



THE HUDSON COUNTY ALLIANCE
TO END HOMELESSNESS

Continuum of Care Meeting Minutes

June 19th, 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 April minutes. Mateo Perez from Hudson County Welfare made a correction to the number of days that welfare will be at JCEPT. A motion to approve the minutes with this correction was made by Anne Christensen of WomenRising and seconded by Mateo. April minutes were passed with no oppositions and no abstentions.

Anne also made a request, after reviewing the minutes, that more detailed information be provided in the future regarding the outcomes of the prevention programs that are reported on at each meeting.

Continuum of Care

- *FY2019 CoC Process* – Katelyn noted that we are currently waiting for FY2019 NOFA to be released by HUD. At this point all monitoring and performance reviews have been completed. Upon release of the NOFA, the local zoomgrants application for both new and renewal projects will be released, so all agencies interested in applying for CoC funding in FY2019 should keep an eye out for the release.
- *CoC Data Work/Longitudinal System Analysis Report* – Kevin Llangari from the Hudson County Division of Housing and Community Development gave a brief summary of the LSA, explaining what type of data is pulled into the report, the purpose of the report and detailing the numerous delays and reprogramming issues experienced since October 2018. Furthermore, Kevin mentioned the report's final submission was slated for June 24th, 2019. Kevin thanked everyone's assistance throughout the last few months in amending data quality issues in anticipation for the LSA's final submission.

Kevin also announced that there is a new feature in HMIS, called the HMIS Bed Inventory, which manages a program's beds and units. Kevin explained this new feature was developed to improve how Awards tracks and reports out beds and units throughout the different programs. Kevin urged agencies that operate emergency shelters, transitional housing, rapid rehousing and permanent housing programs to send their HMIS data entry staff to a HMFA training as soon as possible to ensure they have a full understanding of the new feature.

Lastly, Kevin provided an update on the DCA Housing First Program, which connected clients with frequent incarcerations who had experienced chronic homelessness with permanent supportive housing vouchers through DCA. As a number of clients have been housed for a year, he is starting the outcomes analysis on the program. He has started gathering historical jail data, and while the analysis is still in its early stages, he would aim to have data to present for August's HCAEH meeting.

Anne asked whether this report would include information on cost savings and Jaclyn Cherubini from the Hoboken Shelter asked if there would be hospital data incorporated into this analysis, to which Kevin confirmed it would be, reminding the group that this analysis would be similar to that which was done for the Bonus project which included jail, hospital and shelter cost savings.

- *2019 HCAEH Fact Sheet* – Katelyn provided the group with a new HCAEH Fact Sheet that was created as an easier way to provide the general public, interested members and elected officials with information on the HCAEH, what it is, what it is working on and some general statistics regarding homelessness. This fact sheet could also be updated annually to depict the goals and accomplishments of the HCAEH. Anne asked whether the 490 households that were connected to permanent housing included rapid rehousing, which Katelyn confirmed it did. She expressed some concern with included it, as families are not always successful, but Katelyn noted that since HUD identifies this program as permanent housing, it should be included. Troy Mack from the Township of Weehawken asked if the one pager is available on the website, which Katelyn stated it would be as soon as it was finalized. He also asked whether data included could be broken down to the municipal level. Jaclyn explained that city-level data is hard to collect due to the nature of homelessness. Katelyn requested that anyone with suggestions for the Fact Sheet email her at kravensbergen@hcnj.us

As a comment to the Fact Sheet's short term goal of better connect to furniture assistance, Jaclyn mentioned that Round 2 Resources is a great option for programs needing both office furniture and furniture for clients. She also stated she was working on a partnership with Avocado Mattress and that she is hoping this can be a bigger partnership with all of the programs in the community.

Ongoing Updates

- *CEAS* – Jaclyn mentioned the next meeting for CEAS would be July 9th. There was a required HMIS meeting at 12pm for all SSH grantees and then the general meeting would begin at 1:30pm. She also stated that CEAS is looking for a new chair as Jonique's term is expiring. She also asked whether it would be an option for the CoC and CEAS committee to merge to which Katelyn and Claire Sweeney from Hudson County Health and Human Services said they could discuss.

Caroline Caulfield of the City of Hoboken asked for an explanation of what CEAS is. Jaclyn stated that CEAS stood for Comprehensive Emergency Assistance Services and was a requirement under the State for the administration of SSH funding. Katelyn stated this was a great question, and that a list of important acronyms could be provided and linked to the 2019 Fact Sheet.

- *Prevention:*
 - Welfare has funding, they have also requested the state for additional funding, and have additional re-entry funding as well
 - NHCAC has funding but nothing for security deposits
- *Food and Shelter Coalition* – La-Trenda Ross from Hudson County Welfare reported that the Food and Shelter Coalition met in May 14th and had 30 members in attendance, as well as a presentation from the Center for Immigrant Representation. They are seeking sponsors to the 2020 Anti-Poverty Summit. Although there will not be a summit in 2019, they are still hoping to have a workshop in the fall, possibly on tenant/landlord issues as well as providing cooking demonstrations for community members. The next meeting for the Coalition will be September 10th at 10am at Old Bergen Church.

La-Trenda also noted that New Jersey City University has students looking for internships, as well as free space that could be available for workshops. Anyone interested could reach out to Robert Quinones at 201-951-5111.

- *CoC Working Group* – Pam Baker from Collaborative Support Programs of NJ reported that the working group met for the first time at the end of May for the

initial brainstorming as it relates to the development of a Landlord Incentive/Partnership program. The next meeting will be Thursday, June 27th at 1pm, Katelyn will send out the location when confirmed. Pam stated that the main things the group is working on right now is identifying landlord benefits and compiling a list of landlords that are currently working with the system and asked if any providers had landlords to include to please email their lists to Karen Bostwick from Community Hope at kbostwick@communityhope-nj.org

Katelyn reminded the group that this working group is what was created from the Strategic Planning session to help accomplish the goals and strategies created from that session. The group will also be talking about picking up a secondary initiative to work on in conjunction with the larger landlord initiative.

