



THE HUDSON COUNTY ALLIANCE  
TO END HOMELESSNESS

## **HCAEH Meeting Minutes**

**December 16<sup>th</sup>, 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.

### **CoC Business**

- *FY2020 CoC Funding and Program Monitoring* - Katelyn reported that there are still no updates from the federal government for next year's funding. She promised to keep providers updated as soon as she has further information, but is hoping for a simplified application/competition process from HUD. She will work with Monarch to decide what type of monitoring is needed in the meantime.
- *Update to HCAEH Executive Committee Membership* – Katelyn announced that in 2021 there will be a new Executive Committee. She asked all attendees to e-mail her if they would like to be a part of the committee, and said that representatives from funded organizations/programs would now be able to be on the committee.
- *CoC Data Work* – Kevin Llangari from the Hudson County Division of Housing & Community Development updated the group on LSA, a reminder that it still has not been finalized, he is still working on the data quality dashboard. If providers have not received an e-mail from Kevin, they are up to date. Missing annual assessments are under 10%, which is great. Names of clients in need of annual assessments have been sent to providers, please reach out to Kevin if you did not receive that.

### **CEAS Business**

- *SSH Updates* – Katelyn reported that the RFP for SSH recommendations for funding are being processed this week and will be on the Freeholders' agenda next week. DFD to prevention providers: clients do not have to be able to prove that they can pay their rent going forward in order to qualify for back rent assistance. Providers cannot place clients in new units without proof that they can pay future rent, but they can be helped with back rent in their current unit. Katelyn will share this memo via e-mail. Rebecca Symes from The Waterfront Project asked if a round-up of providers who still have funds available for 2020 could be provided. Carmen Esquilin from HRC seconded this request, commented that they are struggling to direct clients in need of rental assistance. Katelyn asked Michele Musumici from NHCAC to provide an update on their funding status. Michele said that she had no additional funds available. She will work from a waiting list of referrals in case any clients on their current list are not able to provide all documents. Katelyn said that the County and State COVID rental assistance programs are closed, as the offices are currently

processing the large quantity of applications that came in. She is hoping that the State application will be opened again, and will provide information as it is available. Anne Christensen from WomenRising asked if Jersey City was going to roll out some funding. Naomi Lesnewski from Hudson County Division of Housing and Community Development confirmed Jersey City's announcement of rental assistance up to \$1,500, but details on the application process have not yet been released. Rebecca said that the City Council had not yet approved the awards. Michele commented that they still have CDDBG-CV funds available, but the landlords of four clients said that they had been contacted by both the County and State programs. Katelyn said that she could confirm which clients have received assistance through the County program. Candy Brewster said that the DFD State program is in HMIS. Carmel from United Way said that they still have HPP funds available, but are not finding any clients who fit the criteria. Rebecca commented that they have seen landlords who are refusing to participate in the process, sign forms, etc., which is illegal. If providers have clients who are dealing with this, they can refer them to The Waterfront Project who will get in touch with the landlords.

### **2021 Point In Time Count**

- Katelyn introduced Naomi, who is new to the office. Naomi reminded that the 2021 PIT Count will take place on January 27, and will be a bit different than in years past due to COVID. Current plan is to not rely on volunteers, but to utilize outreach teams currently in place over the seven-day period that HUD allows for. Attached flyer includes the Amazon wish list for donations. She will be back in touch in early January with any updates.

### **2020-2021 Winter/Warming Center Season**

- Katelyn explained that we are currently in a Code Blue situation. Pick-ups should happen as normal tonight. Clients will be able to stay tomorrow during the day due to extreme temperatures. CSP is the provider in charge of the Warming Center, clients have given positive feedback so far. Flyers have all relevant information.

### **COVID-19/ Ongoing Updates**

- *Resource Guide* – Jaclyn Cherubini from Hoboken Shelter asked for any final edits, as she is hoping to finish it today. Last version will be sent out via Katelyn. She asked that if any organizations have changes to please reach out to her at: [resources@hobokenshelter.org](mailto:resources@hobokenshelter.org). Naomi added that all edits will also be made to the County's website and that the resource guide will also be translated into Spanish.
- *COVID-19 Updates* – Katelyn announced that the COVID shelter is open. If clients test positive or are presenting symptoms, the COVID shelter is open and available. Jacqueline Suarez from JCHA announced that they are closed to the public, but have installed a drop-off box in front of the building. Staff is working normal business hours remotely. Vivian Patino from Palisades Family Success Center, they are open on a case-by-case basis. They are mainly doing curbside drop-offs and services via phone and Zoom. Angel from Hudson STARS team, virtual recovery meetings twice a day are available via RWJBH recovery meetings. Susan Milan from Garden State announced that drop-in programs have normal hours, but request clients and referrals to call ahead due to social distancing guidelines. They are working in rotation shifts to give everyone access. Katelyn announced that CSP is doing most drop-in services outside, but will transition to inside.

