



THE HUDSON COUNTY ALLIANCE  
TO END HOMELESSNESS

## HCAEH Meeting Agenda April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 2:00 PM

### Welcome and Introductions

- Tisha Leonardo-Santiago, New Jersey Division on Civil Rights:  
Tisha “Tee” Leonardo-Santiago is the Interim Director of Outreach & Community Relation for the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights. A one-hour training will be available for the CoC, and ongoing trainings are free and available at <https://www.njoag.gov/about/divisions-and-offices/division-on-civil-rights-home/education-and-training-unit/etu-trainings/>

First training is Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at noon on Housing Discrimination.  
Contact Interim Director Tisha Leonardo-Santiago at [<Tisha.leonardo@njcivilrights.gov>](mailto:Tisha.leonardo@njcivilrights.gov) or call 609-775-3682.

- Connie Mercer, New Jersey Coalition to End Homelessness:  
Introduced the New Jersey Coalition to End Homelessness. This organization’s mission is to create systemic change in shelters in New Jersey. This organization will meet next month to discuss future funding from the State for shelters. Any interested party for the NJCEH’s monthly meetings should sign up at <https://www.njceh.org/>. Contact Connie Mercer at [<ConnieM@HomeFrontNJ.org>](mailto:ConnieM@HomeFrontNJ.org).

Jaclyn Cherubini from Hoboken Shelter endorsed attending the New Jersey Coalition to End Homelessness virtual meeting for shelter providers. Signing up for their mailing list is a great way to access more resources. Reach out to Connie Mercer to attend these once a month meetings.

### CoC Business

- 2022 Competition Results: Naomi Lesnewski, Program Director at Hudson County Division of Housing and Community Development; HUD put out the competition results and will also be on the Hudson County Website. All renewal projects have been funded, however, did not receive any funding for the Special NoFo or DV project. No recipients in the state of New Jersey received any awards for the Special NoFo, however there will be opportunities in the future for these proposed projects.
- CoC Monitoring: Naomi Lesnewski will be starting monitoring for 2023. Please sign up for a date and time through the calendar link that was sent out. Email [<nlesnewski@hcnj.us>](mailto:nlesnewski@hcnj.us) if there are any concerns.



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- 2023 Competition Updates: 2023 NoFo has not yet been released, and this is expected to be released after Memorial Day.
- Warming Center Updates: Season ended on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Current shelter system has seen an influx of guests due to the Warming Center closing for the season. Nightly average was around 104 guests each month. The highest number of guests was 136, and the building has received updates to support the increase of guests. There are no current plans to extend the season as of now, or to convert to a cooling center. There are some zoning issues and building issues that would have to be addressed before extending this into a year-round seasonal emergency center. AC units are being planned to be installed in the Warming Center. Please email [nlesnewski@hcnj.us](mailto:nlesnewski@hcnj.us) for a copy of the end of season report.
- CoC Data Work; Kevin Llangari has officially stepped away from his role as Data Analyst for Hudson County's Division of Housing and Community Development. Kelly McGuinness has taken over Kevin's reviewing data for the Veterans Subcommittee. Monarch Housing Associate's Katelyn Ravensbergen will be taking over for HMIS data clean up and data reviews.
- PIT Count: Katelyn Ravensbergen from Monarch Housing Associates; preliminary numbers for the 2023 PIT Count are

Emergency Shelter: 656  
Transitional Housing: 41  
Total Sheltered: 697  
Unsheltered: 223  
Total Counted: 920

Data from the PIT Count is on par with pre-pandemic levels in 2020. Monarch Housing Associates is currently working on the summaries for each vendor in Hudson County that participated in the PIT Count. Hudson County is seeing an increase in shelter stays, total sheltered and cold blue stays. Emergency shelter use has increased by roughly 150 individuals since last year. Final PIT Count and related documents will be released by Monarch Housing Associates soon. Visit the website to view the 2022 PIT Count: <https://monarchhousing.org/nj-counts/>

### **SSH Updates:**

Naomi Lesnewski: Monitoring will be completed at the same time as CoC monitoring. For this monitoring, agencies who receive SSH-TANF funds through Hudson County will be given three client files a head of time to review. Naomi will reach out to agencies soon to set up SSH-TANF monitoring for 2022.

