



THE HUDSON COUNTY ALLIANCE
TO END HOMELESSNESS

HCAEH Meeting Minutes June 15th, 2022 2:00 PM

***Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, this meeting was held over Zoom.**

Welcome and Introductions

Naomi Lesnewski of the Hudson County Division of Housing and Community Development called the meeting to order. LaMonica McIver from the Essex Regional Educational Services Commission was not present to present an update on educational resources. However, LaMonica is looking for shelters who are interested in hosting children specific services/after school activities. Programs can reach out to Naomi in order to connect with LaMonica.

CoC Business

- *FY2021 Competition Updates* – Taiisa Kelly, with Monarch Housing Associates. The scores for last year’s funding cycle were released, the highest amount of points would be 163 points. There were 10 bonus points available for this funding cycle specifically for healthcare programs integrating with available homeless prevention programs, as well as points for merging services. Hudson County received the second highest score for New Jersey, with the total being 148.5 points awarded. Roughly 91% of points were awarded. Taiisa Kelly highlighted that HUD looked at CoC coordination and engagement. With focus on HMIS data collection, PIT and length of homelessness thresholds being reviewed. Monarch identified four areas for programs to look at for improvement.
 - *First:* How communities are promoting racial equity in the existing homelessness system. Strategies as a community to integrate voices of people who are directly impacted by homelessness. Received 4 out of 7 total points for FY2021.
 - *Second:* Coordination and Collaboration with Programs for Children and Youth. Developing programs for early childhood and school aged youth, needing to connect education and primary education to address the needs of children and families experiencing homelessness. Received 1 out of 3 total points for FY2021.
 - *Third:* Addressing the Safety and Security Needs of domestic violence Survivors. How are programs recognizing the safety and security needs of survivors fleeing violence? How are domestic violence survivors interacting with current systems? How are Programs identifying domestic violence Survivors and connecting them successfully to appropriate programs?



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- *Finally:* How is the Community evaluating the effectiveness of current programs available for people fleeing domestic violence? It is suggested that the application did not capture the total effectiveness of the existing programs surrounding domestic violence survivors and support for survivors after domestic violence. This can be considered for the next funding cycle as an area that needs improvement.

HUD has office hours on Fridays from 2:30pm to 4:30pm. During the last session, HUD indicated that the next application deadline for FY2022 could be in September.

- *Desk Monitoring:* Naomi stated that the scores will be released in July, and programs can direct comments/corrections to her
- *CoC Data Work:* Kevin Llangari, from the Hudson County Division of Housing and Community Development introduced a revamped outline for scoring. Previous reviews were based off of graphs, and this year a dashboard will automatically calculate data quality to be distributed in PDF form. Reviews will no longer be presented in excel files, just a PDF copy of the dashboard. The scoring will be the same, however the format will be different. Kevin discussed the three different evaluations: Data Quality, Client Outcomes and Non-Scoring Program Performance Outcomes. Kevin also highlighted specific areas in the Performance Reviews that indicate areas for improvement that can be addressed through out the year in order to score more points for individual programs. Programs can reach out to Kevin Llangari for questions surrounding the PDF file.

Ongoing Updates

- Prevention Programming
 - *Hudson County Eviction Prevention Program;* Monica Yeng from the Hudson County Division of Social Services discussed how the program has spent over \$6.2 million, and will be receiving more funding soon for this program. Offices are open for clients on 8:00am to 4:00pm on Monday through Fridays for services. Still utilizing video conferencing for direct client interactions. Monica Yeng will update programs when more funds are available.
 - *Jersey City Hardship Assistance Program/United Way Eviction Assistance Program:* Carmel Galasso from United Way of Hudson County stated that funds are still available through United Way. United Way has helped over 90 individual families since programing began. There are fliers available for distribution. Clients can be referred to this program if they were impacted by COVID-19.
 - *North Hudson Assistance Program:* Maria Crespo from the North Hudson Community Action Corporation stated that they have funding available in SSH and TANF for Emergency Rental Mortgage Assistance.
 - *New Jersey Emergency Rescue Mortgage Assistance (ERMA):* Candy Brewster from NJ HMFA stated there still is funding available. DCA has shifted some of the funds from ESG COVID relief from Rapid Rehousing Programs into Homeless Prevention. Will be accepting new clients. ERMA will run a report on how much funding is available for the next meeting.