- *Family Stability Committee* – Anne reported that the Family Stability Committee met in May and focused on adult mental health services. Hudson County Human Services, Bridgeway and Jersey City Medical Center were present and spoke about their services as well as some of the gaps that are in the system. Gloria Acosta-Nelson from York Street noted that the meeting also focused on training opportunities that might help all agencies throughout the County better serve clients with mental health concerns. Anne stated the next meeting would be July 25th at 10am at the Gallo Center and would focus on children’s behavioral health.
- *Mainstream Resources* – Jaclyn mentioned that the main task of the Mainstream Resources Committee is the annual update of the resource guide. Because the Working Group has been created, moving forward the Mainstream Resources Committee will become part of the Working Group rather than remain separate.
- *Veterans Committee*– Theresa Blount from Community Hope explained that the committee met immediately before the CoC. The group first reviewed the benchmark tool and then discussed the new Rapid Resolution Initiative/Diversion program that the VA is rolling out through the SSVF providers. It is still in the early stages so future meeting will focus on this as well.
- *Youth Committee* – Jose Ortiz from Jersey City Community Development reported that the group met earlier in the month and that the focus right now is developing a youth shelter in Hudson County, which is a major need. The next meeting date is not set yet, as we are working with Hudson Pride and Covenant House to better include youth in the meetings directly, so we are waiting to confirm their availability or if the meeting schedule needs to be adjusted moving forward.

Announcements

- Katelyn mentioned that the Housing and Community Development Office currently had a Lead Safe Program which can assist tenants or landlords who think they may have lead-based paint hazards in their apartments or homes. They can apply for assistance, and the program will do an assessment and remediate as appropriate at no cost to the homeowner, tenant or landlord. Flyers were handed out with information, or members can reach out PACO if they have someone who would like to apply.
- Kasey Congero from Monarch Housing told the group that there will be another Congressional Reception on Wednesday, July 24th. Transportation will be provided for \$10. The bus schedule and more information is available on Monarch's website and will be sent out to the group. Anne asked whether food would be provided, it was noted that yes, lunch would be provided. Anyone interested in registering should go to www.monarchhousing.org
- Angel Carela from the Institute for Prevention and Recovery's STAR program announced that they have services for clients experiences with opioid addition or a history of opioid use. Case managers will connect them to services and treatment options. In addition there is a Peer Recovery Program (PRP) based out of Jersey City Medical Center that clients can access to help with connection to services. Anyone with referrals for this program can reach out to Angel at 732-569-2202.

Angel also reported a number of his clients having issues accessing housing. Even when they have vouchers, they are not able to find units in the community. This was echoed by everyone at the meeting as a primary concern. Jaclyn recommended he attend the upcoming working group meeting that is focusing specifically on that issue.

- Jaclyn noted that there would be a FEMA conference call soon as they are set to occur quarterly and the last call took place in February.
- Troy reported that the North Hudson Partnership meets every 1st Wednesday of the month at 10am at the Weehawken American Legion Post 18. The group is focusing on increasing resources for homeless response and they are also working to connect mental health partners with members of the community in need. There will be Mental Health meet and greets at public libraries throughout the summer. A flyer will be emailed out with the full information. Anyone interested in attending the partnership meetings is welcome.

- Alma Santana from Jersey City Health and Human Services stated they were hosting a National HIV Testing Day at the Bethune Center on Thursday, June 27th from 2-6pm. A flyer will be emailed out.
- Fred Wraga from Hudson County Welfare announced that there are now welfare case workers at Martin's Place and also at Landlord/Tenant Court every Wednesday to help those at risk of eviction know what services they may be eligible for. They also have flyers going out to make households aware of their options and that someone from Welfare will be there to determine if they might be eligible for assistance.

Fred also announced that they are working with City Life Health to connect more services to the families placed at the YMCA in Newark, and they are also looking to expand their coordination with NHCAC.

The meeting was adjourned with the next meeting taking place on Wednesday, August 21st at 2pm.

Voting Members Attendance

Name	Agency
Theresa Blount	Community Hope
Lori Lewis	Covenant House
Pamela Baker	Collaborative Support Programs of NJ
Susan Milan	Garden State Episcopal CDC
Donald Weinbaum	Helping Arms
Jaclyn Cherubini	Hoboken Shelter
Jennifer Rejfir	House of Faith
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
Jose Ortiz	Jersey City Community Development
Patricia Ramirez	Jersey City Housing Authority
Kimberly Blackwell	Jersey City Medical Center
Maria Crespo	North Hudson Community Action Corp
Danielle Mineo	Soldier On
Carmel Galasso	United Way Hudson County
Rebecca Symes	Waterfront Project
Anne Christensen	Women Rising
Gloria Acosta-Nelson	York Street Project
Marina Burachek	York Street Project

Non-Voting Member Attendance

Name	Agency
Sherina Caban	Catholic Charities SSVF
Caroline Caulfield	City of Hoboken
Hillary Powell	Covenant House
Vanessa Conquillo	Horizon NJ Health
Claire Sweeney	Hudson County Health and Human Services
Fred Wraga	Hudson County Welfare
La-Trenda Ross	Hudson County Welfare & Food and Shelter Co.
Engerd Angel Carela	Institute for Prevention & Recovery (RWJ)
Alma Santana	Jersey City Health and Human Services
Kasey Congero	Monarch Housing
Georgina Anzivino	NJ DCF – DCP&P
Joni Owen	NJ Veteran's Affairs