Additionally, as of April 24<sup>th</sup>, the Division of Social Services will not be taking applications for prevention for families, just individuals. NHCAC still has family



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assistance available, please forward any families seeking prevention to NHCAC after April 24<sup>th</sup>.

**ESG Updates:** Applications are open until 4:00pm this Friday on [smapply.com](https://smapply.com). Reach out to [nlesnewski@hcnj.us](mailto:nlesnewski@hcnj.us) with questions or concerns.

### Ongoing Updates

- Prevention Programming
  - Hudson County Eviction Prevention Program: Monica Yeng with Hudson County Office of Social Services: ERA 1 and 2 has paid 25 million in back rent and utilities. This program will be open until June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2023 for Hudson County.
  - Jersey City Hardship Assistance Program/United Way Eviction Assistance Program: City of Jersey City; Current ERA application is closed and are currently working on opening to process ERA 2 applications.
  - North Hudson Assistance Program; Michele Musumici with NHCAC, still have SSH-TANF funds and some FEMA funds to disperse.
  - New Jersey Emergency Rescue Mortgage Assistance (ERMA); Candy Brewster from NJHMFA states that this program is still open at the NJHMFA.
- *Family Stability Committee:* Anne Christensen with WomenRising; The Family Stability Committee met and reviewed resources and will be meeting in the next quarter.
- *Food and Shelter Coalition:* Maeve McCullough from Hudson County Division of Housing and Community Development for LaTrenda Ross; The Family Stability Committee meet on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, with 41 people in attendance. There were three presenters; Lilia Diaz from PSEG, Lissette Diaz from The Waterfront Project and Eiko Laboria from United State of Women. The HC Food and Shelter Coalition and NJ Civil Rights Division will have a community roundtable discussion about housing rights and protections under the Division on Civil Rights jurisdiction and explain how to file a complaint through the New Jersey Bias Investigation Access System ("NJBIAS"). Thursday, May 4, 2022, from 6pm - 8pm at the Mary McLeod Bethune Center - 140 Martin Luther King Drive, Jersey City. We will also hand out 50 bags of groceries and we plan to have three vendors and there will be pizza and water. If anyone would like to add other items to hand out to the community, please let La-Trenda know by contacting her at [<fscohc@gmail.com>](mailto:fscohc@gmail.com).
- *Veterans Committee:* Kelly McGuinness with Soldier On; went over benchmarks and completed case conferencing for veterans in contact with Coordinated Entry. Veterans Snapshot: 69 total Vets entered the system in the last 90 days, 48% are active in shelter, and 52% were discharged. Average age of all vets entering the system is 51 years old, 58% adults 41% seniors. 68% have a disabling condition. Next meeting will be June 21<sup>st</sup> an hour before the HCAEH meeting.



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## **Announcements**

- Candy Brewster; next meeting will be pushed back because of PIT and new RFPS. Next Friday in May the new HMIS data manual will be released. New Coordinated Entry in HMIS will also be adding homelessness prevention to the initial intake.
- Carmel Galasso with United Way of Hudson County; DCA Homeless Prevention Grant updates. United Way is getting calls and walk-ins from referrals from other agencies. This grant is not emergency housing and requirements are very strict, and it takes up to 2 months to get approval. This grant ends in July, please do not send walk-ins to United Way for this grant, call the phone number first.
- Jaqueline Gomez with Hudson County Office of Social Services; Saturday on the 29<sup>th</sup> there will be a maternal health event at the Cornelison site for applications. Medicaid, Angela Cares, Alliance Health and Urban League will be on site. SNAP applications will be processed on site. Housing applications for ERA will also be open on that day. Please refer individuals to this day for in person applications.
- Jacob Pirogovsky from Lighthouse; will be helping with asylum seekers to look for stable and permanent housing. There will be openings in the summer for July or August for housing for asylum seekers.
- Garden State – PERC Shelter, Tom Harrigan has passed away, James Smith is the interim Director for PERC. The phone number is 201-348-8150 ext. 501
- Naomi Lesnewski; will be out on family medical leave in July because she is having a baby. Naomi will be on the June HCAEH meeting, and afterwards Katelyn Ravensbergen will be taking over for hosting the HCAEH meetings.

