

Capital Area Coalition on Homelessness
General Membership Meeting
October 8, 2015
Minutes

Members Present: Bryan Davis, Harrisburg Redevelopment Authority; Rumulus Brown, City of Harrisburg; Angela Wise, YWCA; Steve Schwartz; Elaine Strokoff, Downtown Daily Bread; Peter Fidgett and Michelle Sholder, CAIU; Darrel Reinford, Christian Churches United; Maria Chianos, Pinnacle Health Systems; Sheila Forrester, Head Start; Kristina Marshall, Family Promise; Kay Pickering, Harrisburg Center for Peace and Justice; Aubrey Stephens, Salvation Army; Denise Britton, Shalom House; Deb Clayton, Dauphin County MH/ID; Barbara Muller, Janet Jones, Guadeniza/DELTA Community.

Welcome and Introductions: Bryan Davis convened the meeting, and welcomed everyone. We all introduced ourselves.

Approval of the Minutes: Motion made by Angela Wise to accept the minutes of the August 13, 2015 meeting without revisions. Seconded by Natasha Woods. Motion to accept the minutes passed.

Committee Reports:

Blueprint Implementation Team (BIT): Tim Whelan reported the community power point presentation is available to use. Contact Deb Ritchey if you want a group to receive general information about CACH. The presentation can be adapted to any audience. He expressed appreciation to Chuck Wingate and Elaine Strokoff for their work to open the expanded Drop-In Center at Downtown Daily Bread, third floor. The Center is open until 4:30 Monday through Friday. It has begun to attract people. Chuck Wingate said it is a pleasant place to go and people should be encouraged to do so. Bryan Davis asked if we should do outreach or marketing of the Center. The Downtown Improvement District and Harristown are funders and helping with outreach. Someone suggested that a flyer be distributed at Project Homeless Connect (PHC). Selma West and other staff have been hired. They are reaching out and building relationships with homeless people. Pinnacle Health Systems is there and other partners are welcome. The plan is to grow services. Telephones, iPads, snacks and sleeping cots are available and being used. The other work the committee is doing includes drafting the annual Home Run Report on our accomplishments towards ending homelessness. This year's Continuum of Care (CoC) application changed the landscape by HUD requesting numerous tasks and activities. A small group of volunteers is charged with the planning process. The general time line is to start the planning process this year, do the planning and internal and external activities in 2016 and complete the revision by early 2017. Elaine Strokoff distributed a flyer (attached). She said that to date the busiest day has hosted 12 people/ 7 men and 5 women. Seven of the folks went to OIC for forklift training. She expects activity to grow this winter and that the Center provides physical

and mental comfort. Community support is needed. Media work will begin in November.

Mayor's Challenge to reach Veteran Homeless Functional Zero – Bryan Davis and Bill Reed told us about the local and state activities to end homelessness for Veterans. Functional Zero is the goal to identify homeless veterans and house them immediately with permanent housing within 30 days. This has been a five-year goal. In Pennsylvania, 550 veterans were housed in 100 days; 700 housed quarterly. The VOA housed 160 families of veterans, 60 of which were in Dauphin County. In his outreach work, Bill identified homeless Veterans in Northern Dauphin County needing housing. Kay Pickering asked if the VA determines eligibility for Veteran services. Bill said HUD is using the Point In Time question, “have you served in the military?” All Veterans should be referred to the YWCA or VOA. Key goals include: outreach, services and immediate shelter, families and pets included. Follow up services will also take place. Bryan expressed appreciation for Bill's work.

Planning and Resource Development – - Bryan Davis said CACH is preparing for a new fiscal year. One ESG contract will be implemented between the City and CACH – with CACH contracting with other providers for City ESG-funded activities. CACH's CoC-funded HMIS contract with HUD was just signed.

