



THE HUDSON COUNTY ALLIANCE
TO END HOMELESSNESS

HCAEH Meeting Minutes

February 19th, 2020

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 announced that this meeting was the first meeting under the merger of the Continuum of Care and Comprehensive Emergency Assistance Committee. With that the group reviewed the CEAS minutes from November and the CoC minutes from December. There were no updates and Kimberly Blackwell from the Jersey City Medical Center made a motion to approve the CEAS minutes, with a second from Jennifer Rejfir from The House of Faith. A motion was made to approve the CoC minutes by Carmel Galasso from United Way of Hudson County and was seconded by Kelly McGuinness from Soldier On. Both CEAS and CoC minutes passed with no oppositions and no abstentions.

HCAEH Bylaws Update

Katelyn stated that with the merger of CoC and CEAS, an update needed to be made to the bylaws that will now just cover the Hudson County Alliance to End Homelessness as a whole which will act as both the CoC and CEAS. Katelyn asked if there were any questions or updates that were needed on the bylaws. Anne Christensen from WomenRising recommended that the acronym's of CoC and CEAS should be included on the first page of the bylaws and a sentence about training and implementing best practices should be added to the purpose section. There were no other updates recommended.

Katelyn then discussed the primary change in the bylaws was in regards to the Executive Board, which will now allow for funded agency participation. The focus of the board moving forward will be on funding management and advocacy. With the change in the Executive Board, Katelyn will be accepting nominations and notices of interest starting now through the April meeting in which the nominations will be reviewed before a surveymonkey vote of the members. Katelyn stated she would send out the final version of the bylaws for a vote within the week.

CoC Business

- *FY2019 CoC Funding* – Katelyn announced that the Tier 1 CoC funding was announced and that so far the CoC received all renewal funding it requested. We are waiting on Tier 2 funding to be announced which included some renewal and some new. The 2020 process will include a site monitoring this year, which all providers can expect around April/May.
- *CoC Data Work* – Kevin Llangari from the Hudson County Division of Housing and Community Development thanked all HMIS users involved with the data cleanup for the System Performance

Measures report, which was submitted ahead of time. He stated that cleanups will continue in the coming weeks in preparation for the Longitudinal System Analysis report (LSA).

- *2020 Point in Time Count* – Katelyn thanked everyone for their participation in the Point in Time Count, which took place on January 29th. We are currently waiting for the initial data from Monarch and will then begin the deduplication process. Katelyn also noted that the County utilized and app: Map Marker during the count, so we should be able to map where surveys were actually conducted. Anne asked if Katelyn had a guess about the numbers, to which she responded that from what we are hearing, we expect numbers to increase. This notion was backed by Candy Brewster from NJ HMFA, who said this may be the trend statewide, as well as an increase in an aging population.

CEAS Business

- *SSH HMIS Data Quality Sessions* – Claire Sweeney from Hudson County Office of Specialized Health and Housing Services stated that they are looking to implement HMIS trainings for all SSH providers and was interested in hosting them after the HCAEH meetings. All agencies were in agreement that this time would be best.
- Claire also announced that Kiyada Pittman will be replacing Jonique and will be starting on 2/24/20.

Jersey City Consolidated Plan Presentation

Carmen Gandulla from the Jersey City Division of Community Development, presented on the City of Jersey City Consolidated Plan. Carmen detailed the process, noting the need to determine funding priorities and uncover barriers to fair housing. The Consolidated Plan determines how the Division operates and addresses housing and community needs over the next 5 years.

Randi Moore of the Hudson County Division of Housing and Community Development noted that Hudson County is also working on its Consolidated Plan, which will be further discussed at the next HCAEH meeting and that the County and City ESG and CDBG applications are out and available.

Ongoing Updates

- *CoC Working Group* – The working group did not meet in January and will meet on Thursday, February 27th at 2pm in Weehawken. The group will continue to focus on landlord engagement and housing navigation.
- *Family Stability Committee* – Anne announced that the committee has changed its schedule, so the next meeting will be Thursday, March 5th at 2pm at the Gallo Center. The group is focusing on partnering to provide more effective trainings for staff and clients.
- *Food and Shelter Coalition* – La-Trenda Ross from Hudson County Welfare and the chair of the Food and Shelter Coalition thanked everyone who donated to their drive for the Hudson County Community College Food Pantry, the 500 item goal was reached. Information on a photo

opportunity with the Community College will be sent out. The group will meet on Tuesday, March 10th at 10am at Old Bergen Church..

