



THE HUDSON COUNTY ALLIANCE
TO END HOMELESSNESS

HCAEH Meeting Minutes October 19th, 2022 2:00 PM

Welcome and Introductions

- Nora Salitan, Church World Services; Nora works at Church World Services in Jersey City which is a refugee resettlement agency. Serving Hudson, Bergen, Passaic Counties and in Northern New Jersey as well. Church World Services is a global non-profit, and a national refugee resettlement program. Church World Services administers Office of Refugee Resettlement eligible benefits and can help clients who have a variety of statuses. Nora can be contacted at nsalitan@cwsglobal.org (201)989-3267 for specific questions.
- Church World Services is currently enrolling about 200 Cuban refugees a week in areas like West New York and is working with Ukrainian refugees with intensive Case Management as well. They also work with asylum seekers and have resettled 241 Afghan refugees in the last year. Can help with receiving Medicaid, SNAP and cash benefits to refugees, Humanitarian parolees, and asylum seekers. Nora Salitan will be joining HCAEH meetings in the future due to seeing an increase in clients who are at risk of homelessness or are currently homeless.

Anne Christensen with WomenRising; Are your clients eligible for TANF Cash are they eligible for Emergency Assistance and Temporary Rental Assistance subsidies? Are these folks, in their status – are they able to work?

Nora Salitan with Church World Services; Clients who are receiving TANF are currently eligible for TRA. About 95% of clients who use TRA would be homeless without TANF. Clients are sometimes unable to get authorization until months after arriving. All asylum and refugees are eligible to work. An I-94 document can be used as authorization to work, that depends on an employer's preference. How the Federal government assigns refugee and asylum status affects an individual's ability to work. Most of Church World's Services clients have been released and are expected to file for asylum with a year after being released. In rare cases, some clients cross the border with no interaction with federal agents. These individuals are truly undocumented.

CoC Business

- Reminder: Date Change for December Meeting:
 - Naomi Lesnewski with Hudson County Division of Community Development: Next full HCAEH meeting has been moved to December 14th at the same time due to holidays.



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- FY2022 Competition Updates:
 - All projects that were accepted are listed on Hudson County's website under the Housing & Community Development division page under the HCAEH Tab. The Unsheltered NoFo application will be submitted next, within a couple of hours.
- Unsheltered Special NOFO Updates: Katelyn Ravensbergen with Monarch Housing Association, presented a PowerPoint. Please email kravensbergen@monarchhousing.org to request a copy.
 - Hudson County Coc is eligible for \$9,340,988 over three years.
 - The application is like the E-Snap submission, with local applications that are ranked. The Coc is also required to create an overall plan to address the barriers to the current homelessness system. Monarch Housing Associates held several focus groups to review these strategies listed in the plan.
 - The area of concern gathered after these focus groups were Accessing Services, Quality of Service, Treatment in the System, Communication and Service Needs were the highlighted issues. The CoC can continue to listen and learn from these focus groups.

Naomi Lesnewski: Just like the regular FY2022, these documents will be up on our website at hcnj.us under our division tab. Any Questions?

Anne Christensen: What is C.S.S?

Katelyn Ravensbergen: Basically, it is Medicaid funding to pay for Permanent Supportive Housing Services.

- PIT Count
 - HUD uses Hudson County's PIT count to determine our Unsheltered NoFo eligibility. Data that is collected is important and counts toward significant funding opportunities. HUD currently uses data from the 2019 PIT count to determine funding due to the current COVID-19 irregularities in data collection.
 - As usual, the last Wednesday of January is the PIT count. January 25th, 2023. This count asks where people slept the night before, January 24th to determine the number of unsheltered individuals in Hudson County.
 - This is the first year during the pandemic that will be using an in-person volunteer effort. There will be a kickoff meeting between now and the next HCEAH meeting for PIT count specifically. Keep an eye out for a Survey Monkey link to volunteer.
- Warming Center Updates:



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- The Warming will be open in the next few weeks. November 15th is the opening date, barring any sub-32-degree nights before that. There will be an email through the list serve with all relevant Warming Center Documents. QR codes have been added to the bus stop document. Major changes are the times, and an additional pick up stop in North Hudson in front of North Bergen Town Hall.
- Alliance will be at the Warming Center from 7 PM to midnight doing preventative work, helping with COVID protocols and intake for clients. Having received feedback from clients and providers, this is the first year that Alliance will be providing healthcare services at the Warming Center. Happy to have Alliance on board this year for that.
- CoC Data Work
 - Kevin Llangari with Hudson County Division of Housing and Community Development; Download the HMIS Data Quality report using the button located in the email sent out. Focus on missing annual updates for clients, about 22% of clients in PSH do not have an annual update- - 22% is a lot. Each program has been provided with a percentage of records that are missing in HMIS. Contact Kevin Llangari at kllangari@hcnj.us for more information. Kevin will be reaching out to individual programs with data errors in HMIS that need to be addressed.
 - Candy Brewster with New Jersey HMFA; the annual meeting has been postponed until November. This LSA will be opening on November 1st, and the final report is due by January 31st, 2023, at the latest. Please review program data for HMIs and address these issues. If a program has 100% open for the annual review, it could indicate that program is a supportive service. If the program is a rental assistance provider who doesn't expedite a client after the client leaves the program, it looks like on the data end that needs to do an annual review. It's just a question of following up with a very minimal amount of data clean up on the agency.

SSH Updates

- Naomi Lesnewski; The main update is in terms of vouchering, in terms of payments – those vouchers need to match a program's HMIS data. In past years, if HMIS totals were over that was fine – that is not the case anymore. The state has changed how they are reimbursing these with the HMIS data. Maeve and Naomi will be contacting each program over discrepancies in HMIS data – this will be a long process, but it is necessary to ensure. Working together will help address these issues for the state.

ESG-CV Updates

- Naomi Lesnewski; The county was happy to be notified by HUD to receive over a million dollars of ESG-CV funds, those were funds that were previously allocated to other counties or cities that had not been able to spend down their funds – since Agencies in Hudson County were able to spend down these funds, Hudson County



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got new funds. Agencies have until September 2024 to spend down this reallocation of a million dollars. Within the next two weeks there will be an application for agencies interested in applying for these funds. Feel free to shoot Naomi an email at nlesnewski@hcnj.us to discuss program specifics.

Ongoing Updates

- Prevention Programming
 - Hudson County Eviction Prevention Program; Jacqueline Gomez with Hudson County Social Services: Just recently closed the ERA-1 program. Hudson County has about 1100 approved applications spending close to 11.4 million dollars. ERA 2 application has been opened, with a total of 9.6 million dollars available to citizens. Hudson County Social Services have partnered with HOPES in Hoboken to start outreach for ERA-2. Hudson County Social Services will also be in North Bergen at the public library, and in Bayonne for there community outreach day. There are still funds available through SSH/SSH TANF. The link for ERA-2 is: <https://hudsoncounty.smapply.io/>
 - Jersey City Hardship Assistance Program/United Way Eviction Assistance Program: Saulo Diaz with Jersey City; the program is now closed for rental assistance. Carmel Galasso with United Way: As of Monday, the program is closed, and letters will be sent out to clients that United Way has received applications from – to alert these clients that at this point all funds have been exhausted. United Way has had over 2 thousand calls since January of 2020, have assisted over 150 individuals, and screened 528 people in total. There are still have 336 people in the ‘pipeline’, and since these funds have been exhausted, United Way can no longer help.
 - Naomi Lesnewski: Consider attaching the State Assistance Program information to these letters.
 - North Hudson Assistance Program: Maria Crespo with North Hudson Community Action Corporation: There is Rental Assistance available but no funds for security deposits.
 - New Jersey Emergency Rescue Mortgage Assistance (ERMA) Candy Brewster with the DCA: The Emergency Mortgage Assistance is still open, and still accepting applications. DCA still has funds available for the ERA. Agencies can refer individuals to the DCA for ERA. Mortgage assistance is still going strong. The link to these programs is here: <https://nj.gov/dca/hmfa/erma/hub/>
- 2023 Resource Guide.
- Jaclyn Cherubini with Hoboken Shelter: The resource guide is going to be updated for 2023. Email resources@hobokenshelter.org with any updates to contact information for programs. The new resource guide will be released after the December HCAEH meeting. This will document will help people get from point A to point B. Please give us those updates before November 1st. Any questions? Changes for the Resource Guide are due by 11/1/2022 to resources@hobokenshelter.org



