



THE HUDSON COUNTY ALLIANCE  
TO END HOMELESSNESS

## **HCAEH Meeting Agenda**

### **February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

### **2:00 PM**

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

Rita Mirabelli; Program Specialist from the DCA's Office of Homelessness Prevention (OHP). Rita Mirabelli is a part of a regional homelessness initiative. Will be attending CoC meetings to provide support from the OHP. Tina and Kate are now acting Interim Directors for the OHP. Please reach out to Rita Mirabelli at [Rita.Mirabelli@dca.nj.gov](mailto:Rita.Mirabelli@dca.nj.gov) with any questions.

#### **CoC Business**

- 2023 Award Updates; Naomi Lesnewski with Hudson County's Division of Housing and Community Development, HUD has released the award for 2023. All projects with FMRS saw an increase in funds. Please reach out to Naomi Lesnewski with any questions. The award is posted on the Division's website as well as released via Mailchimp.
- 2024 Competition Updates: Competition will be announced in the next couple of months. This year monitoring will be completed virtually, an email will be sent out on where to submit documents. In the upcoming months, meetings will be hosted with CoC funded agencies over zoom. All agencies are doing a great job, and ranking is a part of the HUD process.
- CoC Data Work: Katelyn Ravensbergen with Monarch Housing Associates, the main area of concern for all CoC members is the HMIS annual update for clients. If any client is in the program for longer than a year, an annual update is due on the anniversary of the intake. A timeframe will be given, along with a list of individual clients to agencies with outstanding annual updates. Candy Brewster can provide an email with a reminder to complete annual updates via HMIS. Please review with staff when annual updates. Examining data will be a part of performance measures for desk monitoring. The housing inventory chart (HIC) is also due. Katelyn will be communicating with agencies to submit the HIC to HUD. Please also check for move in dates for clients in Permanent housing, only clients with a move in date will be counted as served for agencies.

Candy Brewster with NJHMFA, an alert can be generated via HMIS for when these are due, including annual update and for permanent housing move in dates. A report ran earlier today indicates that homelessness and prevention programs have not discharged people in HMIS, leading to data errors. Clients served with prevention dollars in HMIS that are not discharged make it seem like the client is still active in the program.



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- Monarch Lived Experience Advisory Board; Katelyn from Monarch Housing Associates will be moving forward with developing an advisory board of people with lived experience for Hudson County. Raquel from Monarch will be spearheading the initiative, starting with a focus group for people with lived experience (PWLE), Please send referrals with anyone interested in participating, training will be provided for individuals on background of the system. This training will help to empower PWLE to participate. This is a paid opportunity. Please refer any current clients or clients who have experienced homelessness. Monarch Housing Associates has received a grant for completing this work and can help with transportation and technology.
- PIT Count Update: The SurveyMonkey and HMIS data has been combined for data clean-up and de-duplication. This count over 636 paper surveys from Hudson County were received, last year that number was roughly 400. Once data cleanup is done, the data will be submitted to HDX. At the April HCAEH meeting, a base estimate for the 2024 PIT count can be shared. The goal is to get the PIT Count report out earlier for this year.
  - Emily Dalton from the Hoboken Public Library hosted an outreach event for the PIT Count and would love to provide the space and host again for next year.
  - Kelly McGuinness from Soldier On, was able to connect with Sgt. Rhodes from the Bayonne Police Department. was able to get a greater survey of active spots and meet new clients.
  - Amari Torres from the City of Jersey City was able to get volunteers from city employees, which was a great experience for peers to understand what the HCAEH and Community Development team works for. The team went downtown and found veterans and were able to connect with the local food bank about the PIT Count.
- Warming Center Update; Pam Baker from Collaborative Supportive Programs of New Jersey. February had a record high of 192 individuals. Last year the highest was 136. Attendance is rising and are seeing new faces along with seasonal regulars. These folks have not attended the Warming Center last year or have been seen at the Drop-in Center at 422 MLK Drive. North Bergen bus stop is averaging above 20 folks, with JSQ seeing a decrease in attendance. Code Blue was called for daytime hours last week. Bridgeway is now solidified for mental health services on site for next year. Alliance will continue to provide medical attention onsite as well.
  - Emily Dalton: Patrons at Hoboken Public Library continue to give positive feedback about the Warming Center.
- Naomi Lesnewski; Attendance for this year is averaging 131 a night, last year it was 104 a night. A year before the average attendance was 60 a night. The biggest factor in attendance increase is the quality of work that CSP NJ is doing during the season. Shelters across Hudson are at 100% capacity during the Code Blue season, this will



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affect all of us in April – including a spike in unsheltered homelessness after the center closes.

- Candy Brewster, attendance for the Warming Center is now updated to 200 cap. HMIS will work with the vendor to remove the re-admittance requirement, to make it easier to track attendance data. Statewide, the number of sheltered individuals and families has gone up, with the number of unsheltered individuals and families going down. This is a 1 for 1 match for sheltered versus unsheltered.

