

Capital Area Coalition on Homelessness
General Membership Meeting
October 12, 2017
Minutes

Members Present: Bryan Davis and George Payne, Harrisburg Redevelopment Authority; Crystal Brown, Brethren Housing Association; Maria Chianos, Pinnacle Health Systems; Rumulus Brown, City of Harrisburg; Denise Britton, Shalom House; Darrel Reinford, CCU; Anne Guenin and Linda Gzehoviah, Downtown Daily Bread; Kaamilah Williams, Veterans Administration; Lissette Gonzalez, Family Promise; Natasha Woods, Community Action Commission of the Tri county; Aubrey Stephens, Salvation Army; Kay Pickering; Center for Peace and Justice; Sara Matthews and Karen Buck, VOA; Ivy Schneider and Brad Bowers.

Welcome and Introductions: Bryan Davis convened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Treasurer's Report: - Bryan Davis reported that CACH's submitted the 2017 Continuum of Care (CoC) application on time requesting \$1.7 million in assistance. He reminded us that we continue to encourage Project Homeless Connect supporters, volunteers and sponsors to support Downtown Daily Bread and its Drop In Center. CACH was successful in applying for \$20,000 in Geisinger funding; activities to be announced.

CCIMS -Deb Ritchey distributed a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) report (attached). The report is base-line information about the number of agencies participating in HMIS, the nature of the information entered and numbers served. Bryan Davis discussed these numbers and expressed his hope that more local agencies will use Bowman Service point for data collection. We discussed the costs of providing licenses to users.

Committee Reports:

Planning and Resource Development - Bryan Davis said that new members participate in this committee. The group is examining and evaluating the CACH structure. Bryan expressed appreciation to Crystal Brown for her leadership in the group.

Homeless Prevention - Maria Chianos reported that the committee has not met since the last General membership meeting. George Payne informed us that within the 2017 CoC application is a requirement to work with prisons specific to discharge planning. CACH is in need of strengthening our compliance. He said that we need to answer where do people time-out and

to look for solutions to serving people after incarceration. Maria said Steve Schwartz started this task and that Pinnacle Health Systems is collaborating with Bethesda Mission to ensure medical needs are met of men coming out of prison. Our discussion included other local agencies serving this population. We talked about more people are recently discharged from prison, becoming homeless and some are on Meghan's List. Maria suggested that the committee form a task force on these issues. Bryan welcomes a recommendation for the Coordinating committee. We discussed the increase in homeless people in Dauphin County and the role of Rapid-Rehousing funds.

Public Information and Education – Crystal Brown told us that her application to Leadership Harrisburg Area was funded for a marketing and communication development project. The project team will report out May 2018. Ivy Schneider and Brad Bowers are present today and are on the project team. Crystal also reported that CACH will partner with Educating Children and Youth Experience Homelessness (ECYEH) for an awareness project about homeless students during National Hunger and Homeless week, November 13 – 17, 2017. The campaign is titled, "I will be your voice". We'll wear red and take pictures to be posted on social media. See handout.

Service Delivery/Data Collection – George Payne told us that the committee is rolling out the Coordinated Evaluation and Assessment Referral process. Training is scheduled for caseworkers in November. The roll out will include as many venues as possible. He reviewed and explained the tool (see handout) and reminded us that we took a "no wrong door" approach. Another reminder is that the tool is for the targeted populations: chronically homeless, unsheltered with disabilities, unaccompanied youth and Veterans. Since the fall of 2016, 75 people were served, many of them moved into permanent housing.

Homeless Youth – Deb Ritchey reported that we wait to hear if Valley Youth House will be awarded its proposal for outreach through U.S. Department of Health and Humans Services' Runaway and Homeless Youth grant. CACH successfully applied for the required match dollars through Geisinger Health Systems.

Housing – Bryan Davis told us that new housing units will be available in Harrisburg. George Payne discussed the increase in 811 housing; housing for people with disabilities. He told us about the required priorities to access 811 housing: person must be leaving a care facility, be homeless and be working with the Case Management Unit. After a request, George volunteered to write up the process for accessing 811 housing and send it out.

General discussion – Bryan Davis told us that the Bethesda Mission will restrict the number of men sheltered in specific adverse weather during our Winter Overnight Outreach. In addition, because of the Mission returning to a recovery model, as of March 2018, there will be fewer beds available. We talked about what is needed to remedy this shortage.

Downtown Daily Bread (DDB) – Anne Guenin reported that the operations of the Drop In Center are going well. The hours were expanded and they are serving over 90 people a day, including some folks currently living under the Mulberry Street bridge. Staff are doing a better job of screening guests so that rules are more closely followed. They prepare to open their Winter Overnight Outreach in order to house 50 people starting December 1st; mostly likely the chronically homeless. Security will be increased. A joint press release with CACH was sent out announcing hiring four part time people. Volunteers will not be used this first year. Services increased to include the provision of identification from Penn DOT. See attachment. DDB plans to raise \$50,000 and will undertake fundraising activities. They are holding an open house October 16 through 20th with tours at 10 am and 2 pm.

Winter Overnight Outreach (WOO) – Darrel Reinford is recruiting volunteers to help staff Safe Haven's WOO, which will open at 8 pm from December 1st, to March 31st, 2018. An orientation for volunteers is scheduled for October 23rd at 6:30 at Susquehanna Harbor Safe Haven. He reported that the referral process is being worked out. The YWCA will serve homeless women and children during it is WOO; same time period. This service is a burden for the YWCA and speaks to the need to identify a long-term solution for additional shelter beds as of April 1st, 2018. One reason for this demand is that the Bethesda Mission restricts access to homeless men during WOO to extreme weather. Bryan Davis reported that the Mission returned to its core recovery activity, resulting in a changed use.

Next Meeting: The next General Membership meeting of CACH will be **December 14, 2017** beginning at 10 AM at Christ Lutheran Church, 124 South 13th Street, Harrisburg

Adjourned 11:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Ritchey, CCIMS Project Manager