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Pamela Baker with CSP NJ: The CSP NJ new Drop-In center on MLK drive is officially open. CSP NJ provides birth certificates, and ID assistance from 8am to 4pm Monday through Friday. Please feel free to send people over to our Drop-In Center. CSP NJ is lucky enough to have hired another housing navigator, Jacky for Hudson County. Please feel free to refer to CSP NJ, Corrine and Jacky have been busy but are still available to take referrals.

Naomi Lesnewski: From focus group feedback, this is a known issue. CSP has done a great job and has their system up and running to help clients get documents. If a client is having trouble with documents, feel free to reach out to CSP NJ.

- Family Stability Committee:

Anne Christensen with WomenRising: Just to circle back to the Point in Time Count. Does Monarch have any comment on that? Is there anything programs need to be looking at.

Katelyn Ravensbergen: The State and local CoC reports available on Monarch's website, the numbers are similar and are available.

Naomi Lesnewski: There were some news articles on it- please be advised - use caution with this data because it was a much more scaled down volunteer effort and was the coldest day of the winter. Using these numbers to compare is a little bit of a tricky situation due to COVID-19 restrictions.

- Anne Christensen: New Jersey's Poverty Institute has updated their "Real Cost of Poverty" data. On Monday, the Family Stability Committee met. There were two guests from Urban League and Work Force Development. The Family Stability Committee is still looking at data for what is available for childcare. Discussed the aspect of the challenge of offering shelter to asylum seekers, refugees, and more undocumented families. At the next meeting this discussion will be continued. The focus groups and other efforts to reach out have been great.

Candy Brewster: What conversations might be happening at the local level in terms of the very real possibility of a bus load or plane load of immigrants showing up at Hudson County needing Shelter? There have been conversations at the State level – i.e whose responsibility is it. The City of Newark is trying to prepare – if it's possible to prepare for this kind of thing. NJHMFA was asked to think about how that kind of data could be captured in HMIS. There have been a few individuals who have made it in through the south and made there way up to Hudson or Bergen, thinking that the document that they are given for a court date entitles them to shelter in the meantime. Just an FYI.

Naomi Lesnewski: Those conversations are happening; in the last three days there have been meetings about this issue. These conversations are happening at the state and county level. It is something that the Coordinated Entry system is seeing a lot of. For Providers, everyone



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who is client facing – please make sure to check off the appropriate boxes for these encounters.

Candy Brewster: Could add a box for everyone's intake so that way it is recorded, and the county has the data. Don't know if there is an exact field that would capture this data for someone who has been processed in an immigration center in another location and made their way up to Hudson County. The existing information that is collected doesn't get that specific – could add something to inform people of this increase.

Susan Milan with GSCDC: there is something in HMIS to check for undocumented but it's not that specific?

Candy Brewster: It's not exactly undocumented if they have already been processed. This is something that the community should think about. Even DCPNP is being contacted by individuals and can provide shelter for short term. Just don't want existing shelter services to be overwhelmed with people in the winter.

Naomi Lesnewski: Hudson County Coordinated Entry has encountered 25 undocumented families in the past month, there is some funding at least for a temporary fix for this. There are connections for undocumented families now. However even this influx has put stress on Hudson County's system.

