



THE HUDSON COUNTY ALLIANCE  
TO END HOMELESSNESS

## **HCAEH Meeting Minutes**

**February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**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.

### **CoC Business**

- *FY2021 CoC Competition Updates* –Katelyn stated that the CoC is still waiting on HUD for award announcements, which should come out any day. It is possible that HUD will first announce Tier 1 awards before Tier 2 at a later date. It will be a desk monitoring year, which will probably start around May.
- *CoC Data Work* – Kevin Llangari from the Hudson County Division of Housing & Community Development thanked providers for their help in cleaning up HMIS data over the past couple of months. The LSA was submitted to HUD yesterday, showing all types of CoC outcomes. Kevin 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. He encouraged providers to keep an eye out for missing annual updates. Candy Brewster from NJ HMFA added that for PSH and RRH she is seeing lots of missing move-in dates for clients currently in projects. Statewide, over 3,000 people were missing move-in dates. Her suspicion is that many providers are forgetting to update this in HMIS. The admission date should almost never be the same as the move-in date, because no one starts working with a client and moves them in to housing on the same day. Kevin said that he would look into that from his end. Katelyn added that for CoC-funded organizations, this has been included in the performance review for the past couple of years as a non-scored item. Eventually the goal will be to move this into a scoring criterion, potentially for this year's evaluation.

### **CEAS Business**

- *SSH Updates* – Katelyn asked that any SSH recipients who have not submitted signed subcontracts, please do so as soon as possible in order to get everything finalized with the State. All shelters received a per diem rate increase to allow for shelters to increase staff wages. Increases in SSH funding were approved. Subcontracts will be updated with new amounts. For SSH vouchers moving forward, please submit first to Naomi Lesnewski to make sure that HMIS back-up matches.

### **2022 Point in Time Count**

- Naomi Lesnewski from the Hudson County Division of Housing and Community Development reported that the Point in Time Count was held on Wednesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>,

counting for the night before of January 25<sup>th</sup>. She thanked everyone who helped out on a very cold day. The Warming Center was open during the day because of the temperature, which will likely impact the unsheltered count. The next steps are to clean up data, and Kasey Vienckowski from Monarch Housing anticipates that numbers should be ready for PIT and HIC submissions by the first week of April. Please keep an eye out for any emails confirming numbers during this phase.

## 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 the ERA II program, which can pay up to 12 months of back rent and/or utilities. To date, for ERA II they have received 1,514 applications and have processed over \$2 million. Outreach continues across the County. For ERA I, almost all funding has been expended. The closing date for the application will be extended from what it is currently listed as (March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022).
    - *United Way Rental Assistance Update* – Carmel Galasso from the United Way announced that they are currently working with 55 clients from Jersey City. If anyone has a referral, they can pay up to 6 months of arrears and utilities. Additionally, they have HPP funds from DCA. The phone number for the screener is 201-492-2368.
    - *North Hudson Community Action Corporation Update* – Michele Musumici from NHCAC announced that they have SSH funding available as well as some COVID-specific funding.
    - *DCA Rental Assistance Program* – Katelyn announced that this program is closed, however the pre-application is still open on their website in case that they get another round of funding they will start with those who have submitted.
    - *HMFA Mortgage Assistance Program* – Candy announced that they are accepting applications through the online portal. They can pay up to \$37,000 in arrears, which can assist anyone who fell behind on their mortgage due to COVID-related issues. These are federal dollars that came to the State, which chose HMFA to administer the program.
- *Family Stability Committee* – Anne Christensen from WomenRising announced that they took a winter hibernation but the next meeting will be on March 14<sup>th</sup>.
- *Food and Shelter Coalition* – The next Food and Shelter Coalition meeting will be held on March 8<sup>th</sup> 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. There were 66 total veterans that came through the Hudson County homelessness system, compared to 57 on the last meeting. They also had a by-name list case conferencing session with SSVF providers, coordinated entry, and VA. Julia Foster from the Jersey City Veteran's Affairs Division will potentially be added to the Committee. Next meeting will be April 20<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM.

## Announcements

- Jaclyn Cherubini from the Hoboken Shelter announced that for the FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter Program there is a meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11 AM. The Hoboken Shelter is hiring a case manager at their new pay rate of \$25 per hour and are accepting applications at [resume@hobokenshelter.org](mailto:resume@hobokenshelter.org).
- Hassan Siddiqui from the Community Health Law Project announced that they are open and helping Hudson County residents with legal issues. If anyone is interested in a tenants' rights program or presentation, please let them know.
- Gloria Acosta-Nelson from the York Street Project announced that YSP's Maternity Group Home for pregnant or parenting youth has three vacancies and is accepting referrals.
- Susan Milan from Garden State CDC reminded the group that all referrals to Garden State should not be made with a specific program/voucher name. Coordinated Entry can do pre-screen and intake in-person or on the phone. All EHV vouchers have been completed.
- Katelyn announced to the group that this is her last CoC meeting as the CoC lead. She is leaving the County and Friday will be her last day. She will still be a part of the group in her position with Monarch Housing as Hudson County's consultant. Naomi Lesnewski will be taking over her role as Program Director and CoC chair. She said that it has been wonderful working with the group.

The meeting was adjourned with the next meeting scheduled to take place on Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 2pm.

### Voting Agency Attendance

Agency	Name
Bayonne Economic Opportunity Fund	Donna Cullen*
Catholic Charities	Claudia Marks* Yanil Mendoza Crystle Hopkins Susana Armas
Community Health Law Project	Hassan Siddiqui
Community Hope	Pilar Rodriguez*
Covenant House	Hillary Powell*
Garden State CDC	Susan Milan*
Helping Arms	Donald Weinbaum
Hoboken Shelter	Jaclyn Cherubini* Angelo Hunt Rev. Anthony Forbes
Hudson County Housing and Community Development	George Serio* Katelyn Ravensbergen* Kevin Llangari* Naomi Lesnewski
Hudson County Housing Resource Center	Carmen Esquilin* Ana Ohiwerei*
Hudson County Office of Social Services	Jacqueline Gomez*
Jersey City Medical Center	Mohanie Ganesh-Persaud*
North Hudson Community Action Corporation	Michele Musumici*
Soldier On	Kelly McGuinness* Danielle Mineo*
The House of Faith	Jennifer Rejfir*

The Waterfront Project	Kayla Zimmer* Kimberly Goycochea William Page
United Way Hudson County	Carmel Galasso*
Women Rising	Anne Christensen*
York Street Project	Gloria Acosta-Nelson*

*\*Designates voting member*

### **Non-Voting Agency Attendance**

Agency	Name
DCP&P	Georgina DeRosa
Hudson County Health & Human Services	Kiyada Pittman
Jersey City Health and Human Services	Paul Bellan-Boyer Sharon Charles Alma Santana
Monarch Housing Associates	Kasey Vienckowski
NJ DFD	Keshia Reynolds Linda Brodie
NJ DHS	Rhonda Walls
NJ HMFA	Candy Brewster
SCORES Reentry Program	Hayley Ortega
St. Matthew's Trinity Lunchtime Ministry	Stanley Enzweiler
The Community Builders	Michael Johnson
US Veteran's Affairs	Charmaine McLawrence