



THE HUDSON COUNTY ALLIANCE
TO END HOMELESSNESS

HCAEH Meeting Minutes

October 20th, 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.

Hudson Pride

- *Pop-up Jamboree Initiative* – Stephanie Mills from Hudson Pride introduced her origination and the pop-up jamboree initiative. This program will be offered to local agencies and organizations, in which Hudson Pride will set up and execute a festive pop-up event with vendors, meals, and HIV testing. Additional comprehensive health services will be offered in conjunction with Jersey City Health and Human Services. Incentives such as gift cards, bus passes, and other prizes will be offered to attendees. Stephanie shared her email address and asked any interested parties to contact her for additional details.

CoC Business

- *FY2021 CoC Competition Updates* –Katelyn stated that the 2021 NOFO was released after the August meeting. The application is due to HUD by November 16th. The local competition has been released and all recipients of renewal and new funds have been notified. Some reallocation will be going to a new project. Three new projects will be submitted this year: a CSP bonus PSH expansion project for the chronically homeless, a RRH project from Family Promise, and a joint DV bonus project from Garden State and WomenRising. More information will be shared once full listings are posted and applications are submitted. Once the full draft is ready it will be posted for comments and feedback, hopefully in the first week of November.
- *CoC Data Work* – Kevin Llangari from the Hudson County Division of Housing & Community Development showed the group a graphic with the typical data points tracked. The charts illustrate the extent of data quality errors throughout the CoC by HMIS Project Type. The percentages demonstrate the percentage of client records that have a given errors. HUD advises that no more than 10% of all client records have any of these errors. A red trendline is featured on all charts, showing whether our CoC is below the 10% error threshold. Kevin highlighted missing annual updates by agency. He thanked Candy and her team for leading the recent HMIS training. The main areas covered were: new options for demographic categories, new categories for coordinated entry events, and an additional well-being tracking field for PSH. Anne Christensen from WomenRising asked about an automatic reminder for annual updates. Candy Brewster from NJHMFA said that she is able to turn on the notification for anyone who would like it. Candy also updated that there are

certain data areas that HUD has warned can affect data quality: high percentage of missing dates of birth, social security numbers, missing or multiple heads of household, accurate funding sources, and bed inventory. The reporting period for the LSA will open November 22nd which is when CoCs will begin the process of uploading data. She reminded that trainings are being held weekly and biweekly on a variety of topics.

CEAS Business

- *SSH Updates* – Katelyn reported that there are quite a few updates which will go into effect for the 2022 contract. DFD is working on a new Annex A, which will hopefully be out by November 1st. The changes concern emergency food eligibility and emergency shelters. An SSH provider call will be scheduled for November 16th at 11 AM to go over Annex A and vouchering. If need be, individual calls can also be scheduled for HMIS staff.

New Initiatives/Programs

- *Hudson County Racial Equity Work* – Nadine Azari from Monarch Housing announced that data and feedback from focus groups of persons with lived experience are being turned into suggestions, as well as the creation of an advisory board. The idea for this advisory board is to integrate ideas and feedback from persons with lived experience on a regular, ongoing basis. If anyone knows of a consumer that may be interested in participating in this paid opportunity, they can reach out with their contact information to Naomi Lesnewski. Katelyn added that the next step has been reaching out to housing providers and conducting focus groups with their staff member. Diane Riley from SHA has been organizing this process.
- *Emergency Housing Voucher & 100 Day Challenge Progress*– Naomi Lesnewski of the Hudson County Division of Housing and Community Development reminded the group that there are two Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) programs – one administered through the Jersey City Housing Authority which was allocated 94 Emergency Housing Vouchers, and others through DCA which are open to the entire State of New Jersey. As of Thursday of last week, there were 67 applications submitted for the JCHA program, 49 of which had been accepted, and for the DCA program 62 applications have been submitted and one has been accepted. Susan Milan from GSCDC added that there are many applications in process, and that about 10 more have been submitted since last week. Monarch is spearheading an initiative to submit 100 applications to the DCA program in 100 days, which they are hopeful that Hudson will be able to meet.

Ongoing Updates

- *COVID-19 Updates*
 - *Eviction Moratorium Update* – Naomi shared a flowchart that the Division created to help explain the New Jersey Eviction Prevention Law. Tenants must complete a self-certification form online in order to be protected. For clients below 80% AMI, they cannot be evicted until after December 31, 2021. Tenants must also file a self-certification form for this protection, and clients above 120% AMI may also be eligible. Community Health Law Project provides legal services for tenants who are living with disabilities, Northeast New Jersey Legal Services works with clients who meet income requirements, and The Waterfront Project also provides free legal services to low- and moderate-income clients, as well as undocumented individuals.
 - *Prevention Programs*

