

Capital Area Coalition on Homelessness
General Membership Meeting
February 8, 2018
Minutes

Members Present: Bryan Davis, Harrisburg Redevelopment Authority; Maria Chianos, Pinnacle Health Systems; Brigid McDougall, the Foundation for Enhancing Communities; Scott Minnich, Salvation Army; Kay Pickering; Center for Peace and Justice; Marteshia Gant and Rachel Rasmussen, Valley Youth House; Julia Hoskins, Self-Determination Housing Project of PA; Lizabeth Kurtyka, Shalom House; Mark Potts; Drew Stockstill; Amy Snyder, Central Dauphin School District; Martha McGraw, Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency; Linda Gzehoviak, Downtown Daily Bread.

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. Linda Gzehoviak is excited about Downtown Daily Bread (DDB) collaborating with CACH in order to participate in the walk.

CCIMS -Deb Ritchey reported that CACH submitted its Annual Homelessness Analysis Report (AHAR) for the fourth year. Summaries of the statistics were provided. 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 6.3 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. Reference will be made to the 2016 General Assembly Joint Task Force report (Task Force Report). 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. Maris referenced the Task Force report that identified legislation, House Resolution 550 to propose, among other tasks, to further study homelessness in Pennsylvania. The committee works on other objectives and will meet before the next General Membership meeting in April.

Service Delivery/Data Collection – In Marilyn Bellesfield’s absence, Deb Ritchey informed us that the committee is concentrating on compliance to the HEARTH Act as identified in the CACH Consolidated Plan. In this effort, required trainings are scheduled. This year’s Stand Down event took place the weekend of January 19th through the 21st, 2018 at the Harrisburg Armory. For over a decade, the Homeless Veteran’s Stand Down has played a vital role in identifying and serving homeless and at risk Veterans, and their families in the South Central Pennsylvania region. It is not known at this time the numbers served. A discussion took place regarding the Christian Recovery Aftercare Ministry, Inc.’s (CRAM) Harrisburg Uptown

Building (HUB) project. No one at the meeting seemed to know the status of this project, how many units are being developed, nor who will be served.

Homeless Youth – Marty Gant reported that Valley Youth House (VYH) has two staff heading up its outreach to homeless youth ages 16 to 24 years old. She re-introduced us to Rachel Rasmussen. Additional staff will be hired. The outreach will include transportation, and the provision of clothes, food and other needed items. Maria Chianos said she has met homeless youth at Downtown Daily Bread. Health insurance is available to homeless youth. Melanie told us about the partnership between VYH and Dauphin County Children and Youth to serve young people aging out of foster care. Attendees talked about other community services available to homeless youth.

Housing - Bryan Davis updated us on the activities of this committee including focusing on identifying property owners to develop relationships with in order to place homeless people. The intent is to support such a placement with services to hopefully strengthen the permanent housing opportunity. The committee wants to increase the availability of safe, decent single room occupancy units and small apartments. We discussed the reduction of affordable housing production and the increase in rental rates since the 2008 recession. Bryan explained how tax credits work, as a tool historically available for increasing affordable housing. Someone told us the Monarch Developers are working with Hershey Trust to development housing previously available to Milton Hershey students for affordable housing. Martha McGraw told us that housing is available through Sunflower Fields in Susquehanna Township. There is new affordable housing at the Hershey Trust building in Derry Township. Julia Hoskins said there is a landlord forum planned for April. We discussed the role of the Harrisburg Housing Authority's in housing provision, evictions and homelessness.

General discussion – Linda Gzehoviak said that Downtown Daily Bread (DDB) will develop a schedule for health care in its Drop In Center. DDB has funding for personal identification and is providing a life skills program Mondays through Wednesdays. Shelter continues to be provided until March 31st in the Drop In Center. Weekend hours are needed. Linda said that in January 2017 792 people were served; in January 2018 1644 people were served; mostly men. This shelter is staffed by volunteers. Recently, three men had to be turned away for lack of room. The Bethesda Mission transports men to DDB. Maria Chianos requested a copy of agencies serving

at the Drop In Center. Linda promoted the upcoming fundraiser to benefit DDB and held at the Midtown Cinema (see flyer).

Julia Hoskins discussed the application coming up for additional 811 housing.

Next Meeting: The next General Membership meeting of CACH will be **April 12, 2018** beginning at 10 AM at Christ Lutheran Church, 124 South 13th Street, Harrisburg

Adjourned 12:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Ritchey, CCIMS Project Manager