



THE HUDSON COUNTY ALLIANCE
TO END HOMELESSNESS

Continuum of Care Meeting Minutes

October 16th, 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 August minutes. There were not, and Jennifer Rejfir from The House of Faith motioned to approve the minutes with a second by Michele Musumici from North Hudson Community Action. August minutes were passed with no oppositions and no abstentions.

Continuum of Care

- *FY2019 CoC Process* – Katelyn announced that the FY2019 Continuum of Care application was submitted at the end of September. She thanked all agencies for their participation in the process, and stated we are now waiting for HUD to make announcements which should come in December or January of 2020.
- *CoC Q&A Session* – Katelyn proposed a Q&A session with CoC funded providers to go over any major topics, questions, updates related to the CoC programs and system as a whole. It was decided the session should be held in early 2020 rather than late 2019. More information will be sent out as it gets closer.
- *CoC Data Work* – Kevin Llangari from the Hudson County Division of Housing and Community Development provided more detail on the on-going changes to the HMIS Bed Inventory requirements, stating that greater clarification had been received from Foothold and NJ HMFA. Kevin stated he would be reaching out provides affected by the HMIS Bed Inventory requirements shortly. He also spoke about the Data Quality Dashboard, noting that the CoC has consistently maintained a high level of quality, but all providers should review annual client assessments.

- *CoC and CEAS Merger* – Katelyn and Jonique Mosely from Hudson County Health and Human Services announced that the CoC and CEAS committees are working on merging as a suggestion by some committee members. The merger would help centralize planning and as both share many of the same members would not be that big of a change. The committee would remain the Hudson County Alliance to End Homelessness and would act on behalf of both the CoC and CEAS. Anne Christensen from WomenRising asked if other counties had merged and how effective it has been. Jonique stated that many counties had done this, and that while our situation was slightly different due to two different offices overseeing the funding sources, we are already coordinating, and so this is just a merger of the meetings and bylaws. Jaclyn Cherubini from the Hoboken Shelter also responded by saying this change makes it easier for agencies who attend both meetings, as they can now attend just the one. Katelyn and Jonique stated that if approved, this change would take place in 2020, and that draft bylaws will be available for everyone to review and vote on at the next meeting.

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. There will be a planning meeting on November 6th at 2pm at 830 Bergen Ave in Jersey City. Additional flyers and information will be sent out after that meeting.

Consumer Advisory Forum

Katelyn announced that starting in 2020, a formalized Consumer Advisory Forum will be implemented. The focus will be to collect feedback directly from current and former consumers who have been through the homeless service system. Jaclyn asked whether the location of the meeting could rotate through the year to allow more clients to attend. Katelyn responded that she is open to any suggestions on how to best implement and update the structure of these forums. More information to follow in 2020.

Ongoing Updates

- *CEAS* – Jonique mentioned that the September CEAS meeting was canceled, and the next meeting would be in November. In term of SSH funding, many agencies have exhausted their funding, with requests for more funding already submitted to the state. Jonique also announced that they are moving towards a universal intake form for prevention that they are looking to implement in January 2020.
 - *Prevention:*
 - Carmel Galasso from the United Way of Hudson County elaborated on the new DCA Homeless Prevention Program funding they received. She

provide guidance on what the program could be used for an noted that this is not a quick process and that eligibility requirements are very strict. Caroline Caulfield from the City of Hoboken asked if this limited eligibility was something that should be advocated for with NJ DCA. Katelyn stated that DCA has a public comment period every year and that everyone is encouraged to submit their feedback. She also mentioned that with the new Office of Homelessness being created that this is something that office would hopefully address. Jacqueline Gomez from Hudson County Welfare ask Carmel to share the information with her team as they have office hours at eviction court, which could be a good resource for referrals.

- *Food and Shelter Coalition* – La-Trenda Ross for Hudson County Welfare and the chair of the Food and Shelter Coalition announced that the next meeting of the coalition would be November 12th at 10am at Old Bergen Church. They are currently working on composing a list of individuals and agencies that provide free food to share with all agencies. They are also hosting a Roundtable Forum in both November and December. The November forum will take place on November 8th and will focus on food insecurity. The December forum will focus on housing.
- *CoC Working Group* – Katelyn reported that the CoC Working Group is still focused on the Landlord Appreciation Event which should take place in early December. The goal is to show landlords that they are partners in the system. Katelyn also mentioned a survey that will be provided to all landlords who attend the event and can be sent out to all landlords currently working in the system so we can evaluate the current landlords engaged and develop strategies to target additional landlords moving forward. Lastly, the group has started discussing a streamlined Housing Navigator for the system. Jaclyn announced that the CoC Working Group will also be working to update the HCAEH Resource Guide for 2020. Any updates to the resource guide should be emailed to Henasia at resources@hobokenshelter.org by 11/1/19. Anne Christensen asked if there was any way to know how many clicks the resource guide received online. Katelyn and Kevin said we could only view traffic for the hudsoncountyhomeless.com site. The next meeting is Thursday, October 24th at 1pm.
- *Family Stability Committee* – Anne reported that the Family Stability Committee is working on coordinating staff and client trainings so each agency did not have to conduct them separately and that they could be more comprehensive and effective.