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- Family Stability Committee
 - *Childcare Needs Assessment:* Naomi Lesnewski reports that 44 families have completed the survey, and survey is still open. Over 90% of those who participated in the survey live in Jersey City, please continue to share this survey in order to collect a more accurate picture of needs in Hudson County. Next Family Stability Committee meeting is July 11th, with an open call for programs interested to join this committee. Reach out to Gloria, Ann or Naomi to be added to this mailing list.
- *Food and Shelter Coalition:* Not Applicable at this time.
- *Veterans Committee:* Kelly McGuinness from Soldier, at the last Veterans Committee meeting they were joined by Juliet Foster, the Director of Veterans Affairs for Jersey City. This committee is currently focusing on four benchmarks for data and will be brainstorming solutions to address this. Programs that encounter Veterans, please register them in the database in order to better connect veterans to existing programs. The next Veterans Committee meeting is August 17 at 1:00 PM.

Announcements

- Rev. Anthony Forbes from the Hoboken Shelter announced the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Hoboken Shelter. There will be a boat ride tonight to celebrate the success of the Hoboken Shelter.
- Candy Brewster announced that at the end of the month the HMIS user interface will change. The functionality of HMIS has not changed, however design and icons will be updated. Next Friday a demo of this update will be presented to the Advisory Council, following training of CoC logins for analyzing aggregate data. Candy Brewster also extended a congratulations to the Rev. Anthony Forbes for Hoboken Shelter's 40th anniversary.
- Jaqueline Gomez from Hudson County Division of Social Services announced a "soft opening" for Family Services next Monday. Family Services will be using the same video conferencing booths as Social Services, and all determinations will either be sent by mail or over the phone. More information will be shared when available.
- Naomi Lesnewski announced that the deadline for applications for ESG/CDBG/HOME funding is tomorrow.



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Voting Agency Attendance

Agency	Name
Bayonne Economic Opportunity Foundation	Samantha Howard*
Catholic Charities of New Jersey	Crystal Hopkins Sulaiman Abdullah
Collaborative Support Programs of New Jersey	Pamela Baker*
Community Health Law Project	Sean Benoit
Community Hope Inc.	Pilar Rodriguez*
Covenant House	Caroline Sunchuk
Garden State Community Development Corporation	Susan Milan*
Helping Arms	Donald Weinbaum*
Hoboken Shelter	Angelo Hunt Rev. Anthony Forbes
House of Faith	Jennifer Rejfir*
Hudson County Division of Housing & Community Development	Naomi Lesnewski* Kevin Llangari *
Hudson County Housing Resource Center	Ana Ohiwerei*
Hudson County Social Services	Monica Yeng* Jaqueline Gomez*
Jersey City Community Development	Jasmine Drew
Jersey City Medical Center/MASSH	Kimberly Blackwell*
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	Carmen Esquilin Kayla Zimmer* Kimberly Goycochea William Page
York Street Project	Gloria Acosta-Nelson*

**Designates voting member*



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Non-Voting Agency Attendance

Agency	Name
The Community Builders	Audrey Nonemaker
Family Promise of Hudson County	Elena Gurczeski
Haven Adolescent Community Respite Center	Keith Dent
Horizon NJ Health	Ricardo Pasos
Jersey City Health and Human Services	Sharon Charles
Legal Services of New Jersey	Mallory Ware
Monarch Housing Associates	Taiisa Kelly
Newark YMCA	Leslie DeHaseth
NJ DFD	Keshia Reynolds
NJ HMFA	Candy Brewster
St. Lucy's Emergency Shelter	Sulaiman Abdullah
US Veteran's Affairs	Charmaine McLawrence

Closing - next HCAEH Meeting is on Wednesday, August 17th, 2022 at 2PM.