

Capital Area Coalition on Homelessness
General Membership Meeting
June 9, 2016
Minutes

Members Present: Bryan Davis and George Payne, Harrisburg Redevelopment Authority; Tim Whelan, United Way; Angela Wise and William Reed, YWCA; Maria Chianos, Pinnacle Health Systems; Carol Bietetto and Rolonda Flythe, Gaudenzia/DELTA Community; Mark Houser and Leah Eppinger, Housing Authority of Dauphin County; Kaamilah Williams, Veterans Administration; Kay Pickering, Harrisburg Center for Peace and Justice; Sara Matthews, Volunteers of America; Denise Britton, Shalom House; Darrel Reinford and Iris Thomas, Christian Churches United; Natashia Woods and Kathy Lacomba, Tri County Community Action; Jacob Janagy; Neighborhood Dispute Settlement; Aubrey Stephens, Salvation Army; Ron Tilley, Brethren Community Ministries; Pam Fleck, Midpenn Legal Services; and Barbara Muller, Red Cross.

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

Approval of the Minutes: Motion made by Kay Pickering to accept the minutes of the February 11, 2016 and April 14, 2016 meeting without revisions. Seconded by Pam Fleck. Motion to accept the minutes passed.

Committee Reports:

Blueprint Implementation Team (BIT): Tim Whelan's thanked those who attended the April 29, 2016 community meeting. He reminded us of the process to update/revise our consolidated plan, which expires by end of this year. The subcommittee for this task and the full committee will meet as one on June 22nd at 3 pm at the United Way offices. The subcommittee is working to turn the input from the April community meeting into goals and objectives. Another community meeting will be held in the fall to report out. Tim recruited another intern from Shippensburg College. Her name is Kacie Bodell and she starts at CACH in August and will work until April 2017. Tim will provide supervision. Kacie's responsibilities will include work on Project Homeless Connect (PHC), the 2017 Point In Time (PIT) and revising the consolidated plan. He told us he is leaving United Way of the Capital Region to head up the Cumberland County Housing and Redevelopment Authorities and resigning from the CACH Coordinating Committee. He will start at the Cumberland County Authority the end of July 2016.

Planning and Resource Development – Bryan Davis thanked everyone who supported CACH at the 2016 Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community. We are only \$150 short of our goal of \$4000. Thanks also to our corporate sponsors – the Harrisburg Housing Authority, the Foundation for Enhancing Communities, and Mt. Calvary Episcopal Church in Camp Hill. CACH has a new partner, Team Scott. This family raised over

\$1000 and brought over ten walkers to the event. Kay Pickering said that the Center for Peace and Justice would make a donation. Bryan said tonight Harrisburg City Council would review the City's Community Development Block Grant, the funding for HOME, and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG). CACH submitted an ESG request on behalf of the CCU, Shalom House, and the YWCA for \$165,000. He clarified that the City's IMPACT Harrisburg funds are not available to non-profit organizations.

Community Conversations – Denise Britton reported that the committee continues to work on how to create a future of opportunity, identify gaps in services and work with the faith-based community. They have seen an increase in the participation of the faith-based community in this committee's work. Darrel Reinford said that these participants (attached) for an event on June 16 that the committee developed. The next meeting is July 28 at 9 am at the Penbrook United Church of God.

Homeless Prevention – Maria Chianos told us that the committee meets at 9 am before this General membership meeting in the same location. We are looking at the feedback from the April community meeting and the 2015 Project Homeless Connect (PHC) event. Community case management was one goal identified at the April meeting. We will identify agencies at PHC to approach for outreach. We are happy that Kathy Lacomba joins the committee. She suggested that our presentation include the Poverty Simulation that the Community Action Commission conducts. It is a real eye-opening experience. Additional information the community will collect are the turn aways from CCU and the Dauphin County Assistance office.

Housing –Bryan reported that several Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA) funded housing projects have begun: Union House in northern Dauphin County began construction; and Sunflower Fields in Susquehanna Township had its closing. The Harrisburg Housing Authority's (HHA) project was funded but there is no progress on its new apartments. There is another round of applications for tax credits available through PHFA. George Payne told us the committee is working with HHA on revising its comprehensive plan to prioritize placement of homeless people when there are openings. The Housing Authority of Dauphin County has made this change to its comprehensive plan, effective July 1. Confirmation of housing status will be confirmed through the Homeless Management Information System. An additional committee activity includes exploring the availability of single room occupancies and housing for large families.

Service Delivery/Data Collection – George reported that the committee continues to be focused on the implementation of the coordinated assessment/entry. He told us that the objective of the assessment/entry is to ensure resources are allocated to homeless people in the best manner. Dauphin County has a hybrid of single point of contact and no wrong door. The prioritized populations are chronically homeless people with mental

illness; chronically homeless people without mental illness; unsheltered people, youth, Veterans and unsheltered families with children. He developed an excel tool to assist in the task of identifying appropriate programs for these populations. The By-name Veterans group developed a process that will be applied to this task. Another tool is the Vulnerability Index and Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT). George will finalize these tools and provide them to agencies. Bill Reed updated us on the challenges of the By-name Veterans Group. They continue to work on the release of information form. By July 2016, we will know all of the homeless veterans in Dauphin County. The task is to have them housed in permanent within 90 days.

Project Homeless Connect (PHC) – Angela Wise reminded us that planning meetings are taking place for this year’s event. She will soon broadcast the future planning meeting dates and a list of this year’s needs. The Farm Show will again be the site on October 18, 2016 for the 2016 PHC. Thanks to Christian Churches United for storing items left over from the 2015 PHC.

Homeless Youth – Deb Ritchey reported that we are working with a new group to Dauphin County: Valley Youth Home. This agency is experienced in working with homeless youth. They have a partnership with Dauphin County Children and Youth to serve children aging out of foster care.

Public Information and Education – Angela continues to recruit committee members

CCIMS – Once again, Deb Ritchey reported that we are concentrating on improving data quality.

Service Gaps, New Opportunities, and Announcements:

Bryan Davis reported the result of the 2015 Continuum of Care (CoC) was that HUD did not fund support services. In our community that met that YWorks Single and YWorks Parent was not funded. George Payne said that CACH did well on the 2015 CoC application. Bryan told us that the 2016 CoC application Notice of Funding Availability would be released in June. George expects this year’s application will be very competitive. HUD’s priority is to end chronically homelessness. HUD is requiring CoCs to reallocate projects, specifically reassign transitional housing to be permanent housing.

Jacob Janagy from Neighborhood Dispute Settlement (NDS) informed us about this agency’s activities. He came on board at NDS in February 2016. NDS provides mediation services for neighbors, custody conflicts, landlord/tenant and families. It has 20 trained volunteers. Spanish-speaking volunteers are needed. He is starting a partnership with Community Ministry to participate in a summer enrichment program with youth. NDS funding comes from Dauphin County and other municipalities. The City used to funds.

Kay Pickering distributed "Where to go for help" resource. Bryan will provide the link on the CACH website and promote this resource. She told us that she is seeing an increase in families whose utilities are being shut off. Kay said this is a crisis, which is contributing to homelessness. We discussed medical certifications and that process.

HHA is holding a thank you event for mothers and fathers at Hall Manor this Saturday, June 11, 2016.

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

Adjourned 11:35.

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Ritchey, CCIMS Project Manager