



THE HUDSON COUNTY ALLIANCE
TO END HOMELESSNESS

HCAEH Meeting Minutes

December 15th, 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.

Provider Updates

- *Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP)* – Kayla Hanley from Hudson County Health and Human Services went over the four prongs of the COSSAP program to give the group an overview of what it is. The \$1.2 million grant is entering year three of three and is a federally funded program through the Department of Justice. They already partner with several shelters to provide case management and mental health services to qualifying clients and are looking to expand their reach to more agencies and community partners. If anyone is interested in partnering or learning more, please reach out to Kayla.
- *Haven Adolescent Respite Basic Center Grant* – Amy Albert from Haven announced that they received a federal grant called the Basic Center Grant, a three-year grant to provide 21 days of respite to young people under the age of 18 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The best way to get in touch is to email or call the intake coordinator. They will open January 3rd and can take up to four young people at a time. Haven is also hiring, and applicants can reach out to the admin address with their resumes before next Wednesday.
- *St. Lucy's Shelter Renovation* – Claudia Marks from Catholic Charities announced the construction for a new state of the art shelter has just begun, after knocking down the old building a couple of months ago. Estimated completion is January 2023. The new building will have different tiers of housing for various Catholic Charities programs.
- *AmeriCorps Program* – Grace Moran introduced the AmeriCorps program that she works with, which is comprised of 18–26-year-olds from diverse backgrounds who work to strengthen their communities and develop leadership through community services. Any agencies or organizations that are interested in volunteer work can contact her directly to learn how to apply.
- *2022 HCAEH Resource Guide* – Jaclyn Cherubini from the Hoboken Shelter shared with the group the final draft of the 2022 Resource Guide for last looks before it is translated into Spanish. The final deadline for edits is next Monday.

CoC Business

- *FY2021 CoC Competition Updates* –Katelyn stated that applications were due in November, all renewals and new projects were submitted and are now in the annual waiting period, waiting for HUD to come back with awards. She does not anticipate hearing anything before the end of January.

It is possible that HUD will first announce Tier 1 awards before Tier 2 at a later date. The full CoC application is available to the public on the County's website.

- *CoC Data Work* – Kevin Llangari from the Hudson County Division of Housing & Community Development showed the group graphs with the typical data points tracked. The charts illustrate the extent of data quality errors throughout the CoC by HMIS Project Type. The main issue that Kevin is seeing is with missing annual updates. This is a major problem because this percentage has never been so high. Kevin recommended that all programs look over the report that he sent out to address issues with data quality. He then demonstrated how to run a data quality report on HMIS to find which clients are missing annual updates. The annual update may be entered within 30 days before or after the anniversary of that client's admission. Jaclyn Cherubini commented that the labor/staffing shortage has impacted data quality and providers' turnaround time in inputting data in HMIS. Candy Brewster from NJ HMFA added that income information is something that HUD scored the CoC on – they want to see that contact is with clients is being had and that their income increases after entering housing. There is an email notification alert option that can be set up in HMIS to remind providers of which clients are missing annual reports. Additionally, if providers forget to discharge clients, this can also cause problems of requiring an annual report when the client is actually no longer with the agency. Anne Christensen from WomenRising noted that several wellbeing questions were added for PSH programs. Kevin mentioned that an additional form has been added during intake of clients, which is the HCAEH Consent Form. This allows subcommittees to case conference about specific client.

CEAS Business

- *SSH Updates* – Katelyn reported that they are currently working on the 2022 awards, which have been routed to the Commissioners for approval. There were some changes to the program, the most notable of which is that emergency food is no longer an eligible expense under the SSH program for clients that are not receiving SSH prevention assistance. The County is working with Let's Celebrate to identify funding sources to help move forward. All shelters received a per diem rate increase to allow for shelters to increase staff wages. Increases in SSH funding were approved.

2022 Point in Time Count

- Naomi Lesnewski from the Hudson County Division of Housing and Community Development reported that the Point in Time Count will be held on Wednesday, January 26th, counting for the night before of January 25th. The first planning meeting already took place, and in January there will be trainings held on Zoom by Monarch on all Tuesdays and Thursdays leading up to the Count. Donations are being collected via an Amazon wish list, or for items off the wish list you can coordinate directly with Naomi. She asked the group if they have any ideas surrounding where youth experiencing homelessness tend to congregate, please reach out to her via email or phone. Katelyn added that for all shelters and transitional housing providers, data will be taken directly from HMIS for the PIT.

