



THE HUDSON COUNTY ALLIANCE  
TO END HOMELESSNESS

**HCAEH Meeting  
Minutes  
August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
2:00 PM**

**Welcome and Introductions**

- Katelyn Ravensbergen from Monarch Housing Associates, hosting the HCAEH meetings while Naomi Lesnewski is out.
- Anne Christensen from WomenRising will be retiring at the end of the month, Blanca Santana will be moving into the Village of Families role for WomenRising.
- Angela Bowman is the new Assistant Program Director for St. Lucy's, Franciska House, and St. Jude programs for Catholic Charities.

**CoC Business**

- *2023 Competition Updates:* Applicants received updates from Katelyn Ravensbergen yesterday. All renewal projects will be submitted, including two new project submissions under the CoC Bonus. One for Rapid Rehousing, another for the DV Bonus. Monarch will be hosting office hours for Esnaps submissions for Collaborative Applicants. The 2023 CoC Collaborative Application is available to view at <https://www.hcnj.us/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/FY2023-Hudson-CoC-Budget-and-Ranking.pdf>
- *CoC Data Work:* Data Quality report was emailed out, please review annual updates for PSH and RRH projects open in HMIS. Annual updates data errors should be addressed as soon as possible. This will be addressed in the Performance and Monitoring reports.
  - 3DM Data Analyst Grant was awarded to Hudson County's Division of Housing and Community Development for Track 1 funding to hire a new Data Analyst for the CoC.
  - Candy Brewster from NJHMFA, Data standards for HMIS will be updated for October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. A new coordinated entry data element has been added, and additional training on these new data standards will be offered through NJHMFA. The LSA will be due at the end of the year. Additional data quality reports will be available on overlapping program stays as well.
- *Monarch Lived Experience Advisory Board:* No updates, more updates will be available in November.
- *PIT Count 2023:* Maeve McCullough from Hudson County Division of Housing and Community Development, the 2023 PIT Count report has been released. 38% increase in homelessness in Hudson County, including an increase in people over the age of 55 experiencing homelessness.
  - 2023 PIT Report is available online: <https://monarchhousing.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Hudson-PIT-Report-2023.pdf>
  - 2023 PIT Summary is available online: <https://monarchhousing.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/PIT-Summary-Hudson-2023.pdf>



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### SSH Updates

- *Rental Assistance:* There is no more prevention available through SSH funds. In the first two quarters of 2023, all rental prevention was spent down. Please direct all clients to the Office of Social Services at 257 Cornelison if they need rental assistance. At this point in time there is no expected increase in funding available through the State.
  - Jaclyn Cherubini from Hoboken Shelter; Is this a renewal or an RFP for funds in the fall?
  - Maeve McCullough: This will be a renewal for SSH funds in the fall.

### ESG Updates

- *Award Letters:* Resolution has been passed for ESG Supplemental. Direct award letters will come from Hudson County's Legal Department for signatures from grantees. Hoboken, PERC, and Family Promise will be receiving an award letter for these funds.

### Ongoing Updates

- Georgina DeRosa, DCP&P: no ongoing update for DCP &P, continuing to struggle with a lack of affordable housing and family shelter in Hudson County.
- *Prevention Programming*
  - Hudson County Eviction Prevention Program: Monica Yeng from the Office of Social Services, ERA has paid over \$28 million in rental assistance and utility assistance. Assisted 2027 households in back rent and utility, 822 of those households receive rent assistance. The ERA 2 program closed on July 15th, however, and will still be aiding Hudson County households with other funds.
  - Jersey City Hardship Assistance Program/United Way Eviction Assistance Program: Carmel Galasso from United Way, That Grant is now finished.
  - North Hudson Assistance Program: Maria Crespo with North Hudson Community Action Corp, Funds are low and will be assisting families. Expected to run out of funds in August.
  - New Jersey Emergency Rescue Mortgage Assistance (ERMA): still open.
- *Family Stability Committee:* Anne Christensen, the lack of family shelter should be the focus of the Family Stability Committee in the future. We need numbers, details and data in order to advocate for family shelter in Hudson County. This will not be a quick solution, Georgina and Susan might be able to provide this.
  - Susan Milan from Garden State CDC, I sent out an email last month when GSCDC ran out of motel funds for assistance. GSCDC has already assisted 100 families, this lack of shelter has spiraled into a crisis. Hope House is always full, and NHCAC is running out of funds as well. If a family is ineligible for EA, these were the avenues that could be used to keep them off the streets. Having to use DCP&P as a referral source.
  - Maeve McCullough: Kevin Llangari is building a data dashboard focusing on Families in HMIS. By August this dashboard will be accessible to the HCAEH. Hudson County is rich in terms of programing; however, space is an issue.



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- Susan Milan: Coordinated Entry HMIS won't show the gap, the data will have to be tracked manually to show the gap in services. EA data will have to be factored into this dashboard.
  - Anne Christensen, Can 2-1-1 provide additional data on family homelessness in Hudson County?
  - Candy Brewster, All of 2-1-1 data is available and can be added to the dashboard.
  - Katelyn Ravensbergen, Is it because there is no place for these families to go if they are not tied to EA funds?
  - Anne Christensen, Folks with EA are better off than families without EA.
- *Food and Shelter Coalition*; LaTrenda Ross with the Food and Shelter Coalition, the Coalition does not meet during the summer. Next meeting will be November 12<sup>th</sup>, and another round table discussion will be hosted in North Bergen area. This roundtable will be a way to bring the community into the discussion.
  - *Veterans Committee*: Kelly McGuinness, the Veteran Committee met an hour before this meeting. Reviewed the PIT Count. The data dashboard was reviewed, and case conferencing was reviewed. Veterans day is in November. Next meeting will be October 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **Announcements**

- *Asylum and Migrant Data efforts*: Maeve McCullough: the Office of Homelessness Prevention Director reached out three weeks ago for data related to migrants and asylum seekers in Hudson County. There is no current data initiative supported by HMIS, roughly 720 units a month in shelter nights in Hudson are provided to migrants and asylum seekers.
  - Susan Milan: Coordinated Entry has seen an increase of asylum seekers and migrants, but none have come from New York. This data must be tracked manually since there is no way to record that in HMIS.
  - Candy Brewster: It is possible to add to Coordinated Entry a question on the intake form in HMIS to track asylum and migrant seekers. This can be added to shelter intake as well.
  - Ignael Cartagena from Garden State: There is a citizen question on the intake, can this be expanded to ask from what state they are coming from?
  - Candy Brewster: Drop down conditional questions can be added to the intake form to help with data efforts in relation to asylum and migrant data. This is not just a Hudson County question, but a question for all counties in New Jersey.
- Catholic Charites is requesting a vote from the HCAEH in support of an application for "Another Chance Grant" for ex-offenders who exit into homelessness. A survey link was provided to the HCAEH. A letter of support was generated for Catholic Charites on behalf of the HCAEH.



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**Closing** - next HCAEH Meeting is at 2:00pm on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Voting Agency Attendance**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Name</b>
<b>Bayonne Economic Opportunity Foundation</b>	Donna Cullen*
<b>Catholic Charites Archdiocese of Newark</b>	Claudia Marks Angela Bowman
<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>	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 Esquilin Kimberly Goycochea Alia Thomas
<b>WomenRising</b>	Anne Christensen*
<b>York Street Project</b>	Shakila Ali Jamilla Gantt



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*\*Designates voting member*

### 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>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