that she would be the new technical assistant for the Northern NJ region. Candy also mentioned that there will be some new data standard changes starting October 1st, including a new CAPER that must be used for anyone submitting the CAPER after October 1st.
- Joni Owen from HUD VASH introduced Charmaine McLawrence, a new VASH case worker. Joni stated that Charmaine would be alternating attendance and field work with Rick Macnamara, as Dustin Francis was no longer in New Jersey.
- Michele Musumici from North Hudson Community Action Corporation requested that if clients are being referred to NHCAC for prevention funding, to please make sure they call the office first. One of their primary case workers is out on maternity leave, so to ensure clients don't get frustrated about not being seen right away, it is better for them to call the office before going to the office.

The meeting was adjourned with the next meeting taking place on Wednesday, October 16th at 2pm.

Voting Members Attendance

Name	Agency
Samantha Howard	Bayonne Economic Opportunity Foundation
Toni Ciccia	Community Hope
Lori Lewis	Covenant House
Pamela Baker	Collaborative Support Programs of NJ
Susan Milan	Garden State Episcopal CDC
Janis Pena	Helping Arms
Jaclyn Cherubini	Hoboken Shelter
Ana Prado	Hoboken Shelter
Jennifer Rejfir	House of Faith
Katelyn Ravensbergen	Hudson County Housing and Community Development
Kevin Llangari	Hudson County Housing and Community Development
Mateo Perez	Hudson County Welfare
Jose Ortiz	Jersey City Community Development
Patricia Ramirez	Jersey City Housing Authority
Jaqueline Suarez	Jersey City Housing Authority
Michele Musumici	North Hudson Community Action Corp
Maria Crespo	North Hudson Community Action Corp
Kelly McGuinness	Soldier On
Jaqueline Padilla	United Way Hudson County
Anne Christensen	Women Rising
Marina Burachek	York Street Project

Non-Voting Member Attendance

Name	Agency
Sherina Caban	Catholic Charities SSVF
Tajhinea Coffee	Catholic Charities SSVF
Tanya Ponce	Catholic Charities Homes for Heroes
Liza Scheifman-Bach	Hudson County Superior Courts
Margareth Alwart	Hudson County Superior Courts
Regina Caldwell	Hudson County Welfare
Alma Santana	Jersey City Health and Human Services
Kasey Congero	Monarch Housing
Nadine Azari	Monarch Housing
Georgina Anzivino	NJ DCF – DCP&P
Candy Brewster	NJ HMFA
Kayla Phillips	NJ HMFA
Joni Owen	NJ Veteran’s Affairs
Charmaine McLawrence	NJ Veteran’s Affairs
Lea Lozada	York Street Project