

Capital Area Coalition on Homelessness
General Membership Zoom Meeting
September 24, 2020
Minutes

Members on Zoom: Jennifer Wintermyer, Tri County Community Action (TCCA); Jennifer Strechay, TFEC; Bryan Davis, Harrisburg Redevelopment Authority; Michael Weisberg, CACH; Darrel Reinford and Aisha Newton, CCU; Randie Yeager, April Rudick, Emy – Lynn Marhulik, Dauphin County; Greg McCutcheon, CMU; Lisa Scott, PHFA; Gillian Sumpter, UPMC; Crystal Ouedraogo, City of Harrisburg; Marilyn Bellesfield, Brethren Housing Assn.; Kelly Gollick, Contact Helpline; Julia Fake, The Program; Kay Pickering; Harrisburg Center for Peace and Justice; Scott, Minnich, Salvation Army; Angela Mountz, Family Promise.

Welcome and Introductions: Jennifer Wintermyer convened the meeting at 10:05 and welcomed everyone. We introduced ourselves. Jennifer talked about cancelling previously scheduled General membership meetings. Despite this, the work of CACH continues.

Motion to approve the February 20, 2020 meeting minutes by Kay Pickering. Seconded by Jennifer Strechay. Motion passed to accept meeting minutes without changes.

Treasurer's Report – Jennifer Wintermyer told us that she, Dave Madsen, Secretary, and Jennifer Strechay, Vice Chair are working to identify and recruit a Treasurer for the Coordinating committee. In addition to accounting abilities CACH requires no conflict of interest specific to the funds CACH receives, leadership qualities, the commitment to promote CACH and fundraising abilities. They are looking outside the homeless network. Jennifer said that CACH is not required to have an independent audit performed. She reported CACH is in a good financial position specific to discretionary funding. Since the pandemic, the following funds related to COVID activities have been received: Amazon \$20,000; \$20,000 applied for by TCCA to PNC Bank on behalf of CACH; and several sources of COVID relief from both the City of Harrisburg and Dauphin County. These latter funds have yet to be awarded and are for the shower provision, port-a-johns, water supplies and other COVID response tasks. Jennifer thanked Randie Yeager for helping get COVID relief funds for homeless people. CACH provides the leadership for the weekly emergency response calls. The pandemic created outreach opportunities of which the network responded to. She expressed confidence these funds will underwrite the upcoming fall and winter challenges.

COVID Emergency Response – Bryan Davis recognized that many of the people participating in this call also participate in the weekly emergency response calls. He thanked everyone and acknowledged that our collaboration with each other is making a good difference. We have mobilized quickly, created a core team as well as developed team for outreach, shelter provision and funding. We talk every Wednesday. Shelters are practicing distancing and best practices as promoted by the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Of the numerous guidelines provided by the CDC is urging communities to not close encampments. The City, County and Emergency Management has been very helpful. City Fire Chief Bryan Enterline has provided leadership and ensured basic needs were provided. Policies and procedures, a referral chart, and a list of resources have been researched and written. Continued research takes place specific to funding.

Specific people who have played a crucial role were called out in appreciation for their roles: Specific people were recognized for their roles in all this work: Randie Yeager, April Rudick, Crystal Ouedraogo and Darrel Reinford are just a few and thank you very much. The work continues with an increase in community engagement. We talked more about the groundwork, the benefits of having the Coordinated Entry Assessment (CES) in place

Committee Reports

Faith-based Initiatives – Jennifer Wintermyer said that Denise Britton will continue to chair this committee. Denise left the directorship of Shalom House and now leads Shalom Properties. Kyla Harvey is the new director of Shalom House. This committee has not met recently.

