

Capital Area Coalition on Homelessness
General Membership Meeting
April 9, 2015
Minutes

Members Present: Bryan Davis and George Payne, The Harrisburg Redevelopment Authority; Tim Whelan, United Way of the Capital Region Greater Harrisburg; Rumulus Brown, City of Harrisburg; Maria Chianos, Pinnacle Health Systems; Cynthia Swanson, Downtown Daily Bread; Denise Britton, Shalom House; Rosalyn Deida and Cedric Bowling, Harrisburg Housing Authority; Kay Pickering, Harrisburg Center for Peace and Justice; Airika Pollard and Mark Hansen, Veterans Administration; Frances Robinson, Interfaith Family Shelter; Natasha Woods, Community Action Commission; Trish Lacey, Capital Area Intermediate Unit; Leah Williams, Gaudenzia/DELTA Community; Liz Caralyus, VOA of PA; Mike Macchieni, Gemma's Angles; and Nelva Wright, Harrisburg Fair Housing Council of the Capital Region.

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

Approval of the Minutes: Motion made by Denise Britton to accept the minutes of the February 12, 2015 meeting without revisions. Seconded by Tim Whelan. Motion to accept the minutes passed.

Presentation – Leah Williams told us about the Dauphin County Rental Assistance Program (DCRAP). Her agency, Gaudenzia/DELTA, Kay Pickering from the Center for Peace and Justice, and a representative from ARC participate in distributing rental assistance to their clients who are income eligible. The recipients of DCRAP must not have other rental assistance available to them. George Payne briefly described the history of the program. Leah welcomed others to participate, emphasizing that staff must continue to work with recipients and provide case management. See the attached handout.

Blueprint Implementation Team (BIT): Tim Whelan updated us on the efforts to develop a day center for homeless people. The committee continues to work on a community presentation for use to raise awareness about our work.

CCIMS – Deb Ritchey said that work would begin to implement Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Policies and Procedures and Memorandums of Agreement with agencies. Refresher trainings on Client Point will be scheduled. Bryan Davis talked about the CCIMS goals.

Committee Reports:

Service Delivery/Data Collection – George Payne reported that a survey was released to providers to assess how intake and referrals are made. The goals of this task are to confirm how we are coordinating services and to lead to the implementation of a

Coordinated Assessment. He described the numerous models available to communities: e.g. the no wrong door approach or the single point of contact approach. HUD wants to know what communities are doing to eliminate chronic homelessness. They will soon issue rules and guidelines specific to implementing the Coordinated Assessment. Liz Caralyus told us that Lancaster and Bucks County have street outreach programs. George then updated us that he has been spending most of his time on compiling the results of the 2015 Point In Time surveys. A preliminary review shows that the population in emergency shelter is about the same; the population in transitional housing seems to have increased since we added new beds; and we do not know yet what the 2015 unsheltered number is. More work must be done to count unaccompanied youth and the chronically homeless. Our community needs street outreach. Elaine Strokoff and Trish Lacey said that their programs serve unaccompanied youth. Trish reminded us about a film titled "The Homestretch" which follows three homeless teens as they fight to stay in school, graduate, and build a future. The film will be shown April 14, 2015.

Project Homeless Connect – Bryan Davis told us that Project Homeless Connect (PHC) team continues to work with the Farm Show Complex to firm up a date for this year's event. Dates in August and November seem to be the only ones available. Our challenges for an early date are that most colleges are not in session yet, and flu shots are not available. The cost of feeding guests at the Farm Show is also an obstacle. Consequently, the team is looking at other sites. Thank you to everyone for supporting PHC.

Planning and Resource: Bryan Davis reported that CACH is "in the black" for 2014. He promoted everyone's involvement with the 2015 Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community to be held Saturday, May 16, 2015. He expressed appreciation for our walk sponsors: Harrisburg Housing Authority, Mt. Calvary Episcopal Church, and Harristown Enterprises.

Community Conversations: Denise Britten told us about the work of this committee at its March 2015 meeting. The group is restating its Mission Statement and continues to engage the faith community, adding five groups including Someone to Tell it To and the Open Table. Its work on mentoring and asset mapping continues. The committee wants to make a positive change through consistent staff training. They will develop a web site to tie resources and information together. The next meeting is May 21st from 9 to 11 am at the Penbrook Church of God.

Homeless Prevention Committee – Maria Chianos reported that this committee wants to know what other committees are doing to avoid duplication of efforts. They are updating the Homeless Services Reference manual, which will be on the CACH website and provided to the list serve. Visit our website at www.cachpa.org The committee applied and was not funded for a Harrisburg and Hershey Rotary grants. One of the committee's completed goals was the development of a flyer about representative payee. We discussed adding banks to this flyer and Maria said that banks are less ideal for our clients.

Housing Committee – George Payne made a presentation to the committee about CACH being the Local Lead Agency (LLA) for the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (previously DPW). LLAs are community organizations selected by the community and approved by DPW. A LLA refers and supports people who have emotional, intellectual, mental or physical disabilities – to move into affordable housing programs, including people who qualify for the PHFA low income threshold 811 set-aside units. The Housing Committee is charged in CACH’s consolidated plan to create 100 affordable housing units in Dauphin County. George said that Pennsylvania received 400 811-rental subsidies from HUD and that Dauphin County stands to receive some of these. 811 housing serves people with disabilities including autism, ages 18 to 64 years old who are clients of an agency serving this population. CACH’s LLA model is to partner with such agencies and their clients will be referred to housing. A question was asked if this would be new or existing housing. The first use will be in existing housing. PHFA will have a round of funding for new construction, which CACH provides support letter. CACH entered into Memorandums of Understanding with the Center for Independent Living and Keystone Services Systems

Public Information and Education: The committee continues to work on outreach pieces. Bryan Davis said that CACH has 608 Fans in Facebook [and 236 Twitter Followers].

Ad Hoc committee on emergency response: Frances Robinson expressed concern that our community may not be able to serve our clients if attacked by terrorist. We need to be able to communicate to the immigrants in Dauphin County that come from numerous countries. No one seems to know the numbers of immigrants. Bryan Davis said that the emergency management agencies have the responsibility to ensure the safety of the community under these situations. The City seems aware of our unsheltered neighbors.

Service Gaps, New Opportunities, and Announcements: Maria Chianos provided the attached handout about free dental services in May.

Kay Pickering provided a flyer about an award winning film titled, “The Throwaways” about the mass incarceration and profiling of poor people of color (attached).

Liz Caralyus told us that the VOA purchased houses on Lexington Street, Harrisburg to rehab for veteran housing. Four more houses will be purchased for rent-to-own opportunities. They are finding that removing barriers of bad credit and criminal records are huge obstacles to housing for their clients.

Mike Macchieni described his agency’s, Gemma’s Angels, activities that is to deliver fresh produce to 25 sites throughout the area. They held holiday parties, and plan to develop a gardening project and a mobile unit to distribute food as a Community-Supported Agriculture. He wants to partner with CACH on an anti-smoking campaign at shelters. See handout.

Nelva Wright introduced herself and talked about the Harrisburg Fair Housing Council of the Capital Region's upcoming activities. They want to extend their purpose and work with CACH on a possible partnership to benefit homeless people.

Please see two other handouts distributed at the meeting.

Next Meeting: The next General Membership meeting of CACH will be **June 11, 2015** beginning at 10 AM at Christ Lutheran Church, 124 South 13th Street, Harrisburg

Adjourned 12:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Ritchey,
CCIMS Project Manager