



THE HUDSON COUNTY ALLIANCE  
TO END HOMELESSNESS

## **HCAEH Meeting Minutes**

### **April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

### **2:00 PM**

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

- Keith Dent, Haven Adolescent Respite Center
- Isaiah Fudge, NJ-STEP at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
- Deja Anderson, Jersey City Community Development

#### **Approval of February Meeting Minutes**

#### **CoC Business**

- *FY2021 Competition Updates/Desk Monitoring* Naomi Lesnewski from the Hudson County Division of Housing and Community Development gave an update on desk monitoring. CoC-funded agencies have until April 29<sup>th</sup> to upload all documents through SM Apply. Naomi and Kevin will then send out initial monitoring and performance reports, and agencies will have two weeks to review these documents and make any necessary changes.
- *Match Strategies/Advocacy* Anne Christensen, with WomenRising: Discussed with Susan Milan about what can work within regulations. Reminder that advocacy counts and highlighted how certain programs had to turn down fiscal resources due to the amount of workload that their existing staff must handle. Called to further continue work together in order to meet these needs.

Susan Milan, with Garden State discussed how programs must match dollars to programming and the existing agencies cannot meet this match in order to receive HUD funds. Anne Christensen discussed forming a support group or a think tank within programs to figure out how to raise dollars for HUD funding. Jennifer Rejfir from House of Faith stated she would join this think tank. Carmel Galasso with United Way, highlighted the next HUD meeting is specifically for raising matching funds for HUD programs. Deja Anderson from Jersey City Community Development, stated that she too would like to be in the loop for this think tank.

Candy Brewster from NJ HMFA added that HUD has a monthly HMIS meeting, invited program members to attend. Stated that in the LSA Report that the issue of dual enrollment and duplicate clients in the system led to HUD developing a tool within HMIS to flag duplicate clients. Candy Brewster stated that there could be duplicate clients in HMIS due to client transferring over to another program. Candy Brewster also stated that HUD would be looking at the duplication of clients in HMIS moving forward.



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## Ongoing Updates

- Prevention Programming
  - *Hudson County Eviction Prevention Program:* Jacqueline Gomez with Hudson County Social Services stated that ERA-2 applications are still open. Under ERA-1, processed over 15000 applications with 8.2 million dollars dispersed. Under ERA-2, processed 1900 applications with 4.8 million dollars dispersed. Reach out to Jaqueline if applicants need help processing applications either in person or over the phone. Most applications can be filled out online, and Social Services will hope to be open for in person meetings within the next month. Programs can reach out directly to Jacqueline if there are any issues with their client's applications. HC Social Services continues to utilize hotels to house families.
  - *Jersey City Hardship Assistance Program/United Way Eviction Assistance Program:* Deja Anderson introduced Naicy Beltre from Jersey City Community Development, stated that ERA1 is closed. April 12 to the 18th is the week they will be accepting applications for ERA-2. Had a question for Jacqueline Gomez about accepting new applications, and Jacqueline Gomez stated that Hudson County Social Services is still taking applications for ERA-2

Carmel Galasso stated that they still have funds available for their programing. As of Monday, their program assisted 47 household with 125 cases currently in process. Any Jersey City residents can contact Jersey City's Hardship Assistant Program in order to start an application for these funds.

- *North Hudson Assistance Program:* Maria Crespo with North Hudson Community Action Corporation stated that their program still has funds available and are accepting applications still.
  - *New Jersey Emergency Rescue Mortgage Assistance (ERMA):* Candy Brewster stated that New Jersey EMRA is still accepting applications and has funds available for folks whose Mortgages were affected by COVID-19 issues. Can help qualified households up to \$35,000.00 in back taxes/mortgage to keep families in their homes.
- Family Stability Committee
    - *Childcare Needs Assessment:* Anne Christensen stated that the Committee meet last March. Discussed existing services, and then discussed loss of childcare due to parents working on the weekends and afternoons. This Committee will be collecting data through a survey, and asked programs to ask their clients to participate in order to assess needs.



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- *Food and Shelter Coalition:* LaTrenda Ross with Hudson County Welfare. Next meeting for the Food and Shelter Coalition will be May 10th at 1:30pm to 2:30pm. A flier is available for distribution.
- *Veterans Committee:* Kelly McGuinness with Soldier On stated that they began their meeting with a data snapshot with Kevin Llangari, looking at how many total veterans entered their system. Continued to work on 4 specific benchmarks and completed their review. Joni Owens reminded that the Veterans Committee that the federal goal is to end homelessness for 38,000 veterans by December of this year. June 15th at 1:00m is the next Veterans Committee meeting.

