

Capital Area Coalition on Homelessness
General Membership Meeting
December 14, 2017
Minutes

Members Present: Bryan Davis, Harrisburg Redevelopment Authority; Marilyn Bellesfield, Brethren Housing Association; Maria Chianos, Pinnacle Health Systems; Addie Palache, Sound Community Solutions, Inc. Shana Longenecker, Veterans Administration; Lissette Gonzalez, Family Promise; Natasha Woods, Community Action Commission of the Tri County; Scott Minnich, Salvation Army; Kay Pickering; Center for Peace and Justice; Sara Matthews, VOA; Bill Reed, YWCA; Melanie Hill and Marteshia Gant, Valley Youth House; Julia Hoskins, Self-Determination Housing Project of PA; and Lisa Newcomer.

Welcome and Introductions: Bryan Davis convened the meeting and welcomed everyone. We introduced ourselves to each other.

MOTION by Kay Pickering to accept the August 2017 General Membership meeting minutes without changes.

Seconded by Maria Chianos. MOTION passed.

Treasurer's Report: - Bryan Davis told us that CACH would participate in the 2018 Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community on Saturday, May 19, 2018. The campaign will launch February 1, 2018.

CCIMS - Deb Ritchey reported that CACH submitted its Annual Homelessness Analysis Report (AHAR) for the fourth year. Summaries of the statistics are attached. She told us that some of the components of the AHAR are not accepted; e.g., Emergency Shelter Individuals because Bethesda Mission doesn't use HMIS and they provide so much service that our AHAR doesn't reflect actual numbers served in that category. Contact Deb if you have questions or want to see the entire AHAR.

Committee Reports:

Community Conversations - Denise Britton submitted the attached committee report because she was unable to join us. Bryan Davis read the report. The committee continues to work on its objectives. The next meeting is January 10, 2018 at the Unitarian Church on Market Street, Harrisburg.

Public Information and Education - Deb Ritchey told us that CACH collaborated with Educating Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness

(ECYEH) to increase awareness by holding activities during National Hunger and Homeless Week, November 13 – 17, 2017. ECYEH's campaign is titled, "I Will Be Your Voice," and recognizes students experiencing homelessness. The pictures we took of us wearing red, the signature color for the campaign, provided content for CACH's social media. Bryan Davis reported the CACH has 342 Twitter followers and over 900 Face Book friends. We continue to work with our project group from the Leadership Harrisburg Area. This group will have a draft-marketing plan to the committee by February 2018 and will finish their work by May 2018.

Planning and Resource Development – Bryan Davis said that the committee works on the comprehensive plan. This plan calls for a review of the CACH infrastructure, developing collective resources and our partnerships. We are defining membership and our role for being a conduit for funding.

Homeless Prevention – Maria Chianos reported that as a task for Objective 6, to develop short and long-term strategies to significantly prevent the occurrence of homelessness, we would survey the people on the CACH list serve and specific groups working with people leaving prisons. A result may be the formation of a task force. We discussed the people leaving prisons that are being seen in our homeless network including Downtown Daily Bread; seemingly discharged without needed medications and other basic needs. We discussed our understanding of what the state and county prisons are to provide to people leaving their facilities and the increase in their numbers our partners are serving.

Service Delivery/Data Collection - Marilyn Bellesfield, the new chair of this committee, told us the committee is concentrating on rolling out the Coordinated Evaluation and Referral Tool (CERT). In November, Marilyn conducted training on both the CERT and the Coordinated Evaluation and Assessment Referral (CEAR) process to case managers in the CACH network. The committee will identify additional agencies to be approached about these tools. We are not receiving referrals. We discussed the role of the CERT and that it brings people into the system and better uses our resources. Reminder: the tool targets services to chronically homeless, unsheltered people, Veterans and unaccompanied youth and is on CACH's website. The committee is also discussing HUD's Equal Access rule and what Continuums of Care must do to comply with the final rule. The committee will conduct annual trainings on this requirement. Deb Ritchey reported that next month we would train for the 2018 Point In Time (PIT) survey to be held January 24 and 25, 2018. In addition, outreach about the 2018 PIT is planned for Northern Dauphin County.

Homeless Youth – Melanie Hill introduced herself and her staff person, Marteshia or Marty Gant, and told us about Valley Youth House’s history in Lehigh Valley and service provision. They are bringing these services to Dauphin County. In addition, they will work in Perry and York counties. In Dauphin County, outreach will begin in the new year. We discussed Job Corp and outreach to homeless youth.

General discussion – Several attendees went to the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania’s conference earlier this month. We discussed some of the conference topics.

Kay Pickering observed the health models and resources that the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center brings to our region since they are now part of Pinnacle Health Systems.

Kay also told us about the TV station ABC reporting about Bethesda Mission and DDB’s changing roles in Winter Overnight Shelter. Bryan Davis updated the group that CACH has been involved with the discussions. The Mission will return to its recovery model and will only accepting homeless men from December 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018 according to weather conditions. The following guidelines are the weather condition requirements for guests to stay at the Mission under hazardous weather: 20 degrees and below or wind-chill of the same; exceptions being when extreme weather conditions prevail, such as significant snowfalls/freezing rain/sleet. Hence, DDB expanded its Drop in Center to accommodate 30 men only. The Drop In Center is serving approximately 70 to 90 people during the day.

We discussed the Chewy warehouse hiring opportunities and that they provide transportation. Someone asked who the HUB was for Homeless and we were told that Harristown uses that name for its activities for the people hanging out in Strawberry Square.

Next Meeting: The next General Membership meeting of CACH will be **February 8, 2018** beginning at 10 AM at Christ Lutheran Church, 124 South 13th Street, Harrisburg

Adjourned 11:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Ritchey, CCIMS Project Manager