- *Hudson County Eviction Prevention Program Update* – Monica Yeng from the Hudson County Office of Social Services updated the group that the ERA I program has paid out over \$6.8 million to date. The average number of months owed in back rent is 4.7. Fifty-seven households were approved for perspective rent to maintain household stability, totaling over \$373,000. For ERA II, 654 applications have been successfully submitted, this application should remain open through the end of the year.
 - *Jersey City Program* – Jamie Ding from Jersey City Community Development shared that the Jersey City program reopened on October 4th and they are still processing applications, but it looks like the lottery will not be necessary.
 - *North Hudson Community Action Corp* – Michele Musumici reported that they have plenty of funds still available for assistance.
- *Family Stability Committee* – Naomi announced that the next meeting will host a training from Essex Regional Educational Services Commission’s Executive Director, LaMonica McIver on November 8th at 10 AM.
- *Food and Shelter Coalition* – LaTrenda Ross shared that the group is gearing up for another year of roundtable discussions, in which the community is invited to participate. The upcoming discussions will be on November 4th and December 2nd at 6:45 PM. The next Food and Shelter Coalition meeting will be held on November 9th at 1:30 PM. The annual donation drive is being organized and further information will be distributed when it is available.
- *Veterans Committee* – Kelly McGuinness from Soldier On announced that the subcommittee just met prior to this meeting. They began with Kevin giving a snapshot on the County veteran data trends in the County. Within the last 90 days, 54 veterans entered into the homelessness system. The average age was 49, predominantly male, and over half have a disabling condition. They also had a by-name list case conferencing session with SSVF providers, coordinated entry, and VA. \Veterans Day is next month on November 11th, and Hudson County is being awarded the We Value Our Veterans award which will be presented by the Governor at 11 AM at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Holmdel. In addition, Hudson County will hold a tribute to the veterans at the Historic Jersey City in Harsimus Cemetery, also on Veterans Day at 2:30 PM. They also discussed a new Shallow subsidy program through SSVF. Next meeting will be December 15th at 1 PM.

Announcements

- Priscilla Carmona from SCORES Reentry Program introduced herself and the work that her organization does. They provide case management services, linkages to employment and housing, and mental health and addiction services for individuals impacted by incarceration and addiction. They take referrals from the community, and typically provide services for up to one year. They partner with Seton Hall, Rutgers, and William Patterson to provide training opportunities to social work students and recent graduates.
- Katelyn announced that Naomi is beginning to plan the 2022 PIT Count, details on a planning meeting will be released soon.
- Katelyn announced that DCA released two RFPs – one for a shelter support grant and the other for the HPRP program. However, Hudson County is not eligible for the HPRP program this year. If any

emergency shelter is interested in applying for the shelter support grant, please submit your letter of support request by November 3rd for approval from the group.

- Jaclyn Cherubini from the Hoboken Shelter announced that all changes for the 2022 Resource Guide should be sent to herself and Naomi by November 1st. Secondly, all LROs that are recipients of funding, please remember that by October 31st your recent audits need to be submitted. The third announcement is that the City of Hoboken approved the American Legion Post 107 to have a parking lot to build a building with 18 units of housing for homeless veterans. Lastly, Hoboken Shelter is looking for a Monday-Friday case manager to help their guests navigate systems. Please share any interested candidates with her.
- Katelyn announced that the Warming Center will be opening on November 15th. It will run continuously through March 31st. When all materials are finalized, they will be sent out through the listserv.
- Monica Yeng announced that the Office of Social Services will be opening their doors beginning on October 25th, Monday-Friday, from 9 AM-3 PM, exclusively for those applying for the ERA II program and anyone who is currently homeless or has received an appointment from their office.
- Candy Brewster reminded the group that HMFA is opening a homeowner assistance program any day now with American Rescue Act dollars. This program is for homeowners who have fallen behind on their mortgages due to COVID-19-related issues. About \$300 million will be available to the State. Monica asked if the homeowner needs to live in the home, Candy was not sure, but thought that it would be for any homeowner.
- Jamie Ding announced that tomorrow is his last day with Jersey City.

The meeting was adjourned with the next meeting scheduled to take place on Wednesday, December 15th at 2pm.

Voting Agency Attendance

Agency	Name
Bayonne Economic Opportunity Foundation	Donna Cullen*
Catholic Charities	Crystal Hopkins Angelo Hunt Yanil Mendoza
Community Hope	Pilar Rodriguez*
Covenant House	Hillary Powell*
Garden State CDC	Susan Milan*
Helping Arms	Donald Weinbaum*
Hoboken Shelter	Jaclyn Cherubini*
Hudson County Housing and Community Development	George Serio* Katelyn Ravensbergen* Kevin Llangari*
Hudson County Housing Resource Center	Carmen Esquilin
Hudson County Office of Social Services	Monica Yeng* Jacqueline Gomez*
Jersey City Community Development	Jamie Ding Samantha Carpio* Anthony Washington
Jersey City Housing Authority	Jacqueline Suarez* Sabrina Quinones Andrea Telez
Jersey City Medical Center	Kimberly Blackwell

Let's Celebrate, Inc.	Angelique Williams*
North Hudson Community Action Corp	Michele Musumici*
Soldier On	Kelly McGuinness*
The House of Faith	Jennifer Rejfir*
The Waterfront Project	Kayla Zimmer*
United Way Hudson County	Carmel Galasso* Samantha Martinez-Mendoza*
Women Rising	Anne Christensen*

**Designates voting member*

Non-Voting Agency Attendance

Agency	Name
Community Member	Hollie Guinn
DCP&P	Georgina DeRosa
Horizon New Jersey Health	Ricardo Pasos
Hudson County Health & Human Services	Kiyada Pittman
Hudson County Welfare & Food and Shelter Coalition	LaTrenda Ross
Hudson Pride	Stephanie Mills
Jersey City Health and Human Services	Paul Bellan-Boyer
Monarch Housing Associates	Nadine Azari
NJ DFD	Keshia Reynolds Linda Brodie
NJ HMFA	Candy Brewster
Northeast NJ Legal Services	Joseph Calaceto
SCORES Reentry Program	Priscilla Carmona
US Veterans Affairs	Charmaine McLawrence