

Capital Area Coalition on Homelessness  
General Membership Meeting  
August 11, 2016  
Minutes

Members Present: Bryan Davis, Harrisburg Redevelopment Authority; Michael Weisberg, Blueprint Implementation Team; William Reed, YWCA; Maria Chianos, Pinnacle Health Systems; Rumulus Brown, City of Harrisburg; Jessica Campbell, CONTACT/Helpline; Sara Matthews, Volunteers of America; Krissy Marshall, Family Promise; Barbara Muller, Red Cross; Denise Britton, Shalom House; Airika Pollard, Veterans Administration; Lisa Weingartner and Keith Taylor, Valley Youth House and Janet Jones, Gaudenzia/Delta Communities.

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

**Approval of the Minutes:** Motion made by Maria Chianos to accept the minutes of the June 9, 2016 meeting without revisions. Seconded by Denise Britton. Motion to accept the minutes passed.

*Blueprint Implementation Team (BIT):* Michael Weisberg and Darrel Reinford provide leadership for the subcommittee to revise our ten-year consolidated plan. See attachment. Mike reported out on the April 29<sup>th</sup> community meeting held for public input. Seven goals were identified and work groups for each goal have met. Mike went through the attached update and said that another community meeting will be held this fall. A proposed plan will be presented to the Coordinating Committee at its December 2016 meeting and then the plan will be available to public officials in early 2017. Documents will be available through Drop Box and posted on CACH's website. He talked about the committee balancing the community's input with HUD goals from the HEARTH Act. The revised consolidated plan will have measureable goals and accountability will be built in. Bryan Davis thanked the group and encouraged the attendees to participate and provide input into the plan. He then talked about local housing needs, as we understand them.

**Committee Reports:**

*Housing* – Mike Weisberg reported that the committee is exploring increasing single room occupancy as this type of housing was identified as needed. In addition, both the Harrisburg and the Dauphin County housing authorities are revising their comprehensive plans to prioritize placement of homeless people in available units. CACH's Homeless Management Information System will be used to confirm an individual's and family's housing status.

*Project Homeless Connect (PHC)* – Bryan Davis said planning work continues but we are not quite ready to recruit volunteers. Please volunteer, get trained, and join this

effort on Tuesday, October 18, 2016 at the Farm Show Complex and Expo Center, 2300 North Cameron Street. Visit our website: [www.cachpa.org](http://www.cachpa.org) to sign up for trainings.

Community Conversations – Denise Britton reported that the committee continues to evaluate its vision statement. They are focusing on relational ministries. She referenced goals #6 – Access and Availability of Services and #7 Public Information and Education in CACH’s consolidated plan as being pertinent to Community Conversations. Ongoing activities include mapping the future and training local pastors on community needs and resources. There is more to come on these initiatives. She reminded us that there is a church on every corner in our community and they are open doors to the community. She offered to incorporate the committee’s work within the work of revising CACH’s consolidated plan. Their next meeting is September 14, 2016 at 8:30 at the New Hope Church in Colonial Park.

Homeless Prevention – Maria Chianos told us that the committee just met before this meeting. We are aligning our work plan with the April community meeting input and CACH’s consolidated plan. In addition to other tasks, the committee will identify service providers and partners to make sure they understand CACH’s mission and work. The committee is learning more about the Community Action Commission’s programs including home ownership and housing counseling. Rumulus Brown told us that the Harrisburg Fair Housing Council also provides housing ownership counseling. Bryan reminded us about the role of social media in promoting programs. Maria asked if there is an available report on specific topics that people go to the CACH website and social media for. Bryan responded that the high activity trends are in topics of housing availability, domestic violence, veterans and grant writing. He expressed appreciation for the work of the committee.

Public Information and Education – Bryan reported that Crystal Baxter will chair this committee. The next meeting is August 18<sup>th</sup> at Brethren Housing Association’s office. The committee will promote PHC and the community meetings for revising the consolidated plan.

Service Delivery/Data Collection – No meeting in this month.

Homeless Youth – Deb Ritchey reported that the CACH “Youth Sub-Committee” will provide the Coordinating Committee with a Report on its Findings and recommendations for next steps. Then they may host a spring 2017 half-day “Youth” workshop for CACH Members. At this workshop, we will report-out the findings to date about this population, have Shane Burroughs from Synergy make presentation on outreach strategies. A goal will be that at the end of the workshop, the attendees agree prioritize CACH’s Next Steps. The Youth Sub-Committee could then promote those Next Steps in 2017, and report progress to the Coordinating Committee. Lisa Weingartner and Keith Taylor talked about some of the outreach efforts conducted by the Valley Youth House. One such activity took place in Lehigh Valley over three days.

Their count was 178 homeless youth; 75 of which were couch surfing. One of their events is titled, "Couches Don't Count", which targets homeless lesbian, bi-sexual, gay and transgender youth.

CCIMS –Deb Ritchey reported that we submitted System Performance Measures to HUD, which revealed additional data quality problems. Bill Reed talked about the homeless veteran's effort called "By-name List" model. Data quality is a priority in this effort. In addition, he said that HUD is providing funding for case managers to work with veterans.

### **Service Gaps, New Opportunities, and Announcements:**

Denise Britton talked about the benefits Shalom House experienced when Occupational Therapists interns from Elizabethtown College worked with their residents and staff. They conducted mental health assessments and provided support. She and the interns are looking for a way to integrate this work within the community. Someone reported that Dauphin County Drug and Alcohol is starting new protocols similar to this model. Funders are also interested in the model.

Sara Matthews told us that there is a Veterans Expo Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup> at the Radisson in Camp Hill. Employers will be present.

Deb reported on the activities taking place in Northern Dauphin County. The community will outreach to its neighbors about homelessness in that part of the county.

Janet Jones told us that Gaudenzia's property on North Second Street is almost complete.

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

Adjourned 11:35.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah Ritchey, CCIMS Project Manager