



THE HUDSON COUNTY ALLIANCE
TO END HOMELESSNESS

Continuum of Care Meeting Minutes
February 27th, 2019
1:30 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Katelyn Ravensbergen of Hudson County Housing and Community Development called the meeting to order. Introductions were held off until the start of the Visioning Session part of the meeting due to the change in timing and to account for late arrivals.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the December meeting were not provided, the approval of both December and this meeting will be done at the April meeting.

Continuum of Care

- *FY2018 CoC Grants/Environmental Reviews* – Katelyn announced that the FY2018 CoC funding announcements were made. The CoC received all renewal projects requested as well as a new Coordinated Entry project specifically for Victims of Domestic Violence. HUD has started sending out Issues and Conditions as well as grant agreements. HUD has also noted that they are requiring all providers to submit environmental reviews for their programs. Katelyn is working on these reviews and will send them to the grantees as soon as possible.
- *Hudson County CDBG/ESG* – Randi Moore of Hudson County Housing and Community Development announced that the CDBG and ESG Application will be available on March 1st, 2019. The County is hosting a Public Meeting to get feedback about the needs of the community. The public hearing was originally scheduled for Wednesday, February 20th, but due to weather has been rescheduled to Wednesday, March 13th at 6pm.
- *Letter of Support Request – The Community Builders* – Dolly Soto from The Community Builders made a formal request for a letter of support from the HCAEH for their submission to HUD for the renovation of the Bergenview Apartments. Dolly explained that Community Builders plan to renovate the SRO units in Bergenview to studio apartments. While this would decrease the total number of units in the

building to 112, they feel this would be a significant improvement for the clients that are residing in the building. Dolly assured that no clients would be displaced due to the renovations and that no clients would lose their housing due to the decrease in units, since they are working on renovating their second building as well. Katelyn stated that the letter of support request would be emailed to members after the meeting, and any questions that came up could be emailed.

- *Statewide Housing Collaborative Survey* – Christina Baluja from the NJ HIV Housing Collaborative stated that the HIV Housing Collaborative has been running a 24/7 hotline that connects clients with HIV to a multitude of service and housing needs. They are currently doing a needs assessment to better gauge the types of services needed. Katelyn stated the assessment would be emailed out to everyone. Troy Mack from Weehawken Township asked about the availability of Spanish speakers on the hotline. Christina stated there will be linguistic support for Spanish speaking callers.

HCAEH Visioning/Strategic Planning Session – At this point all members present introduced themselves. Katelyn and Taiisa Kelly from Monarch Housing Associates led the group through data that was collected from a community survey on the primary barriers and aspects that impact the community's ability to best serve clients who are experiencing homelessness. Feedback provided from clients accessing coordinated entry was also included, as well as census data reviewing some of the racial disparities that the homeless system in Hudson County is seeing. There was a discussion regarding the core values and goals that should be highlighted for the HCAEH throughout this process. All those present then broke into groups for the remainder of the meeting to discuss and identify barriers, as well as strategies to combat the barriers identified. Katelyn ended the strategic planning portion of the meeting by stating that the goal of this session was to develop the key barriers that the group should be focusing on as we move forward. There will have to be some subcommittee work to create a working document of strategies for the HCAEH and its subcommittees to focus its works as it moves forward. Information from this planning session and any follow up will be discussed at the next HCAEH meeting.

The meeting was adjourned after the group sessions, with the next meeting taking place on Wednesday, April 17th at 2pm.

Voting Members Attendance

Name	Agency
Claudia Marks	Catholic Charities
Linda Jones	Catholic Charities
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
Anthony Forbes	Hoboken Shelter
Jennifer Rejfir	House of Faith
Randi Moore	Hudson County Housing and Community Development
Katelyn Ravensbergen	Hudson County Housing and Community Development
Kevin Llangari	Hudson County Housing and Community Development
Mateo Perez	Hudson County Welfare
Monica Yeng	Hudson County Welfare
Carmen Gandulla	Jersey City Community Development
Jose Ortiz	Jersey City Community Development
Kimberly Blackwell	Jersey City Medical Center
Arlene Anjos	Metropolitan Family Health Network
Michele Musumici	North Hudson Community Action Corp
Maria Crespo	North Hudson Community Action Corp
Kelly McGuinness	Soldier On
Danielle Mineo	Soldier On
Carmel Galasso	United Way Hudson County
Quinzella Paschal	Women Rising
Susanne Byrne	York Street Project
Gloria Acosta-Nelson	York Street Project

Non-Voting Member Attendance

Name	Agency
Sherina Caban	Catholic Charities SSVF
Tajhinea Coffee	Catholic Charities SSVF
Andrew Bennett	Family Promise of Hudson County
Eileen Luciano	Garden State Episcopal CDC
Shally Saini	Jersey City Health & Human Services
JoAnn Northgrave	Hudson County Office of Veteran Affairs
La-Trenda Ross	Hudson County Welfare & Food and Shelter Co.
Taiisa Kelly	Monarch Housing
Kasey Congero	Monarch Housing
Ruth Cruz	NJ 2-1-1
Georgina Anzivino	NJ DCF
Christina Baluja	NJ Statewide HIV Housing Collaborative
Marisol Montanez	Town of Guttenberg
Aimee Focaraccio	Township of North Bergen

Troy Mack	Township of Weehawken
Shakila Ali	York Street Project
Jamillah Gantt	York Street Project