



THE HUDSON COUNTY ALLIANCE  
TO END HOMELESSNESS

## HCAEH Meeting Minutes February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 2:00 PM

### Welcome and Introductions

David Hepperle with West New York Housing Authority motioned to approve last meeting's minutes, motion passed.

### CoC Business

- 2023 Meeting Schedule; every other month on a Wednesday at a 2:00pm, pdf was attached to HCAEH email.
- Warming Center Updates: Naomi Lesnewski Program Director at Hudson County: Attendance has been hitting record seasonal highs, and this rise is a testament to the medical services offered by Alliance and CSP NJ's staff. On average there are 120 people there a night. Additionally, adding a new pickup in North Hudson has added new clients. The biggest pick-up spots this season have been the CSP NJ Drop-in Center and Hoboken.
- CoC Data Work: Kevin Llangari with Hudson County; Data quality report was attached to HCAEH email.

### SSH Updates

All Contracts went out to providers, most providers have returned their contract documents signed. Please email [nlesnewski@hcnj.us](mailto:nlesnewski@hcnj.us) if you have any questions or concerns with contract documents.

### ESG-CV Updates

Naomi Lesnewski; funding has passed, United Way and Garden State's rapid rehousing programs will be awarded funding for these services this contract year.

### Ongoing Updates

- Training Opportunities: Maeve McCullough Senior Program Analyst with Hudson County: Ongoing free training through the New Jersey Division of Civil Rights on microaggressions and housing. SAMSHA is also hosting a training on behavioral health training on homelessness and 9-8-8 hotline. These trainings can be found at <https://www.njoag.gov/about/divisions-and-offices/division-on-civil-rights-home/education-and-training-unit/etu-trainings/> and at <https://www.samhsa.gov/homelessness-programs-resources>
- Prevention Programming
  - Hudson County Eviction Prevention Program: Monica Yeng with Hudson County's Office of Social Services: Paid over \$23 million in rental assistance and back rent assistance. The ERA application for Hudson County is open and will remain open until March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023. The average number of months paid is 5.6 months, average family size is 2.4, and 68% of the applicants are single



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women head of household. The cities with the highest percentage of applications are Bayonne, Union City and West New York. Any residents in need of rental assistance from other municipalities are encouraged to apply for this assistance. If the deadline is extended, an email will go out over the HCAEH list serve.

- Jersey City Hardship Assistance Program/United Way Eviction Assistance Program: Saulo Diaz from the City of Jersey City, there is an active waitlist for ERA funds.
  - Carmel Galasso from United Way: Housed 192 households in Jersey City, spent \$1.3 million dollars for homeless prevention. This funding has finished. Call the United Way number at 201-492-2368 to be screened for services and allow at least 24 hours for a call to be returned.
  - Naomi Lesnewski: This number is one of the only options that Jersey City residents have currently to receive assistance in back rent, security deposit or utility assistance.
- North Hudson Assistance Program: Michele Musumici with North Hudson; There is assistance for people through SSH funds.
- New Jersey Emergency Rescue Mortgage Assistance (ERMA): Naomi Lesnewski: if you visit the HMFA website you can still access mortgage assistance.
- 2023 Resource Guide: Updated versions in English and Spanish are available.
- PIT Count: Naomi Lesnewski: Monarch Housing Associates will be reaching out to providers in the next couple of months concerning data duplicates, and the 2023 PIT Count will be released after data concerns are cleared.
- Family Stability Committee: Anne Christensen with WomenRising; March 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am is the next meeting and the topic of concern is underdevelopment.
- Food and Shelter Coalition: La-Trenda Ross with The Food and Shelter Coalition; met on Valentine's Day with the Hoboken Library presenting, and the NJ Division of Civil Rights also presented at this meeting. The NJ Division of Civil Rights, Tisha Leonardo-Santiago is looking to connect with agencies in Hudson County in order to present these trainings at agencies and other businesses. Tisha Leonardo-Santiago will be hosting a training on May 4<sup>th</sup> concerning housing rights, The Food and Shelter coalition has an updated logo. Next meeting is April 11<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00am.
- Veterans Committee: Kelly McGuinness with Soldier On; met before this one, reviewed the last 90 days dashboard, 64 veterans entered the homeless system in Hudson County. 59% of that group of veterans were not connected to an SSVF agency and discussed how to address this linkage. Reviewed the federal benchmark generating tool, and discussed data consent forms with Kevin and providers. Completed case conferencing, and the next meeting will be April 19<sup>th</sup>, an hour before the HCAEH meeting.



