



THE HUDSON COUNTY ALLIANCE
TO END HOMELESSNESS

Continuum of Care Meeting Minutes
December 18th, 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 October minutes. There were not, and Anne Christensen from WomenRising motioned to approve the minutes with a second by Michele Musumici from North Hudson Community Action. October minutes were passed with no oppositions and no abstentions.

Continuum of Care

- *FY2019 CoC Process* – Katelyn announced that we are still waiting on the funding announcement from HUD for the FY2019 funds; we should hear by January 2020. Katelyn also informed CoC grantees that if they received a close out certification from HUD they should complete it and mail it back to HUD. It was also recommended that all agencies review their budget line items once new grants are entered into the eLOCCS system. If there are any issues, agencies should reach out to Jacob at HUD immediately. Lastly, Katelyn mentioned that everyone should have received their Environmental Reviews for their CoC projects, but if there are any issues when completing drawdowns due to the reviews to reach out to her.
- *CoC Data Work* – Kevin Llangari from the Hudson County Division of Housing and Community Development thanked all Rapid Rehousing providers for the completion of the HMIS Bed Inventory record updates. He announced that he would begin reviewing all remaining project types and that the next major HUD HMIS report would be System Performance Measures, due in late February 2020, so data quality reviews would be happening. Kevin and Katelyn then provided updates to the HCAEH Consent form. Catholic Family and Community Services SSVF was added to the consent form and rather than subpopulation breakdowns all agencies are listed together on the form. Anne made the suggestion that Bridgeway be added to the

consent form and Joni Owens from the VA noted that they should be listed as the Dept of Veteran Affairs rather than the NJ Dept. The updates to the consent form were approved with no oppositions. Lastly, Katelyn mentioned that the County along with a few providers attended Monarch Housing's Racial Equity Summit and that the County will be working, starting with coordinated entry, to incorporate more racial equity work into the system throughout 2020.

- *CoC and CEAS Merger* – Katelyn reminded the group that starting 2020, the CoC and CEAS would be merged as the Hudson County Alliance to End Homelessness. Katelyn and Jonique are working on the bylaws which will be sent out to all for a vote before the February meeting. Membership will remain focused on meeting attendance. Any updates to voting members can be made right on the sign in sheet. With this change, there will be new nominations and changes made to the HCAEH Executive Board in the new year.

2019 Point in Time Count

Katelyn explained that the 2020 Point in Time Count will take place on Wednesday, January 29th, asking where clients resided on January 28th. The PIT flyer asking for volunteers and donations was distributed and emailed previously. Katelyn will be reaching out to all agencies to determine their level of participation in the PIT count for 2020.

Ongoing Updates

- *CEAS* – Jonique Mosley from the Hudson County Dept of Health and Human Services reported that November 12th was the last meeting of the CEAS. DFD has approved funding for 2020 SSH, matching 2019, this was done in an effort to move towards multi-year contracts. Starting January 2020, there will be a statewide hotline number out of DFD, which will use NJ 2-1-1. So instead of the Hudson County hotline number that has been used in the past, everyone should now contact 2-1-1. Frank Mazza from Hudson County Dept of Family Services noted that this is also changing the way Welfare pays for hotel stays, with 2-1-1 making the judgment call and EA paying for the placement. Anne asked what happens if someone has already been placed in a shelter for a night but did not follow up with Welfare to continue benefits. This was identified as a gap in the system, as 2-1-1 will not place clients that are not following through on requirements.
 - *Prevention:*
 - NHCAC – still has prevention funding
 - Welfare – no funding for prevention
 - BEOF – no prevention, but has rehousing funds for HPRP and is looking for clients

