



THE HUDSON COUNTY ALLIANCE
TO END HOMELESSNESS

HCAEH Meeting Minutes

February 17th, 2021

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 and FY2021 CoC Funding and Program Monitoring* – Katelyn stated that since the last meeting, HUD has received approval to automatically renew the FY2019 CoC funded projects for FY2020. Alleviating the burden to submit applications for the FY2020 year. The local office is working on grant agreements by date of contract renewal so should be hearing soon. HUD is hoping to be back on schedule for 2021. There will be monitoring for FY2021. Agencies will hear soon about dates/information for monitoring.
- *Update to HCAEH Executive Committee Membership* – Katelyn announced that in 2021 there will be a new Executive Committee. She asked all attendees to complete the SurveyMonkey link provided if they would like to be a part of the committee and said that updated bylaws state that representatives from funded organizations/programs would now be able to be on the committee. The only restriction will be that a majority of the Committee cannot be from funded organizations in order to be able to vote on funding. There will soon be a vote through SurveyMonkey in which voting members of the CoC will vote on applicants' membership. The goal of the Executive Committee is to provide leadership and direction for the larger group.
- *CoC Data Work* – Kevin Llangari from the Hudson County Division of Housing & Community Development updated the group on LSA, which was successfully submitted on time, but there is another one coming up for the systems performance measures due at the end of the month. He thanked providers, especially RRH, for their help over the last year and a half. He will follow up with some providers over data quality issues. Names of clients in need of annual assessments will be sent to providers within the next day or day and a half. Katelyn added that starting in April we will try to present some more of the data work to the group.

CEAS Business

- *SSH Updates* – Katelyn reported that the RFP for SSH recommendations for funding were sent to the County Commissioners and were approved. A list of organizations that received SSH and Trust Fund

funding for the 2021 calendar year was attached. Same providers as previously funded were approved for prevention funding.

Prevention Assistance Programs

- *Jersey City Hardship Program* – Samantha Carpio from Jersey City Department of Community Development introduced Program Manager Jamie Ding to give the update. Jamie detailed that the program was open for applications for about two weeks, until February 1st, which received over 3,000 applications started and 2,700 submitted, with 1,636 being eligible for funding. Jersey City has also received treasury funding for emergency rental assistance, and they are working on getting that out. Jersey City residents will not be eligible for the County's program. They can fill out an inquiry form for further information.
- *Hudson County Eviction Prevention Program* – Katelyn announced that the Hudson County CARES II program opened on Monday, April 15th. Residents of all municipalities with the exception of Jersey City are eligible to apply. The program is for both back rent (up to 12 months) and utility assistance, households can apply for one or both. Unlike the first CARES program, household do not have to be able to pay their rent moving forward to be eligible. Landlords are also able to start the application process, but tenants still must finish it. Jacqueline Gomez from the Hudson County Office of Social Services stated that their office is open through March 26th, Monday to Friday, from 8:30 AM-12 PM to assist with in-person applications. Staff will also be in Union City, East Newark, Harrison and Kearny to assist with in person applications. Katelyn announced that the total amount for Hudson County rental assistance is \$12.4 million. Kevin added that the online application is also available in Spanish by changing the system language on the top-right corner. Katelyn added that undocumented households are eligible, the application does not ask for a Social Security number or birth certificate. Applicants only need some form of photo identification.

COVID-19/ Ongoing Updates

- *COVID-19 Updates* – Vivian Patino from Palisades Family Success Center announced they are offering services via phone and Zoom. Meena Song from the Community Health Law Project asked if anyone has a resource for COVID vaccination registration for seniors with limited technological access. Vivian said that HOPES in Hoboken and Project Shape assists seniors.
- *Family Stability Committee* – Anne Christensen from the York Street Project reported that Georgina helped members to connect to resources for their families. The next meeting is on March 8th at 10 AM on Zoom. If you are interested in being at this meeting please contact Katelyn.
- *Food and Shelter Coalition* – Claire Sweeney announced that there are no updates.
- *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. There was a brief discussion about possibly updating consent forms, but because HMIS is state-wide, this could not be specifically tailored to the County. New housing that will prioritize homeless veterans was also discussed. Emergency hotel placements through SSVF went back to the 45-day rule as of January 1st, which means that some clients may be entering back into the sheltering committee. Next meeting will be April 21st.