### **Announcements**

- Candy Brewster discussed duplicates of individuals within the HMIS and related HUD programs.
- Anne Christensen had a question about the PIT count, stated that the last meeting minutes would have a preliminary number for this meeting. Katelyn Ravensbergen from Monarch Housing stated that the PIT count will have the basic numbers done by the June meeting. The total PIT count should be released sometime after that. Naomi Lesnewski stated that the PIT count will still have abnormal numbers due to the omicron surge.
- Anne Christensen asked if the Warming Center would release a report on what the past season looked like. Pamela Baker from the Collaborative Support Programs of New Jersey stated that the numbers from the Warming Center were pretty steady, with 80-90 clients served in January to February. Even by the end of the season there were about 60 clients being served. The 2021 season had an average of 55 guest served a night, with 2022 season seeing an increase of 60 guests on average per night. Anne Christensen asked if there was a way to track guests who transitioned into shelters or rapid rehousing from the Warming Center. Pamela Baker stated that this season had a more coordinated effort to connect overnight guests to services like respite, housing and medical. There will be an effort to track this conversation moving forward.
- Jamila from the York Street Project wanted to advocate the vacancies in their group home for pregnant or parenting youth between the ages of 16 to 21. Asked for referrals for clients who fit these demographics.
- Jaclyn Cherubini with the Hoboken Shelter published links to free trainings coming up for programs. Specifically with Pilar University with Mental Health First Aid on the 22nd and 23rd of this week, along with Racial Justice on Tuesday the 26th in homelessness and fringe poverty. The Emergency Food and Shelter Program for FEMA Funds awards have been given, mentioned that March 2nd was the meeting



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for that fund. Paperwork can be submitted to Katrina at United Way of Hudson County for recipient programs.

**Voting Agency Attendance**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Name</b>
<b>Bayonne Economic Opportunity Foundation</b>	Samantha Howard* Donna Cullen*
<b>Catholic Charities of New Jersey</b>	Susana Armas Nefera Lawton Crystal Hopkins Yanil Mendoza Sulaiman Abdullah
<b>Collaborative Support Programs of New Jersey</b>	Pamela Baker*
<b>Community Health Law Project</b>	Sean Benoit
<b>Community Hope Inc.</b>	Pilar Rodriguez*
<b>Covenant House</b>	Caroline Sunchuk Hillary Powell* Robert Hayes
<b>Garden State Community Development Corporation/PERC Shelter</b>	Susan Milan* Joanne Smith
<b>Helping Arms</b>	Donald Weinbaum*
<b>Hoboken Shelter</b>	Jaclyn Cherubini* Angelo Hunt Rev. Anthony Forbes Stanley Enzweiler
<b>House of Faith</b>	Jennifer Rejfir*
<b>Hudson County Division of Housing &amp; Community Development</b>	Naomi Lesnewski* Kevin Llangari *
<b>Hudson County Housing Resource Center</b>	Ana Ohiwerei* Linda Galarreta*
<b>Hudson County Social Services</b>	Monica Yeng* Jaqueline Gomez*
<b>Jersey City Community Development</b>	Ticheal Hill Deja Anderson* Naicy Beltre Jasmine Drew Saulo Diaz
<b>Jersey City Housing Authority</b>	Bianca Mendoza
<b>Jersey City Medical Center/MASSH</b>	Kimberly Blackwell*
<b>Let's Celebrate</b>	Angelique Williams*
<b>North Hudson Community Action Corporation</b>	Maria Crespo* Marsha Nivins
<b>Soldier On</b>	Kelly McGuinness*



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<b>United Way of Hudson County</b>	Carmel Galasso*
<b>Waterfront Project</b>	Carmen Esquilin Kayla Zimmer* Rebecca Symes* Kimberly Goycochea William Page Helen Paille
<b>Women Rising</b>	Ann Christensen*
<b>York Street Project</b>	Gloria Acosta-Nelson* Shakila Ali

*\*Designates voting member*

**Non-Voting Agency Attendance**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Name</b>
<b>Community Builders</b>	Audrey Nonemaker
<b>Grace Church Van Vorst</b>	Anara Zhakupova
<b>Haven Adolescent Community Respite Center</b>	Keith Dent
<b>Helping Arms, Inc.</b>	Donald Weinbaum
<b>Hudson County DHHS</b>	Kiyada Pittman
<b>Hudson County Family Services</b>	Sabrina Franco
<b>Hudson County Welfare (Food and Shelter Coalition)</b>	LaTrenda Ross
<b>Hudson Regional Health Commission</b>	Ariana Simon
<b>Jersey City Department of Health and Human Services</b>	Alma Santana
<b>Monarch Housing Associates</b>	Katelyn Ravensbergen
<b>Northeast New Jersey Legal Service</b>	Laura Arriaza
<b>NJ DFD</b>	Keshia Reynolds
<b>NJ HHC</b>	Denise Brown
<b>NJ HMFA</b>	Candy Brewster
<b>NJ-STEP at Rutgers</b>	Isaiah Fudge
<b>SCORES Re-entry</b>	Hayley Ortega
<b>US Veteran's Affairs</b>	Charmaine McLawrence Joni Owen

**Closing** - next HCAEH Meeting is on Wednesday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022