**Closing** - next HCAEH Meeting is on Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 at 2:00pm



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### Voting Agency Attendance

Agency	Name
<b>Bayonne Economic Opportunity Foundation</b>	Donna Cullen*
<b>Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Newark</b>	Kyra Watts Susana Armas Yanil Mendoza
<b>Collaborative Support Programs of New Jersey</b>	Corrine Dexter*
<b>Community Hope</b>	Ashley Ferreira Pilar Rodriguez*
<b>Covenant House</b>	Hillary Powell* Robert Hayes
<b>Garden State Community Development Corporation</b>	Susan Milan* Carol Mori* Ignael Cartagena
<b>Hoboken Shelter</b>	Jaclyn Cherubini* James Shipman
<b>House of Faith</b>	Jennifer Rejfir
<b>Hudson County Division of Housing &amp; Community Development</b>	Naomi Lesnewski* Maeve McCullough
<b>Hudson County Housing Resource Center</b>	Ana Ohiwerei*
<b>Hudson County Social Services</b>	Monica Yeng* Jaqueline Gomez*
<b>Jersey City Housing Authority</b>	Jacqueline Suarez* Evette Jackson
<b>Jersey City Community Development</b>	Saulo Diaz* Naicy Beltre
<b>Let's Celebrate</b>	Angelique Williams*
<b>North Hudson Community Action Corporation</b>	Michele Musumici*
<b>Soldier On</b>	Kelly McGuinness* Danielle Mineo* Dana Wilson
<b>United Way of Hudson County</b>	Carmel Galasso*
<b>Waterfront Project</b>	Carmen Esquelin Kimberly Goycochea Alia Thomas
<b>WomenRising</b>	Anne Christensen*
<b>York Street Project</b>	Shakila Ali Jamilla Gantt

*\*Designates voting member*



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### Non-Voting Agency Attendance

Agency	Name
<b>City of Jersey City</b>	Agnes Theodossiou Amari Torres
<b>City of Hoboken</b>	Bianca Hoffer Lori Hetzel
<b>Church World Services</b>	Nora Kushner Salitan
<b>Hudson County Department of Health and Human Services</b>	Kiyada Pittman Samantha Moore
<b>Hudson Planning Council</b>	Chad Balodis
<b>Jersey City Community Development</b>	Maria Ambrossi Sharon Charles James Spiers Peter Jun Susan Ludwig Ticheal Hill
<b>Lighthouse</b>	Jacob Pirogovsky
<b>Monarch Housing Associates</b>	Katelyn Ravensbergen
<b>Newark YMCA</b>	Brenda Myrick Leslie DeHaseth Mabel Elmore
<b>NJ 211</b>	Marc Zelaya
<b>New Jersey Coalition to End Homelessness</b>	Connie Mercer
<b>NJ DCPD</b>	Georgina DeRosa
<b>NJ DCR</b>	Tisha Leonardo-Santiago
<b>NJ Department of Family Services</b>	Keshia Reynolds Ola Olorode Georgina DeRosa Michael Mattaliano
<b>NJ VA</b>	Danielle Michel-Clarke Lakisha Stewart
<b>NJ HMFA</b>	Candy Brewster
<b>Rutgers University</b>	Delma Yorimoto
<b>St. Matthews Lunchtime Ministry</b>	Stanley Enzweiler
<b>West New York Housing Authority</b>	David Hepperle