### SSH Updates

- Maeve McCullough Hudson County Housing and Community Development: The County was awarded an increase in Code Blue funds for the 2024 contract year.
- Prevention Programming: Monica Yeng with Hudson County's Office of Social Services; clients seeking assistance can complete an application online, which will get to Director Yeng and Jaclyn Gomez within a day after the online application is submitted. Clients do not have to come in person to be screened for SSH. Please refer any eligible clients to Jaclyn Gomez at [jgomez@hcnj.us](mailto:jgomez@hcnj.us)
  - <https://fs4.formsite.com/cGgrlU/lg084qdf08/index.html>
- Yanil Mendoza from Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark: Please email Yanil Mendoza at [ymendoza@ccannj.org](mailto:ymendoza@ccannj.org) with any client referrals for SSH prevention. Catholic Charities has two grants for prevention, with SSH TANF available for families and the DCA HPP grant for 3 months of rental arrears for individuals and families.

### ESG Updates

- Naomi Lesnewski: Application will be posted online when it is open. There is no date for applications currently.

### Ongoing Updates

- Family Stability Committee; Seeking new co-chairs for this subcommittee. Gloria Acosta Nelson has moved across the country, and Anne Christensen has retired. The goal is to kick-start this sub-committee next month. If you would like to be involved in the Family Stability Committee, please email Naomi Lesnewski.
- Food and Shelter Coalition; LaTrenda Ross; The Coalition met on January 9<sup>th</sup> with 28 people in attendance. David Moore from the HCST presented information on available programming through the Hudson County School of Technology. The next Community Roundtable discussion will be held on March 14<sup>th</sup>, with the location to be announced in March. The Food and Shelter Coalition will be discussing issues in the community. How to address housing insecurity in Hudson County is the current discussion topic. At the end of the year a report will be released on these discussion topics. Next Food and Shelter meeting will be March 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm.
- Veterans Committee: Kelly McGuinness with Soldier On, the sub-committee met an hour before the full HCAEH meeting. Reviewed the data snapshot, with the average age of veterans experiencing homelessness is 47, majority of homeless veterans are



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black males. The committee discussed data discrepancies in the case conferencing list. Next meeting will be April 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm.

### **Announcements**

- **April meeting date change - April 24<sup>th</sup>**
- Naomi Lesnewski: Join the Executive Committee for HCAEH – if you are interested in serving, please apply. You can have representation on HCAEH Executive Board if you are a CoC funded agency. Reach out to [nlesnewski@hcnj.us](mailto:nlesnewski@hcnj.us) if your agency is interested in serving on the Executive Committee.
- Jaqueline Gomez – On Saturday, at Hudson County Plaza an outreach event will be held on maternal health from 10 am to 2pm. All services will be onsite for assistance, including SNAP, and WICK. Alliance will be onsite to provide health services, please send clients who are interested to 257 Cornelison Ave in Jersey City.
- Amari Torres – Community Development will have a block party in April. Please come! Reach out to [AMTorress@jcnj.us](mailto:AMTorress@jcnj.us)
- Claudia Marks – We are actively running drop-in center from 9 am to 3pm at St Lucy's new shelter location. Anyone can come in to get food and take a shower if needed. Services are not limited to current clients, and anyone can come to get food or take a shower.
- Susana Armas – Are taking donations for clothes at Shelter. Please reach out if interested in donating coats, professional work clothes and other clothes.

**Closing** - next HCAEH Meeting is on Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024



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**Voting Agency Attendance**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Name</b>
<b>Bayonne Economic Opportunity Foundation</b>	Donna Cullen*
<b>Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Newark</b>	Claudia Marks* Iris Mercado Yanil Mendoza Susana Armas
<b>Collaborative Support Programs of New Jersey</b>	Pamela Baker*
<b>Community Hope</b>	Ashley Ferreira Pilar Rodriguez* Alex Page
<b>Covenant House</b>	Hillary Powell*
<b>Garden State Community Development Corporation</b>	Susan Milan* Joanne Smith
<b>Hoboken Shelter</b>	Jaclyn Cherubini* Rev. Anthony Forbes
<b>House of Faith</b>	Jennifer Rejfir*
<b>Hudson County Division of Housing &amp; Community Development</b>	Naomi Lesnewski* Maev McCullough
<b>Hudson County Social Services</b>	Monica Yeng* Jaqueline Gomez* LaTrenda Ross
<b>Jersey City Housing Authority</b>	Jacqueline Suarez*
<b>Jersey City Community Development</b>	Amari Torres* Gail Alston
<b>Let's Celebrate</b>	Angelique Williams*
<b>North Hudson Community Action Corporation</b>	Michele Musumici*
<b>Soldier On</b>	Kelly McGuinness* Danielle Mineo*
<b>United Way of Hudson County</b>	Carmel Galasso*
<b>Waterfront Project</b>	Carmen Esquilin*
<b>WomenRising</b>	Blanca Santana*

*\*Designates voting member*



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**Non-Voting Agency Attendance**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Name</b>
<b>Aetna</b>	Joel Martinez
<b>City of Hoboken</b>	Bianca Hoffer Lori Hetzel
<b>Church World Services</b>	Anna Yezerova David Shaw Kalimah Tillman Susy Tejada Julia Bordiug
<b>Community Health Law Project</b>	Sean Benoit
<b>DCA - OHP</b>	Rita Mirabelli
<b>Hoboken Public Library</b>	Emily Dalton
<b>Hudson County Department of Health and Human Services</b>	Kiyada Pittman
<b>City of Jersey City - Injury and Prevention</b>	Ariana Rodriguez
<b>Monarch Housing Associates</b>	Katelyn Ravensbergen
<b>NJ VA</b>	Danielle Michel-Clarke Lakisha Stewart
<b>NJ HMFA</b>	Candy Brewster
<b>St. Matthews Lunchtime Ministry</b>	Stanley Enzweiler