Susan Milan: Coordinated Entry is even experiencing issues with inputting people into HMIS who don't have a social security number – because that creates a flag for data quality.

Candy Brewster: HUD is aware of this issue, and there have been talks about removing the Social Security requirement for HMIS data. However, there is an issue of de-duplication when it comes to removing the Social Security number.

Katelyn Ravensbergen: Is it possible to adjust HMIS with a checkbox branch after the "undocumented", can make a note for next year when updating the standards.

Naomi Lesnewski: A lot of the same issues exist for that community even if they have been here for a while or just arrived. Need to collect this data to provide the best support for this newly arrived community.

- Food and Shelter Coalition: La Trena Ross with Hudson County Welfare; November 15th at 1:30pm is the next meeting for the Food and Shelter Coalition. Moved this meeting back due to the conflict with election day. Hosting our Food and Shelter Round Table discussion soon open to the community; invited the community to be a part of the Food and Shelter coalition and will be presenting on topics. Chloe from the Food Security Navigator, and Dr. Channel Adam Griffin the Administrator of Health – will be presenting on Food Security and making healthier choices. This will be a virtual meeting, from 6pm to 8pm December 1st. If anyone would like to present,



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please let me know. The Winter Donation Drive will be held at the Old Bergen Church as the drop off – looking for scarves, hats, gloves to donate to an organization that is in need. Hosting this winter drive from now until December 9th. Drop off information will be available in the future.

- Veterans Committee; Kelly McGuinness: The Veterans Subcommittee met before the CoC. As always, started off with Kevin reviewing the data for the county in the past 90 days, have had 64 homeless veterans. Completed the case-by-case reviews. Also discussed changing the date in December, and in HUDVash has expanded its eligibility for veterans. Lastly, Veterans Day is Friday November 11th. If you know of a veteran, please thank them for their services.

Voting Agency Attendance

Agency	Name
Bayonne Economic Foundation	Donna Cullen
Catholic Charities of New Jersey	Sulaiman Abdullah Yanil Mendoza
Collaborative Support Programs of New Jersey	Pamela Baker* Corrine Dexter
Community Health Law Project	Sean Benoit
Covenant House	Hillary Powell*
Garden State Community Development Corporation	Susan Milan* Ignael Cartagena
Helping Arms	Donald Weinbaum*
Hoboken Shelter	Jaclyn Cherubini*
House of Faith	Jennifer Rejfir
Hudson County Division of Housing & Community Development	Naomi Lesnewski* Kevin Llangari * Maeve McCullough
Hudson County Department of Health and Human Services	Kiyada Pittman
Hudson County Housing Resource Center	Ana Ohiwerei*
Hudson County Social Services	Monica Yeng* Jaqueline Gomez*
Jersey City Housing Authority	Jacqueline Suarez*
Jersey City Community Development	Saulo Diaz
Let's Celebrate	Angelique Williams*
North Hudson Community Action Corporation	Maria Crespo*
Soldier On	Kelly McGuinness*
United Way of Hudson County	Carmel Galasso*
Waterfront Project	Kimberly Goycochea William Page



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WomenRising	Anne Christensen*
York Street Project	Gloria Acosta-Nelson* Shakila Ali

**Designates voting member*

Non-Voting Agency Attendance

Agency	Name
211	Samantha Lucero
Community Member	Kieran White
Church World Services	Nora Salitan
Emet Realty	Nidia Colon
Haven Community Respite Center	Sheribel Aguilar
Hudson County Community College	Katherine Morales
Hudson County Welfare (Food and Shelter Coalition)	La Trenda Ross
Monarch Housing Associates	Katelyn Ravensbergen
Newark YMCA	Brenda Myrick
NJ DCPD	Georgina DeRosa
NJ Department of Human Services	Keshia Reynolds
NJ HMFA	Candy Brewster
NJ VA	Danielle Michel-Clarke
Rutgers	Vee Yeo Karlicia Thomas

Announcements

Closing - next HCAEH Meeting is on Wednesday, December 14th, 2022