- *New housing development* – Carol Sainthilaire, CEO from Community Enterprises Corporation, announced a new development project in Jersey City, a Veteran’s Supportive Housing project with 20 units, three units specifically set aside for homeless veterans. Construction began in 2020, leasing is planned to begin in April or May, and occupancy in June or July. CSP will be providing supportive services for the three units, which will also be available to other residents. It is an elevator building, with paid washer/dryer units in the building. There are income limits (attached). There will be community space, meeting space, as well as CSP offices on-site. The lottery will hopefully be opened by March 15th. There is a priority for veterans for the entire building. Katelyn will send out the flyer to the group.

Announcements

- *LIHEAP Utility Assistance* – Laura Bustamante from The Hudson County Latino Foundation introduced herself to the group, as well as the non-profit. HCLF was recently awarded a State grant to help low-income families with utility assistance. There are income requirements based on household size, which the HCLF team will help applicants through. Clients can reach out through the website or directly to Laura. Katelyn will be attaching a flyer and contact info. The program is County-wide.
- Vivian announced the Palisade Family Success Center’s Active Parenting program, which focuses on the first five years. It will start in March, and participants will receive a certificate at the end. The program is sponsored by West New York, but everyone is welcome. The Center will also host a workshop on heart disease.
- Anne asked for an update on the housing navigator. Pam Baker from CSP updated that the program has been going well, Corinne has been able to house households across different providers.
- Samantha Carpio introduced herself as the Program Director for the city of Jersey City under Community Development. She comes to Jersey City from Union County.
- Gloria Acosta from the York Street Project announced that the maternity group home has two vacancies for pregnant or parenting youth, 16-22 years old.
- Katelyn announced that the next check-in call will be March 5th.

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

Voting Member Attendance

Name	Agency
Donna Cullen	Bayonne Economic Opportunity Foundation
Angelo Hunt	Catholic Charities
Pilar Rodriguez	Community Hope
Carol Sainthilaire	CSPNJ
Pam Baker	CSPNJ
Joanne Smith	Garden State Episcopal CDC
Donald Weinbaum	Helping Arms
Ana Prado	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

Samantha Carpio	Jersey City Community Development
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
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
Asia Marche	Community Hope
Hillary Powell	Covenant House
Keshia Reynolds	DHS
Dana Shilling	Elder Law/Care Communications Inc.
Ricardo Pasos	Horizon New Jersey Health
Naomi Lesnewski	Hudson County Housing and Community Development
Monica Yeng	Hudson County Housing and Community Reintegration
Jacqueline Gomez	Hudson County Housing and Community Reintegration
Carmen Esquilin	Hudson County Housing Resource Center
Laura Bustamante	Hudson County Latino Foundation
Elizabeth Schedl	Hudson Pride
Alma Santana	Jersey City Human Services
Jamie Ding	Jersey City Community Development
Kimberly Blackwell	Jersey City Medical Center
Stephen Lipski	K.E.I.T.H.
Nadine Azari	Monarch Housing Associates
Denise Brown	NJHC
Candy Brewster	NJ HMFA
Joni Owen	NJ Veteran's Affairs
Daniel Marin	Northeast New Jersey Legal Services
Claire Sweeny	OSHS
Stanley Enweiler	St. Matthew Trinity Lunchtime Ministry/Hoboken Shelter
Audrey Nonemaker	The Community Builders, Inc.
William Paige	The Waterfront Project
Joel Martinez	WellCare Health Plans of NJ
Charmaine McLawrence	USVA
Brenda Myrick	YMCA Newark & Vicinity