New Initiatives/Programs

- *Hudson County Racial Equity Work* – Katelyn updated that CSH is working on a report with recommendations that came out of all focus groups. As soon as the County has that, it will be shared with the group.

Ongoing Updates

- *COVID-19 Updates*
 - *Prevention Programs*
 - *Hudson County Eviction Prevention Program Update* – Jacqueline Gomez from the Hudson County Office of Social Services updated the group that the office is currently working on both the ERA I and ERA II programs, and they continue to see in-person clients from 9 AM-3 PM if they are currently experiencing homelessness, have an appointment, or need to apply for ERA II.
 - *DCA Program*– Naomi announced that the DCA program is closing today. Northeast New Jersey Legal Services is offering assistance filing paperwork for the program from 5-7 PM tonight, at P.S. 11 on Bergen Ave.
- *EHV Programs* – Katelyn updated that Garden State has been working endlessly on referrals to the DCA and JCHA EHV programs. So far, almost 200 referrals have been made, with 43 approved by DCA and 72 under JCHA so far, with only one denial. The rest are still processing. Garden State is continuing to refer to DCA.
- *Family Stability Committee* – Gloria Acosta-Nelson from the York Street Project announced that the last meeting was a training from Essex Regional Educational Services Commission’s Executive Director, LaMonica McIver, which was helpful in giving members an overview on information regarding students experiencing homelessness.
- *Food and Shelter Coalition* – LaTrenda Ross shared that the group is hosting a donation drive through December 17th for the Flow Initiative, gathering menstrual products for women and girls. Products can also be dropped off at the Old Bergen Church. The next Food and Shelter Coalition meeting will be held on January 11th at 1:30 PM.
- *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. They also had a by-name list case conferencing session with SSVF providers, coordinated entry, and VA. The CSP Ocean Ave. building still has one veteran unit available. Soldier On opened their building in Monmouth County and will start to move in veterans on November 29th. Next meeting will be February 16th at 1 PM.

Announcements

- Andrea Telez from the Jersey City Housing Authority presented the Family Self-Sufficiency Program is part of the Housing Choice Voucher Program. JCHA is in the process of form a community partnership committee, made up by community partners, landlords, and tenants. Andrea invited all HCAEH members to join this committee, interested agencies can contact her directly.
- LaTrenda asked if any organizations had planned events for Homeless Persons Memorial Day next week. Anne suggested putting together an op-ed piece for a local paper.
- Jaclyn announced that FEMA-funded organizations should check their emails for updates.

The meeting was adjourned with the next meeting scheduled to take place on Wednesday, February 16th at 2pm.

Voting Agency Attendance

Agency	Name
Catholic Charities	Claudia Marks* Yanil Mendoza Crystle Hopkins Susana Armas
Community Health Law Project	Sean Benoit
Community Hope	Pilar Rodriguez*
Covenant House	Hillary Powell*
CSPNJ	Pamela Baker*
Garden State CDC	Susan Milan* Joanne Smith
Hoboken Shelter	Jaclyn Cherubini*
Hudson County Housing and Community Development	George Serio* Katelyn Ravensbergen* Kevin Llangari* Naomi Lesnewski
Hudson County Housing Resource Center	Carmen Esquilin
Hudson County Office of Social Services	Monica Yeng* Jacqueline Gomez*
Jersey City Housing Authority	Jacqueline Suarez* Andrea Telez
Jersey City Medical Center	Kimberly Blackwell*
Let's Celebrate, Inc.	Angelique Williams*
Soldier On	Kelly McGuinness* Danielle Mineo*
The House of Faith	Jennifer Rejfir*
The Waterfront Project	Rebecca Symes* William Page
United Way Hudson County	Samantha Martinez-Mendoza*
Women Rising	Anne Christensen*
York Street Project	Gloria Acosta-Nelson*

**Designates voting member*

Non-Voting Agency Attendance

Agency	Name
DCP&P	Georgina DeRosa
Haven	Amy Albert
Horizon New Jersey Health	Ricardo Pasos
Hudson County Welfare & Food and Shelter Coalition	LaTrenda Ross
Hyacinth	Chris Flamer
Jersey City Health and Human Services	Sharon Charles
Metropolitan Family Health Network	Garrick Hall
Monarch Housing Associates	Ashni Matthew
NJ DFD	Keshia Reynolds

	Linda Brodie
NJ DHS	Janelle McBride Keshia Reynolds Rhonda Walls
NJ HIV Housing Collaborative	Denise Brown
NJ HMFA	Candy Brewster
Northeast NJ Legal Services	Laura Arriaza
St. Matthew's Trinity Lunchtime Ministry	Stanley Enzweiler