- *Family Stability Committee* – Gloria Acosta from the York Street Project reported that the last meeting focused on COVID-related supports. This included programs that provide children places to do virtual learning in-person for working parents, such as the Boys and Girls Club. Also discussed were HUD regulations on mandatory testing for intake. The next meeting is on January 11<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM on Zoom. If you are interested in being at this meeting please contact Katelyn.
- *Food and Shelter Coalition* – Kiyada Pittman from Hudson County Specialized Health & Housing Services updated that on November 19<sup>th</sup>, the Coalition sponsored a credit building and repair session with 22 attendees. It was so successful that they are planning a second meeting for January. La'Trenda thanks all for donations to the holiday drive. A virtual session for mental health and wellness will take place tonight at 7 PM.
- *Veterans Committee* – Kelly McGuinness from Soldier On announced that the subcommittee just met prior to this meeting. Kevin gave a snapshot on the County veteran data by demographics. They also had a by-name list case conferencing session with SSVF providers, coordinated entry, and VA. Joanne Northberry from Hudson County Veteran Services updated the group on a plethora of coats from the Catholic Charities coat drive. The committee will coordinate to help distribute. Next meeting will be February 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **Announcements**

- Angel from Hudson STARS asked for housing assistance with two individual clients. Katelyn recommended the Hudson Housing Finder.
- Kiyada asked for any agency that is offering furniture vouchers for a client. Jaclyn recommended Round 2 Resources. Catholic Charities offered help as well. Additionally, please reach out to Kiyada for the mental health and suicide prevention training, which will be facilitated by the State.
- Amy Albert from Haven and Waterfront Project announced that Haven (via Medicaid) will be offering free virtual mental health services.
- Katelyn announced that the Housing Navigator has been working well so far. In early January there will be a call with providers to expand services outside of the RRH program.
- Rebecca asked if there will be another weekly check-in before the end of the year. Katelyn said that it will be the last call. The next call will be on January 8<sup>th</sup>. She thanked everyone for their worked and wished everyone a happy new year.

The meeting was adjourned with the next meeting scheduled to take place on Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 2pm.

### Voting Member Attendance

Name	Agency
Donna Cullen	Bayonne Economic Opportunity Foundation
Angelo Hunt	Catholic Charities
Pilar Rodriguez	Community Hope
Bernice Vanderpool	Family Promise
Joanne Smith	Garden State Episcopal CDC
Janis Pena	Helping Arms
Jaclyn Cherubini	Hoboken Shelter
Katelyn Ravensbergen	Hudson County Housing and Community Development
Kevin Llangari	Hudson County Housing and Community Development
George Serio	Hudson County Housing and Community Development
Kiyada Pittman	Hudson County Specialized Health & Housing Services
Engerd Angel Carela	Hudson STAR
Jacqueline Suarez	Jersey City Public Housing Authority
Angelique Williams	Let's Celebrate
Michele Musumici	North Hudson Community Action Corp
Vivian Patino	Palisades Family Success Center
Kelly McGuinness	Soldier On
Danielle Mineo	Soldier On
Jennifer Rejfir	The House of Faith
Rebecca Symes	The Waterfront Project
Kayla Zimmer	The Waterfront Project
Carmel Galasso	United Way Hudson County
Anne Christensen	Women Rising
Gloria Acosta	York Street Project

### Non-Voting Member Attendance

Name	Agency
Susana Armas	Catholic Charities
Yanil Mendoza	Catholic Charities
Sherina Caban	Catholic Charities SSVF
Meena Song	Community Health Law Project
Jeffrey Scheckner	Covenant House
Dana Shilling	Elder Law/Care Communications Inc.
Ricardo Pasos	Horizon New Jersey Health
Naomi Lesnewski	Hudson County Housing and Community Development
Carmen Esquilin	Hudson County Housing Resource Center
Angela Carela	Jersey City Medical Center
Stephen Lipski	K.E.I.T.H.
Nadine Azari	Monarch Housing Associates
Candy Brewster	NJ HMFA
Joni Owen	NJ Veteran's Affairs
Mallory Ware	Northeast New Jersey Legal Services
Kruna Mehta	The Community Builders, Inc.
Helen Paille	The Waterfront Project
Janet Aponte	The Waterfront Project
Amy Albert	The Waterfront Project