



THE HUDSON COUNTY ALLIANCE
TO END HOMELESSNESS

HCAEH Meeting Minutes

August 17th, 2022

2:00 PM

Welcome and Introductions

- Maeve McCullough, Hudson County Division of Housing & Community Development
 - Moved from rural Pennsylvania to Jersey City in March. Graduated from Penn State and has experience on the program side of homelessness systems as a Housing Specialist managing Rapid Rehousing Programs and a Shelter in Huntingdon, Mifflin and Juniata County. Has experience working as a Civilian Delegate serving as a Mental Health Delegate for Center County supporting people in mental health crisis to connect them to services.
- LaMonica McIver, Essex Regional Educational Services Commission:
 - Serve those who were put out of the traditional schooling system. Essex Regional Educational Services Commission manages grants related to homeless students and families. Also provides services to families that work in farms or other food processing industries. This program offers yoga and meditation, along with school supplies and backpacks. We do a little bit of everything. We wanted to offer up our services to offer a free after school program as well as arts and crafts, social and emotional programs. We offer these programs through our Federal Grant Programs and the Education Section of New Jersey.
- Robert Knapp, Hudson County Department of Family Services:
 - Robert Knapp is currently in his 55th year with Hudson County. He joined this meeting to give updates on what services are available for Agencies and Projects. There is a 3-page menu sheet available to all CoC members concerning the scope of services provided. Hudson County Department of Family Services handles TANF Medicaid, Public Assistance, ABD -Aged/Blinded and Disabled Medicaid, Energy Assistance Programs and SNAP.
 - During the pandemic, the office doors were closed for a period. With the doors closed, and the move to handling requests online we increased the SNAP caseload from the start of the pandemic to today to 35 additional SNAP clients. Our doors are currently open on a limited basis to see clients, all the interviewing is done with audio/video booths. Clients can enter Cornelison Ave on the 3rd floor and interview for the various programs using these booths. All documents are copied for the client on the third floor, and then sent up to the Case Manager who is handling the case.
 - Started handing EBT cards to clients in person last Monday. A good portion of this is handled online, with telephones or advocates also handing in



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applications. Have not curtailed these services, and did have an issue with the telephone lines due to the high volume of calls coming in. However, this was reminded by extending staff by an additional 27 employees, if the call comes in and cannot be answered by the original line, there are 27 other representatives that can answer the call.

CoC Business

- Date Change for December Meeting.
 - Originally scheduled for December 21st, this meeting will be moved to December 14th instead.
- FY2022 Competition Updates
 - Currently during local application process, and for all the agencies either renewing funding or applying for new programs will be in Survey Monkey Apply. The Deadline for submitting these applications is 08/30/2022 by 4:00pm. Please reach out to Naomi Lesnewski at nlesnewski@hcnj.us with questions. There is specific funding available for additional DV bonus projects.
- Unsheltered Special NOFO Updates
 - This NoFo is opening on Monday, August 22nd at 4:00pm. Members will also get an email with a link to the application and all supporting documents. There are two applications open, with the NoFo being specifically for new projects.
 - Taiisa Kelly from Monarch Housing: The process is going to be like last year's process. For the Unsheltered NoFo, as Naomi discussed, there is going to be a new application for projects to support people experiencing unsheltered homelessness- specifically how to get people stabilized and connect to services. There will be additional places to apply, will be working together how the community is addressing unsheltered homelessness for the next three years. There is plenty of opportunity for community to work together to address this.
 - Naomi Lesnewski, Program Director: as Taiisa said, there will be additional opportunities to discuss this. A survey was just closed yesterday about the Specialty NoFo, and this information can be accessed by request via email.
- Emergency Shelter and Supportive Services DCA Site Visits with Michael Callahan, Director of Homelessness Prevention:
 - There is a new Director of Homelessness at the DCA, Michael Callahan is interested in learning about the Hudson County Programs and Clients. Michael requested Naomi to set up site visits, shelters or drop in. Naomi is looking for agencies who are willing to host these visits. Specifically, one supportive service and one shelter. The two meeting times are set for September 9th between 2-4 pm, and September 16th at 9am to 11am. Please send an email to nlesnewski@hcnj.us if there is availability.
 - 9/9 2:00-4:00 PM
 - 9/16 9:00-11:00 AM
- CoC Data Work



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- Kevin Llangari with Hudson County discussed Agencies and Programs continuing to look at annual assessments for clients that are coming up. Make sure that the household is being put in correctly into the household section. Please check HMIS each week, you might have a client with an annual assessment due that week. If anything comes up in red, those are data errors that need to be addressed. Annual assessments and chronic homelessness seem to be an issue. Contact Candy Brewster to set up an email alert through HMIS. In the fall we are coming up to the LSA season, keep doing what you are doing and use the data quality report to address issues.