- United Way – Carmel Galasso from the United Way mentioned that they are still having a difficult time utilizing the DCA Homeless Prevention Program funding from DCA. A discussion was had around the difficulties of utilizing this funding source and the frustration from everyone that the funds don't match the need. Anne asked what advocacy could be done. Katelyn mentioned that everyone should submit comments during DCA's Public Comment period. Caroline Caulfield from the City of Hoboken stated that she would help submit comments if data was provided by the agencies on why clients were not qualifying.
 - Anne mentioned having issues finding security deposits for clients with mainstream vouchers, and stated they were turned away from Welfare. Susan Milan from Garden State Episcopal CDC stated that if they were homeless they could be eligible for their Rapid Rehousing program and Frank stated that if there are ever any issues with welfare and miscommunication, it should be brought to the attention of Jackie or Monica right away with specifics so it can be worked on.
 - *Food and Shelter Coalition* – Jonique mentioned that the Food and Shelter Coalition hosted two focus groups in November and December, one on Food Insecurity and the other on Housing Insecurity. Overall they received positive feedback, but are hoping to have more community participation at future events. La-Trenda Ross from Hudson County Welfare and the chair of the Food and Shelter Coalition announced that the next meeting would be January 7th and would include a presentation from Medicare. The coalition is also still holding their donation drive for the Hudson County Community College. They are collecting donations through January 29th.
- *CoC Working Group* – Katelyn reported that the CoC Working Group held its landlord luncheon on December 5th. 10 landlords were in attendance and overall it was very positive feedback. Katelyn will be sending a survey to all providers to pass along to their landlords to gain additional insights on needs. Jaclyn Cherubini from the Hoboken Shelter reminded everyone that the group is working on the 2020 Resource Guide. Any updates need to be provided to Jaclyn immediately.
- *Family Stability Committee* – Anne reported that the Family Stability Committee met in November and was provided a training by The Waterfront Project on common Landlord/Tenant issues. The group is continuing to focus on future trainings that could be provided jointly to clients rather than by agencies individually. The group is looking to adjust its schedule and asked everyone to provide feedback on the best date/time for the meeting to take place moving forward.

- *Veterans Committee*– Kelly McGuinness from Soldier On reported that the committee utilized the first half of the meeting for case conferencing of the by-name list, with the second half focusing on the HMIS and technical issues with pulling the by-name list from HMIS. The group also discussed some updates that have been made to the Benchmark tool and seeing a slight increase in veterans since the opening of the warming center. The next meeting will be February 19th at 1pm.
- *Youth Committee* – Katelyn reminded the group that the youth committee has become a part of Children’s Interagency Coordinating Council. Anyone interested in continuing the work related to youth homelessness should attend those meetings, which take place the 4th Wednesday of every month at 9:30am.

Announcements

- Caroline announced that the Hoboken Housing Authority was hosting a Census Job Fair on Friday, December 20th from 11am – 3pm.
- Anne raised a question about the new showers in Journal Square. Katelyn stated that the showers were part of the effort of Jersey City Human Services to engage the unsheltered homeless who reside in Journal Square.
- Susan announced that the Interfaith Homeless Memorial will take place on Thursday, December 19th at 11am at Old Bergen Church.
- Jonique asked the SSH providers to stay after the meeting for a few minutes to go over program updates and requirements.

The meeting was adjourned with the next meeting schedule to take place on Wednesday, February 19th at 2pm.

Voting Member 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
Jaclyn Cherubini	Hoboken Shelter
Katelyn Ravensbergen	Hudson County Housing and Community Development
Kevin Llangari	Hudson County Housing and Community Development
Frank Mazza	Hudson County Welfare
Jacqueline Gomez	Hudson County Welfare
Monica Yeng	Hudson County Welfare
Michele Musumici	North Hudson Community Action Corp
Maria Crespo	North Hudson Community Action Corp
Kelly McGuinness	Soldier On
Carmel Galasso	United Way Hudson County
Rebecca Symes	Waterfront Project
Anne Christensen	Women Rising

Non-Voting Member Attendance

Name	Agency
Jessica Ortiz	Bergenvue Apartments
Sherina Caban	Catholic Charities SSVF
Caroline Caulfield	City of Hoboken
Jonique Mosley	Hudson County Health and Human Services
Claire Sweeney	Hudson County Health and Human Services
La-Trenda Ross	Hudson County Welfare & Food and Shelter Coalition
Mercy Villa	Hudson Pride Center
Alma Santana	Jersey City Health and Human Services
Jacqueline Suarez	Jersey City Housing Authority
Angelique Williams	Let's Celebrate
Nadine Azari	Monarch Housing
Georgina Anzivino	NJ DCF – DCP&P
Christina Baluja	NJ HIV Housing Collaboartive
Joni Owen	NJ Veteran's Affairs
Charmaine McLawrence	NJ Veteran's Affairs
Vivian Patino	Palisade's Family Success Center
Stanley Enzweiler	St. Matthew's Trinity Lunchtime Ministry
Simone Worley	Urban League of Hudson County
Estephany Javerez	Urban League of Hudson County