For the November meeting, someone from the Waterfront Project will be there to answer questions regarding landlord/tenant issues.

- *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 collection of new items in HMIS, a review of the veteran snapshot that Kevin put together and a review of events taking place in November for Veteran’s Day. The next meeting will be December 18th at 1pm.
- *Youth Committee* – Katelyn notified the CoC that the youth committee may be looking to reorganize and possibly become a subcommittee of the CIACC. More details will be provided after it is explored further.

Announcements

- Jonique thanked the HCAEH for providing a letter of support for Human Services for their submission of the HIV Ending the Epidemic grant. If awarded, it can bring up to \$2 million in new funding to the County.
- Alma Santana from Jersey City Health and Human Services provided flyers and announced the following events:
 - Jersey City will be providing free Senior Flu clinics throughout October and November
 - There will be a Breast Cancer Awareness Event on October 19th from 6-9pm at NOWmed Urgent Care
 - Free Lead Testing will be provided on October 22nd from 10am-12pm at the City Hall Annex
 - There will be a Community Mental Health Summit on October 24th from 11am – 4pm at New Jersey City University
 - Jersey City is hosting a AIDS Walk for World AIDS Day on December 7th.
- Jaclyn announced the final report for FEMA was due and advised all agencies who haven’t drawn down their 2nd payment to do so as soon as possible. Clarification was provided on what agencies receive the approximately \$337,000 in emergency food and shelter funding provided annually.
- La-Trenda mentioned a Title XX Homemaker Program that currently has openings. A flyer was provided, and anyone interested can reach out to La-Trenda.

- Felix Gosse from City of Jersey City announced they are doing outreach to promote detection and prevention of cancer. They are specifically looking for venues where they can host events that are outside of Jersey City. Anyone with space can reach out to him.
- Jennifer announced that the House of Faith has an opening in their transitional housing program and will have two openings in their rapid rehousing program in December. All referrals for the program must come from coordinated entry.
- Marina Burachek from York Street Project announced that St. Joseph's Home received an award for the Maternity Group Home project, which will be operating out of a floor of the shelter. The focus will be on pregnant youth aged 16-22.
- Katelyn reminded the group that 2020 is a Census year and encouraged all agencies to begin mentioning the census to their clients to stress the importance of completing the census. More information will come on counting clients residing unsheltered and those in sheltered situations.
- Claudia Marks from Catholic Charities announced that the ground breaking for the new St. Lucy's Shelter is scheduled for December and it is anticipated that construction will last 12 to 14 months. Jaclyn asked whether current shelter guests would need to be relocated, to which Claudia confirmed they would not need to be relocated, as the old shelter will not close until the new shelter is available.

The meeting was adjourned with the next meeting schedule to take place on Wednesday, December 18th at 2pm.

Voting Member Attendance

Name	Agency
Samantha Rojas	Bayonne Economic Opportunity Foundation
Claudia Marks	Catholic Charities
Pilar Rodriguez	Community Hope
Lori Lewis	Covenant House
Pamela Baker	Collaborative Support Programs of NJ
Celeste Williams	Collaborative Support Programs of NJ
Susan Milan	Garden State Episcopal CDC
Janis Pena	Helping Arms
Jaclyn Cherubini	Hoboken Shelter
Ana Prado	Hoboken Shelter
Jennifer Rejfir	House of Faith
Katelyn Ravensbergen	Hudson County Housing and Community Development
Kevin Llangari	Hudson County Housing and Community Development
Jacqueline Gomez	Hudson County Welfare
Jose Ortiz	Jersey City Community Development
Alan Doughty	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
Kayla Zimmer	Waterfront Project
Anne Christensen	Women Rising
Marina Burachek	York Street Project

Non-Voting Member Attendance

Name	Agency
	Bergenvue Apartments
Angelo Hunt	Catholic Charities
Sherina Caban	Catholic Charities SSVF
Caroline Caulfield	City of Hoboken
Jonique Mosley	Hudson County Health and Human Services
JoAnn Northgrave	Hudson County Veteran's Office
La-Trenda Ross	Hudson County Welfare & Food and Shelter Coalition
Chris Flamer	Hyacinth Foundation
Max Laffend	Hudson Pride Center
Alma Santana	Jersey City Health and Human Services
Felix Gosse	Jersey City Health and Human Services
Angelique Williams	Let's Celebrate
Nadine Azari	Monarch Housing
Georgina Anzivino	NJ DCF – DCP&P
Christina Baluja	NJ HIV Housing Collaborative
Kayla Phillips	NJ HMFA
Joni Owen	NJ Veteran's Affairs

Vivian Patino

Palisade's Family Success Center

Lea Lozada

York Street Project