

Capital Area Coalition on Homelessness  
General Membership Meeting  
April 18, 2019  
Minutes

Members Present: Bryan Davis, Harrisburg Redevelopment Authority; Jennifer Wintermyer, Tri County Community Action; Maria Chianos, UPMC Pinnacle Health Systems; Michael Weisberg, CACH Housing committee; Kay Pickering, Harrisburg Center for Peace and Justice; Susan Cann, Downtown Daily Bread; Joyce Vanderhorst-Gamble; Beth Kempf, More Than a Shelter; Hope Harrison, Susquehanna UMC; Allison Smith, Widener University; Tabitha Kramer, Educating Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness; Seth Ambrose, Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute; Susan Goldy, Family Health Counsel of Central PA; Dee Allen, Scholars Thrive; and Rebecca Slavinsky

**Welcome and Introductions:** Jennifer Wintermyer convened the meeting and welcomed everyone. We introduced ourselves to each other. Susan Goldy told us about Family Health Counsel and the housing they will provide to people suffering from opiate addiction.

MOTION by Kay Pickering to accept the October 2018 General Membership meeting minutes without changes.

Seconded by Maria Chianos. MOTION passed.

**Treasurer's Report** – Bryan Davis reported in Dan Eisenhower's absence that CACH finances are balanced re: revenue and expenses. We are preparing for the 2019 Continuum of Care application and will update the network when we hear from HUD regarding the due date. Bryan said there will be bonus funding available and that amount will be announced. The 2019 Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community will be held May 18<sup>th</sup> at the main HACC campus starting at 7:45 a.m. The 5K walks commence at 9 a.m. followed by the one-mile fun walks at 9:15 a.m.

**CCIMS** – Deb Ritchey talked about the federal reports submitted by CACH to HUD. The 2019 Point In Time reflected the outreach done by Valley Youth House (VYH). Because of this outreach, many homeless youth were reached. Details will soon be available.

### **Committee Reports**

Public Information and Education – Jennifer Wintermyer told us that CACH revised its logo. Look for it!

Homeless Prevention – Maria Chianos reported that at the committee’s February meeting Karen Snyder from UPMC Pinnacle Health Systems spoke. The hospital is identifying the number of homeless people using its emergency services. UPMC recognizes the need for transitional care for the people. At today’s committee meeting, Randi Yeager from Dauphin County Human Services spoke about the prison discharge planning needed countywide. The county is considering hiring a diversion specialist. She talked about a new recovery house in Millersburg, a drug and alcohol facility in Pennbrook, and a new county program to provide mental health and drug and alcohol treatment to incarcerated people. Randi has also met with the housing committee of the Capital Region Ex-offenders Support Coalition. The committee is considering the planning of a regional conference on discharge policies.

Service Delivery/Data Collection – Kay Pickering reported that the committee is re-educating itself on Objective 4 of CACH’s consolidated plan. Trainings are planned; details to follow. Tabitha Kramer told us that the 2017-18 homeless student population = 1602 countywide. She will research the question about the status of these youth staying in school. Susan Cann said the Winter Overnight Shelter went well, reminding us that Downtown Daily Bread (DDB) has 40 beds for homeless men. The average served was 43 a night; with a total season count = 219. There were three nights during the season when men had to be turned away. During really cold days, the day shelter extended its hours. The shelter had a 50% increase in the number of visits to the day shelter from 2017 to 2018. We discussed whether it was an increase in homelessness or an increase in awareness about homelessness. Kay said this is in light of the fact that some homeless people with not use DDB.

Homeless Youth – Dee Allen told us about her THRIVE program working with VYH to provide 18 months of transitional housing to homeless youth. They have obstacles in getting funding for photo identification.

Housing – Mike Weisberg said the Chuck Gassert retired from chairing this committee. Great job, Chuck! Mike said Chuck should be nominated volunteer of the year. He said that the Housing Authority of Dauphin County received 145 referrals for the 41 811 housing units for people with disabilities. Some procedures must be developed specific to handling referrals and developing a waiting list. Bryan Davis said homeless people must be in HMIS to access 811 housing. The committee is working on getting the Harrisburg Housing Authority (HHA) to have a procedure for prioritizing homeless people for housing placement. Mike described the landlord mitigation fund. He wants to expand committee membership to include others working on housing. Related to housing, we discussed the

Opportunity Zones in the city and developing combined public/private funding. It was announced that the HHA is developing housing in uptown Harrisburg.

Planning and Resource Development – Jennifer Wintermyer said the committee is reviewing CACH's by-laws and developing a Management Agreement between CACH and the Harrisburg Redevelopment Authority. In addition, it is exploring funding opportunities for the coordinated assessment.

**Other business** – Kay Pickering reminded us about the gas and water shutoffs that impact on low-income people that continue. We discussed the Capital Region Water guidelines. Jennifer Wintermyer told us that the Tri County Community Action worked directly with Capital Region Water for resolution. She will follow up with the new CEO of Capital Region Water for possible assistance. LIHEAP is closed for the season. Kay reminded us that the Pennsylvania General Assembly is working to remove the general assistance program that elderly and the disabled access. She distributed a handout about taxes.

Susan Goldy talked about the Family Health Council's new housing program to serve persons with opioid use disorder. They will develop an advisory committee and stay in touch with members of CACH.

Jennifer encouraged participation in the upcoming 2020 census. Participation is crucial to identifying the number of people in the community and aligning public dollars to those numbers. The U.S. Census Bureau is hiring enumerators.

**Next Meeting:** The next full meeting of CACH will be June 20, 2019 at the Christ Lutheran Church.

Adjourned 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Ritchey, Project Manager