

Capital Area Coalition on Homelessness
General Membership Meeting
October 17, 2019
Minutes

Members Present: Jennifer Wintermyer, Tri County Community Action Commission; Maria Chianos, UPMC Pinnacle Health Systems; George Payne, Harrisburg Redevelopment Authority; Marilyn Bellesfield, BHA; Michael Weisberg, volunteer; Darrel Reinford, CCU; Shari Pollard, Representative Patty Kim's office; Beth-Ann McConnell, CAIU; Sheila Forrester, Keystone Human Services; Joyce Vanderhorst-Gamble; Christina Shull, Kayla Dollison, Robert Mott, Symphony Jones, Valley Youth House; Gillian Sumpter, UPMC; Deb McClain, Beacon Health Clinic; Angela Susten, Dauphin County MH/Autism/ID; Veronica Durham and Jeri Draghi, Banking Officers Branch Banking & Trust Company.

Welcome and Introductions: Jennifer Wintermyer convened the meeting at 10:00 am and welcomed everyone. We introduced ourselves.

Presentation: Veronica Durham and Jeri Draghi presented information about BB&T's free financial education services and other services to establish credit and develop a budget. They are Spanish speaking and currently work with several of our partners including the YWCA, Catholic Charities, BHA, and OIC. Information was distributed. We discussed the bank's services and its work with youth, offering checking accounts with low balance requirements, serving all counties in Pennsylvania and much more. Information available by contacting Deb Ritchey or by getting Veronica Durham and Jeri Draghi's contact information.

Motion to approve both August 15, 2019 meeting minutes by Darrel Reinford. Seconded by Rob Mott. Motion passed to accept meeting minutes without changes.

Treasurer's Report – Jennifer Wintermyer reported that CACH will participate in the 2020 Highmark Walk for a Healthy community.

2019 Continuum of Care (CoC) application – Jennifer Wintermyer told us that CACH submitted this year's application by the September 30th due date. Much appreciation expressed to George Payne for his work. She described the ranking process and committee used this year for that process. George described the two new applications included within the application: one submitted by CACH for funds for our Coordinated Evaluation System and another submitted by Gaudenzia/Delta for Domestic

Violence/Rapid Re-housing services. This application had new requirements to confirm our work with the Work Force Investment board and extra addendums. He reminded us that we must improve our performance measurements in order to bring additional funds to Dauphin County. 2018 measurements reveal an increase in homelessness. We expect to hear from HUD regarding this application between December 2019 and January 2020.

Committee Reports

Public Information and Education – The Chair of the committee, Crystal Brown, returned to work from maternity leave.

Homeless Prevention – Maria Chianos reported that Kelly Gollick, director of Contact/Help Line who manages 211 in Dauphin county, presented information about this service. 211 info connects people with health and social service organizations via the telephone. Contact has new software, which will improve its services. Maria said that an agency's information could be customized. The service will be implemented in Dauphin County in 2020.

Service Delivery/Data Collection – George Payne reported that a training will be held on Tuesday, November 12th by Educating Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH) about homeless students.

Housing – Mike Weisberg told us that the committee is focusing on getting people who are homeless into housing. Thank you to George Payne for getting the Housing Authority of Harrisburg on board to prioritize people. George provided an update on placing people in 811 housing. There are 104 people on a waiting list and 41 vouchers. Barriers to placement include the resistance of property owners to rent to people leaving homelessness. The committee will look at our Landlord mitigation fund to expand eligibility and to move residents from Safe Haven and Shelter + Care to 811 housing. Other committee activities including working with Homeless Prevention on developing a respite care facility and single room occupancy (SFO). We discussed some of the challenges in developing SROs. A member from Capital Region Property Owners Association serves on the committee.

Coordinated Entry and Assessment Referral – Marilyn Bellesfield told us the committee continues to work on the Coordinated Entry System (CES) policies and procedures manual which will include an appendix with forms. The committee's time line was moved from December to January 2020 to provide to the CACH Coordinating committee. The model being developed proposes three access sites for homeless people: an office, a 24-hour call line, and a mobile outreach unit. The next step is to determine eligibility to

be put on a waiting list. The committee proposes concentrating on the literally homeless, people fleeing domestic violence, and veteran, who have a separate process. An assessment is done. One of the goals is to have a person go to one site only. This process does not address those people living in doubled up situations. This committee is not charged with identifying funding for the CES.

Planning and Resource Development – Jennifer Wintermyer reported that CACH Coordinating committee approved the services agreement between the Harrisburg Redevelopment Authority (HRA) and CACH. The agreement now requires HRA Board approval. The committee will present revised by-laws to the Coordinating committee at its November meeting. These revisions include changing the profile of the General membership and empowering the membership to elect Committee chairs and open Board positions. One of the hopes is that people will do more committee work. Additional by-law revisions include changing the name of the Community Conversations to Faith-based Initiatives; increasing Board membership to 7 to 12 members; and agencies will submit proposals in order to get a support letter from CACH. We will actively recruit a formerly or current person who is homeless for Board involvement. No service providers will serve on the newly formed Board of Directors; Bryan Davis will become an ex-officio officer. The founding members of Dauphin County, the City of Harrisburg, United Way and the Foundation for Enhancing Communities will have standing positions on the Board. The target completion date is June 2020. Appreciation was expressed to Mike Weisberg for his leadership and work on this effort. Jennifer welcomed input.

Other business – Deb McClain informed us about services developed at the Beacon Clinic (see flyer). The clinic serves adults from 18 years and older. There is an upcoming fundraiser on November 2nd and they are recruiting volunteers for working at the clinic. Services are expanding to include a dispensary.

Darrel Reinford reported that Winter Overnight Shelter for women and children would not be provided by the YWCA. He is working to fill this gap and considering concentrating on providing adverse winter weather shelter only. Members suggested involving the county and the city. George Payne is the point person from CACH in this effort.

Next Meeting: The next full meeting of CACH will be December 19, 2019 at the Polyclinic Hospital grounds, Memorial Building, Polyclinic, 1st Floor in Simpson Board Room.

Adjourned 11:30 a.m. Respectfully submitted, Deborah Ritchey, Project Manager