Prevention and Housing – Jennifer Wintermyer reported that Maria Chainos is no longer chair of the Prevention committee since she retired from UPMC. She welcomed Gillian Sumpter as the new chair of the Prevention committee. These two committees are combining their efforts. Gillian thanked everyone for having trust in her and Mike Weisberg thanked her. The committees are working in partnership with other community agencies in the eviction moratorium. They are concentrating on prevention activities to keep people in their homes. There is a Pennsylvania Housing Alliance funded eviction prevention/mediation pilot program in Dauphin County. Some of the partners include the Dauphin County Bar Association, Mid Penn Legal Services and Christian Churches United. Mike explained the pilot program that requires mediation between the landlord and tenant, and the development of a repayment plan. He said that the Capital Region Property Owner Association (CRPOA) report that 32 – 40% of their tenants are five or more months behind in rent. Census did a survey that states in July 2020 40% of Pennsylvanians were 3 or more months behind in their rent. He urged us to write our legislators soon regarding this situation. The committee are also developing Prevention allocation for people in these situations. He described some of the criteria being considered: eviction proceeding in place, health conditions and homelessness history. Mike also reported the difficulty eligible 811 applicants must identify affordable properties. The committee is appealing to both the Harrisburg and the Dauphin County Housing Authorities to apply for additional 811 vouchers in response to a recent HUD Notice of Funding Availability. The Landlord Mitigation fund continues to be worked on by the committee. They are working from the Coordinated Entry and Assessment Referral (CEAR) Tool. Training will be offered to participating agencies in the fund. Mike recommends a housing study be conducted to identify how many units are needed to house people. Darrel Reinford told us that CCU will hire additional staff to administer the Homeless Prevention funds. He talked about the CARES rent relief applications must be submitted by September 30, 2020. CCU has been recognized for getting the rental assistance out to needy people; some counties in Pennsylvania not accessing these PHFA dollars.

Coordinated Entry System (CES) – Marilyn Bellesfield updated us that we will enter pilot program status for our revised coordinated entry October 1, 2020. Contact/Helpline's 2-1-1 began September 1st as the CES access site and taking calls from people in a housing crisis. CCU works closely with 2-1-1 receiving referrals and conducting an assessment of people to be placed on the CES waiting list. These folks are prioritized for housing placement. Marilyn urged providers to refer people to 2-1-1, not specific programs. Aisha Newton and Alyson Long

are the CCU staff receiving referrals and working directly with programs. The committee is developing marketing materials, which will soon be available. The process is going well. Thanks to Kelly Gollick for this collaboration. Kelly said it is a good fit.

Public Information and Education – Deb Ritchey reported that the committee plans activities around National Hunger and Homeless Awareness week, November 16 – 20, 2020. This outreach effort involves increasing awareness specific to homeless students.

Service Delivery/Data Collection – Deb said that the committee met in August and plans an October meeting. We are concentrating on training in topics identified as strengthening the Continuum.

Planning and Resource Development – Jennifer Wintermyer reported that the implementation of the revised by-laws has been delayed. These by-laws outline a separation of duties and establishes a formal membership opportunity. Members will vote on Board of Directors targeted for July 2021. We need a person to head up the membership drive. Despite that the committee hasn't met, efforts continue. Everyone was encouraged to join CACH. An organization and individual must be registered as a member to vote.

Other business – Darrel welcomed Alyson Long to the group. Alyson works with the CES and will head up the Winter Overnight Women and Non-binary women's shelter (WOS) this season. Other staff will also be hired. CCU will be house the men's WOS this winter. Darrel said the agency will support another location for the men. Bryan Davis said that stakeholders historically providing WOS will have a conference call Thursday, October 1, 2020. The need for WOS for 75 men was identified. This group has identified candidate sites and funding to pay for the WOS.

Jennifer Strechay reported that TFEC is partnering with United Way of the Capital Region to provide COVID-19 Community Response funding. See The Foundation's website for details. There is no specific due date for applications. Ninety-one grants were awarded in the total amount of \$200,000. Eligible groups may re-apply for funding.

Thanks to everyone for your time and hard work.

Next Meeting: The next Zoom General membership meeting of CACH will be determined.

Adjourned 11:00 a.m. Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Ritchey, Project Manager