

Capital Area Coalition on Homelessness  
General Membership Meeting  
June 8, 2017  
Minutes

Members Present: Bryan Davis, Harrisburg Redevelopment Authority; Maria Chianos, Pinnacle Health Systems; Dave Seaman, Partnership for Hope; Rumulus Brown, City of Harrisburg; Kay Pickering, Harrisburg Center for Peace and Justice; Tabitha Kramer, Educating Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness; Anne Guenin, Downtown Daily Bread; Sara Mathews, Volunteers of America; Bill Motsavage, Valley Youth House; Airika Pollard, Veterans Administration; Krissy Marshall, Family Promise; Natasha Woods, Community Action Commission of the Tri county; Matt Rich, MidPenn Legal Services; Beth Ellis, Self Determination Housing Project.

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

*Treasurer's Report:* - Bryan Davis described CACH's budget as reflecting one of two years of HUD HMIS funding, a CoC Planning grant, and the City's ESG grant in the 2017 fiscal year. The City's ESG is a pass through for CCU, Shalom House and the YWCA's activities. Dauphin County's ESG is also over a two-year period. He reported that CACH raised 62% of our financial goal (\$3170) for the 2017 Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community, 44% of the Coordinating committee supported the walk, and we had two walkers. The issue of homelessness received attention at the event. Deb Ritchey said that walk sponsors include The Foundation for Enhancing Communities, Mt. Calvary Episcopal Church, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral.

**Committee Reports:**

*Public Information and Education* – Bryan Davis reported that he and Tim Whelan made a presentation before the Leadership Harrisburg Area graduating class on the topic of collaboration.

*Service Delivery/Data Collection* – - Bryan discussed our on-going implementation of the Coordinated Evaluation and Referral Tool (CERT). He reported about the activities of the Veterans By-name list, which serves homeless veterans very similarly as the targeted populations of chronically homeless, unsheltered people and unaccompanied youth served by the CERT. Our HMIS is used for both tools. Deb Ritchey said the committee needs a chair and is working on the identified action steps in the Home Run they identified as work for Service Delivery. Results of the 2017 Point In Time (PIT) [[on the CACH website] are released. Methods for counting homeless people improved and the numbers of homeless people increased to 460 homeless persons.

*2016 Project Homeless Connect (PHC)* – Bryan Davis reminded us the CACH will not organize a PHC this year. The plan is to transfer resources to Downtown Daily Bread (DDB) and its Drop in Center. He thanked DDB for their work and requested help

organizing volunteers. Bryan described the process at PHC to serve guests. Anne Guenin is open to this concept. She reported that the Case Management Unit and Pinnacle are on site. They work with the Tri County OIC to provide life skills training and education. DDB is seeing between 40 to 70 people a day in it Center. They feed about 100 people daily. They are seeing transients. They acquired a small amount of funds to provide identification to people and they are challenged by staffing issues. She is receptive to ideas. Deb Ritchey offered a 2016 PHC outcomes report.

Homeless Youth – Deb Ritchey, Eric Laumer and a representative from Valley Youth House (VYH) met with representatives of the Life Center Ministries church. The church is concerned about homeless youth. Bill Motsavage talked about homeless youth house hopping and described the mobile outreach unit used by Valley Youth House for outreach in other counties. He talked about VYH's interest in submitting a proposal to the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services for outreach funded under Runaway and Homeless Youth activities. They need community mapping to identify areas that homeless youth are at in Dauphin County and they need match funding. We discussed these needs.

Homeless Prevention – Maria Chianos reported that the committee is moving on the action steps in CACH's Home Run. Objective 6. The committee discussed the CERT and the need to expand its implementation. Pinnacle Health Systems makes referrals to the CERT team using the tool. The committee requested a report from the team on outcomes and recommends an evaluation. The tool was used to serve the homeless people that stayed in tents along the Market Square Presbyterian Church. Another committee activity includes evaluation of discharge policies of local hospitals and mental health institutions. It turns out there are no policies to serve homeless people. Maria is developing a Tip Sheet to present to these institutions. Kay Pickering reminded the group about the Representative Payee flyer developed by the committee. She discussed the issue of people she works with not knowing how to budget their funds resulting in homelessness. In addition, she said the Social Security (SS) office expanded its policy of requiring more information from people applying for services. Maria said that the SS practice of requiring recertification of a disability is a hardship. Kay is seeing applicants waiting a long time for application processing.

Community Conversations – Dave Seaman told us the committee is seeing an increase in faith-based participation. They met on May 10, 2017 and that the next meeting is July 19, 2017. Another committee activity includes its House to Home project, a collaboration of The Partnership for Hope, Friends over Fences and M28 Ministries. This project provides mentoring, furniture, and home items to people who are returning to housing from shelter and incarceration. The effort has already collected over \$100,000 in furniture and home items and provided basic needs and mentoring to over 50 people, mostly formerly incarcerated folks. Another partner includes Healing Communities, a national effort to partner churches and ex-offenders. In addition, the committee is holding an event on July 15th in Hall Manor. Dave said they are seeing outcomes.

Housing – Beth Ellis said the committee meets monthly. Today at 1:00 pm there is a ceremony announcing the opening Jackson Tower. The Center for Independent Living was consulted in the handicapped designing of the units. Beth worked with George Payne to fill the 811 openings at B'nai B'rith apartments. Kay Pickering asked about the requirement to provide services to people placed in these apartments. Beth responded that the housing does not require services be provided but agencies will follow through with their clients. The committee continues to work with developers interested in housing that has tax credits. We talked about the Harrisburg Housing Authority's Mulder Project on Derry Street. It is a housing choice project.

MOTION by Maria Chianos to accept the December 2016 and April 2017 General Membership meeting minutes without changes.

Seconded by Kay Pickering. MOTION passed.

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

Adjourned 11:20.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Ritchey, CCIMS Project Manager