Project Homeless Connect – Bryan announced the 2015 Project Homeless Connect (PHC) sponsors: Highmark Blue Shield, Capital Blue Cross, Community Aid, Perform Care/AmeriHealth Caritas, Penn State Hershey, Gateway Health, Pinnacle Health Systems, Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, and the Mt Calvary Episcopal Church. Angela Wise reminded us there are 43 days until the event. This is CACH's sixth year of organizing PHC. Tables are available for vendors. She has raised \$38 in the Go Fund My Event effort. Donations are generally down this year. Trainings start the end of October. Volunteers must be over 18 years old. She organized a different color t-shirt for specific volunteer work. The goal is to have one volunteer for every guest. Five colleges are recruited for volunteers. Set up at the Farm Show is Thursday, November 19th and the event is Friday, November 20th. Tours of the Farm Show for volunteers and agencies will take place on November 19th. Transportation, the funds for birth certificates and support services are provided. In addition, childcare is available. We will provide two meals and take away gifts. Water for guests and volunteers is needed. Classic Dry Cleaners and Sam's Club provided some water. In addition, some diverse representation of religions is needed. Angela was referred to Mayor Papenfuse's Interfaith Council. Sara Matthews told us the veterans need to know about services and education for their children as they face homelessness.

Community Conversations: Dave Seaman is the new chair of this committee. They have been very successful in recruiting more faith-based involvement. Darrell Reinford told us CCU will increase communication and involvement with CACH.

Homeless Prevention Committee – Deb Ritchey reported that committee met since the last General membership meeting. One of the group's goals is to increase awareness

of existing resources. We discussed the requests from the caseworkers to provide more agency specific information on the CACH website and how other Continuums meet this need. Steve Schwartz will talk to members of the Service Delivery/Data Collection committee about this. This committee's efforts to create a medical respite for homeless people are stalled. The committee continues to work on its goal of improving employment opportunities for homeless people. New agencies are still needed to incorporate representative payee services within their responsibilities. With Kathy Possinger leaving Tri County Community Action, the committee will reach out for someone new to represent Community Action.

Housing Committee – Deb Ritchey told us that this group is working with the Harrisburg and Dauphin County Housing Authorities to use Bowman for referrals from homeless people. Natasha Woods reported that additional work includes changing the Authorities' definition of homelessness in their consolidated plans.

Education and Public Information – After PHC, Angela Wise and Natasha Woods want to get more activities underway for this committee. On October 14th, Angela will tape a broadcast for Comcast Newsmakers. She will promote PHC. Amanda Stuffle, CACH intern, is re-designing the website. In the near future, we will have content control and be mobile friendly!

Service Delivery/Data Collection – Deb Ritchey said that the committee continues to implement the coordinated assessment. The October meeting will be to join the PHC coordinating efforts. The results of the homeless youth county will be incorporated into the 2016 Point In Time results.

Ad Hoc committee on Emergency Response - Bill Reed announced that a survey to shelter providers will be sent to identify who has an emergency response plan. Results will be shared with the emergency managers for the City and Dauphin County.

CCIMS – Deb Ritchey reported that the HUD revised the definition of chronically homeless as this is another prioritized population.

Service Gaps, New Opportunities, and Announcements: Melinda Zipp talked about the work of the Harm Reduction Project and her interest in being on the Service Delivery committee. Various representatives told us if their respective agencies tested residents for drugs and alcohol.

Chuck Wingate said that the Mission continues to serve homeless men beyond the shelter's capacity. 97 men were served last night. The highest number served in the last two weeks was 165. In August, Bethesda Mission increased the allowable stay at the Mission's emergency shelter to 25 days.

Kay Pickering told us that the people she serves have serious medical issues. In addition, she has to focus on the number of people whose utilities are shut off. People are living without heat, water and/or electricity. Private property owners and the Housing Authorities are evicting people who do not have these utilities. We talked about Kay's preventative advocacy work and how to replicate. She said her church has a flexible funding source that makes this work possible. Kay also said that it is important to know whom to talk to get things done. Bill Reed said his program can help with utilities. Bryan Davis said he wants to promote this work on the CACH website.

Natasha Woods reported that there will be an Energy and Human Services conference on November 13 from 8:30 to 3:00 pm at the Red Lion Inn on Lindle Road. Someone reported about the On Track program, PPL's program for low-income people. In 2014, 7000 people were served.

Deb Ritchey told us that meetings have been held as to how to serve homeless people in Northern Dauphin County. The work continues.

Marilyn Bellesfield said that Brethren Housing Association (BHA) will host a PREP training that educates renters on their rights and responsibilities. It will take place October 27 from 9:00 to 12:00 at BHA on Hummel Street.

Next Meeting: The next General Membership meeting of CACH will be **February 11, 2016** beginning at 10 AM at Christ Lutheran Church, 124 South 13th Street, Harrisburg

Adjourned 11:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Ritchey,
CCIMS Project Manager