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## Announcements

- Cynthia Vasquez Interim Division Director of Injury Prevention: introduced the Health Outreach Bus Program, that program is led under Jonathan Blunt who is the interim Manager for this program. Reach out to [C. Vazquez@jcnj.org](mailto:C.Vazquez@jcnj.org) concerning this Jersey City program.
- La-Trenda Ross: Title XX has 8 openings for elderly adults who are disabled and need free homecare services, please refer anyone who is eligible to this program. If your program has any community events coming up in this year, please also forward these events to La-Trenda Ross.
- Delma E. Yorimoto Senior Program Coordinator, with the Department of Family and Community Health: email [delma.yorimoto@rutgers.edu](mailto:delma.yorimoto@rutgers.edu). Delma Yorimoto is running a health and wellness program and is looking to present in the community.
- Kevin Llangari; LSA and system performance reports were completed in January and were submitted on the behalf of the CoC. Next HMIS report will be the NoFo performance reviews in the late spring/early summer. The data quality report has improved, and there are less than 10% of data errors for given elements. Annual assessments for clients are the most common data error in HMIS currently. This is the last CoC meeting Kevin Llangri will be attending, Kevin is moving into the role of Office Director in a new Data Division in Hudson County.
- Andrea Drenzek with the Hudson County Division of Aging; Andrea is the Assistant Executive Director for Aging, staff at this division runs through care management and Medicare management. Within the past 6 months, this Division has started working with the HC Office of Social Services with Monica Yeng and Jaqueline Gomez to help house individuals over the age of 60 who are in dire straits. This division also work with Adult Protective Services. This division will coordinate services for seniors in Hudson County, and has focused on providing housing for seniors in the after effects of Covid. Refer any seniors to Andrea Drenzek if they have Medicare/Medicaid and need to be assisted.

**Closing** - next HCAEH Meeting is on Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 2:00pm.



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**Voting Agency Attendance**

| <b>Agency</b>  | <b>Name</b>  |
|--|--|
| <b>Bayonne Economic Foundation</b>                                   | Donna Cullen*  |
| <b>Collaborative Support Programs of New Jersey</b>                  | Pamela Baker*  |
| <b>Community Health Law Project</b>                                  | Sean Benoit*   |
| <b>Covenant House</b>  | Hillary Powell*<br>Robert Hayes                          |
| <b>Garden State Community Development Corporation</b>                | Susan Milan*<br>Ignael Cartagena                         |
| <b>Helping Arms</b>  | Donald Weinbaum  |
| <b>Hoboken Shelter</b>   | Jaclyn Cherubini*  |
| <b>House of Faith</b>  | Jennifer Rejfir  |
| <b>Hudson County Division of Housing &amp; Community Development</b> | Naomi Lesnewski*<br>Kevin Llangari *<br>Maeve McCullough |
| <b>Hudson County Housing Resource Center</b>                         | Ana Ohiwerei*  |
| <b>Hudson County Social Services</b>                                 | Monica Yeng*<br>Jaqueline Gomez*                         |
| <b>Jersey City Housing Authority</b>                                 | Jacqueline Suarez*<br>Evette Jackson                     |
| <b>Jersey City Community Development</b>                             | Saulo Diaz*  |
| <b>Let's Celebrate</b>   | Angelique Williams*                                      |
| <b>North Hudson Community Action Corporation</b>                     | Michele Musumici*  |
| <b>Soldier On</b>  | Kelly McGuinness*<br>Danielle Mineo                      |
| <b>United Way of Hudson County</b>                                   | Carmel Galasso*  |
| <b>Waterfront Project</b>  | Carmen Esquilin<br>Kimberly Goycochea                    |
| <b>WomenRising</b>   | Anne Christensen*  |
| <b>York Street Project</b>   | Shakila Ali<br>Jamilla Gantt                             |

*\*Designates voting member*



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**Non-Voting Agency Attendance**

| <b>Agency</b>  | <b>Name</b>                                       |
|--|---|
| <b>City of Jersey City</b>                                   | Sharon Charles                                    |
| <b>Church World Services</b>                                 | Nora Kushner Salitan                              |
| <b>Hudson County Office of Aging</b>                         | Andrea Drenzek                                    |
| <b>Hudson County Department of Health and Human Services</b> | LaTrenda Ross<br>Kiyada Pittman<br>Samantha Moore |
| <b>Hudson County Office of Social Services</b>               | La-Trenda Ross<br>Pam McCrory                     |
| <b>Jersey City Community Development</b>                     | Cynthia Vazquez<br>Sharon Charles<br>Gail Alston  |
| <b>Monarch Housing Associates</b>                            | Katelyn Ravensbergen                              |
| <b>Newark YMCA</b>   | Brenda Myrick                                     |
| <b>NJ DCPD</b>   | Georgina DeRosa                                   |
| <b>NJ Department of Human Services</b>                       | Keshia Reynolds<br>Ola Olorode                    |
| <b>NJ VA</b>   | Danielle Michel-Clarke                            |
| <b>NJ HMFA</b>   | Candy Brewster                                    |
| <b>Rutgers University</b>                                    | Delma Yorimoto                                    |
| <b>SCORES Reentry</b>  | Priscilla Carmona                                 |
| <b>St. Matthews Lunchtime Ministry</b>                       | Stanley Enzweiler                                 |
| <b>St. Clare's Services</b>                                  | Jaleesa McEachin                                  |
| <b>Styles House</b>  | Monique Wilson                                    |
| <b>West New York Housing Authority</b>                       | David Hepperle                                    |