- *Prevention Funding Updates:*
 - NHCAC – still has prevention funding
 - Welfare – has funding for SSH, TANF and reunification
 - BEOF – has HPRP for RRH, no back rent
 - United Way – has HPP funds
- *Veterans Committee*– Kelly McGuinness from Soldier On reported that the committee focused on case conferencing of the by-name list, the benchmark tool and reviewing the 2020 Veteran Resource Guide. The group will meet again on April 15th at 1pm.

Announcements

- *2020 Census* – Katelyn highlighted the importance of ensuring all clients, whether homeless or at risk, are counted in the 2020 Census. Gloria Acosta-Nelson from York Street Project mentioned that they were able to work with the Census team, so that a roster with client's information could be provided instead of individual client interviews. All shelters should be in touch with census works and someone from the Hudson County Division of Planning to determine the best way to count clients.

Anne asked how non-homeless clients, such as those in RRH and PSH will be counted. Katelyn responded that those clients will be counted through regular outreach process, by getting something in the mail to start. The key is to bring up the census regularly with clients and encourage them to complete the forms. It was also stressed that agencies ensure clients know that citizenship is not a question on the census and so regardless of status or fears, all clients should complete the census form.

Randi further encouraged the HCAEH agencies to implement specific census efforts, explaining that undercounting could result in less overall federal funding for Hudson County.

- Carmel announced that the United Way has free tax filing services available every Wednesday and Friday from 9:30am – 12:30pm through April 15th. Anyone can access these services, but there can be a wait.
- 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 scheduled to take place on Wednesday, April 15th at 2pm.

Voting Member Attendance

Name	Agency
Donna Cullen	Bayonne Economic Opportunity Foundation
Angelo Hunt	Catholic Charities
Pilar Rodriguez	Community Hope
Hillary Powell	Covenant House
Pamela Baker	Collaborative Support Programs of NJ
Susan Milan	Garden State Episcopal CDC
Janis Pena	Helping Arms
Jaclyn Cherubini	Hoboken Shelter
Moss Allen	Hoboken Shelter
Randi Moore	Hudson County Housing and Community Development
Katelyn Ravensbergen	Hudson County Housing and Community Development
Kevin Llangari	Hudson County Housing and Community Development
Claire Sweeney	Hudson County Specialized Health & Housing Services
Jacqueline Gomez	Hudson County Welfare
Carmen Gandulla	Jersey City Community Development
Jose Ortiz	Jersey City Community Development
Kimberly Blackwell	Jersey City Medical Center
Michele Musumici	North Hudson Community Action Corp
Maria Crespo	North Hudson Community Action Corp
Kelly McGuinness	Soldier On
Carmel Galasso	United Way Hudson County
Anne Christensen	Women Rising
Gloria Acosta-Nelson	York Street Project
Marina Burachek	York Street Project

Non-Voting Member Attendance

Name	Agency
Michael Bratton	Bergenvue Apartments
Shauna Bryant	Catholic Charities SSVF
Caroline Caulfield	City of Hoboken
Andrew Bennett	Family Promise of Hudson County
La-Trenda Ross	Hudson County Welfare & Food and Shelter Coalition
Chris Flamer	Hyacinth Foundation
Alma Santana	Jersey City Health and Human Services
Jacqueline Suarez	Jersey City Housing Authority
Georgina DeRosa	NJ DCF – DCP&P
Leslie Franks McRae	NJ Department of Education
Pheobie Thomas	NJ Department of Education
Ventura Padilla	NJ Division of Family Development
Shevon Hercules	NJ Division of Family Development
Christina Baluja	NJ HIV Housing Collaborative
Joni Owen	NJ Veteran's Affairs
Tom Harrigan	PERC
Wendy Felipe	PERC
Leslie DeHaseth	YMCA of Newark