Ongoing Updates

- Prevention Programming
 - Hudson County Eviction Prevention Program: Program is still open on the Survey Monkey Apply Program.
 - Jersey City Hardship Assistance Program/United Way Eviction Assistance Program: no update.
 - North Hudson Assistance Program: no update.
 - New Jersey Emergency Rescue Mortgage Assistance (ERMA): no update.
- Family Stability Committee:
 - Anne Christensen from WomenRising gave an update on the Family Stability Committee. Met on August 8th and looked at Maeve's presentation on Childcare Needs Assessment. We are going to have an ongoing process around this, and we want to bring in partners from the Urban League, and the Board of Elections for after school programs. Discussed the challenges faced by undocumented families, and how county programs don't currently have much to offer in terms of help. Next meeting is October 17th at 11:00am.
- Food and Shelter Coalition:
 - La Trenda Ross who is the Senior Community Service Aide with the Department of Family Services Division of Housing and Community Re-integration gave an update on the Food and Shelter Coalition meeting on August 13th at 1:30pm. This meeting was virtual and had the National Low-Income Collation joined for this meeting. Discussed education and mobilization, shared public opinion on low-income housing issues. La Trenda will send out a flyer to Naomi, who can send out to anyone who requests it. The next meeting is September 13th for this coalition.
- Veterans Committee:
 - Kelly McGuiness from Soldier On gave an update for Veterans Committee. Discussed the Data Snapshot for Veterans, and currently Hudson County has 50 vets in the system. 74% of veterans have mental health or a disability diagnosis. This committee looked at the benchmark tool, completed a list review, with SSVF and other providers. The main topic of this meeting was how to improve the current system to connect veterans sooner to services. Next Veterans Committee is in October on the 19th before the HCAEH meeting.



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Voting Agency Attendance

| Agency | Name |
|---|--|
| Bayonne Economic Opportunity Foundation | Samantha Howard* |
| Catholic Charities of New Jersey | Sulaiman Abdullah |
| Collaborative Support Programs of New Jersey | Pamela Baker* Corrine Dexter |
| Community Health Law Project | Sean Benoit |
| Community Hope Inc. | Pilar Rodriguez* |
| Covenant House | Robert Hayes Hillary Powell* |
| Garden State Community Development Corporation | Susan Milan* Joanne Smith* |
| Hoboken Shelter | Jaclyn Cherubini* |
| House of Faith | Jennifer Rejfir* |
| Hudson County Division of Housing & Community Development | Naomi Lesnewski* Kevin Llangari * Maeve McCullough |
| Hudson County Housing Resource Center | Ana Ohiwerei* |
| Hudson County Social Services | Monica Yeng* Jaqueline Gomez* |
| Jersey City Housing Authority | Jacqueline Suarez* |
| Jersey City Medical Center/MASSH | Kimberly Blackwell* |
| Let's Celebrate | Angelique Williams* |
| North Hudson Community Action Corporation | Maria Crespo* Marsha Nivins Michele Musumici* |
| Soldier On | Kelly McGuinness* |
| United Way of Hudson County | Carmel Galasso* |
| Waterfront Project | Carmen Esquilin Kayla Zimmer* |
| WomenRising | Anne Christensen* Margaret Adams* |
| York Street Project | Gloria Acosta-Nelson* Shakila Ali Jamilla Gantt |

**Designates voting member*



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Non-Voting Agency Attendance

| Agency | Name |
|--|--------------------------------|
| City of Jersey City Injury Prevention Division | Cynthia Vazquez |
| Essex Regional Educational Services Commission | LaMonica McIver |
| Hudson County Welfare (Food and Shelter Coalition) | La Trenda Ross |
| Hudson County Office of Inclusion and Accessibility | Sabrina Franco |
| Hudson Regional Health Commission | Ariana Simon |
| Hudson County Department of Family Services | Robert Knapp Sabrina Franco |
| HUD VASH | Lakisha Stewart |
| Monarch Housing Associates | Taiisa Kelly |
| NJ DCPD | Georgina DeRosa |
| NJ HMFA | Candy Brewster |
| St. Claire's Services | Jaleesa McEachin |
| St. Matthew's Trinity | Stanley Enzweiler |

Announcements

Closing - next HCAEH Meeting is on Wednesday, October 19th, 2022