

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

Members Present: George Payne, Harrisburg Redevelopment Authority; Tim Whelan, United Way; Rumulus Brown, City of Harrisburg; Steve Schwartz; Dave Seaman, Community Conversations; Elaine Strokoff, Downtown Daily Bread; Darrel Reinford, Christian Churches United; Maria Chianos, Pinnacle Health Systems; Kristina Marshall, Family Promise; Kay Pickering, Harrisburg Center for Peace and Justice; Amanda Stuffle; intern with CACH; Sara Matthews and Anne White, Volunteers of America; Rosalyn Deide, Harrisburg Housing Authority; Mike Macchioni, Gemma's Angels; and Deborah Donahue, Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick;

**Welcome and Introductions:** George Payne convened the meeting, and welcomed everyone.

**Approval of the Minutes:** Motion made by Kay Pickering to accept the minutes of the December 10, 2015 meeting without revisions. Seconded by Maria Chianos. Motion to accept the minutes passed.

Presentation: Juniata Edrington-Grant from Christian Recovery Aftercare Ministry, Inc. (CRAM) updated us about a project she and her team are developing in the previous Hamilton Health Building on Fulton Street. The project has many aspects to it including the provision of 21 beds for homeless veterans. She applied for tax credits available through the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency. It is also her intention to apply for funds available through the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program. VASH combines Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) rental assistance for homeless Veterans with case management and clinical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The renovated building is now called the Harrisburg Uptown Building (HUB) and other planned activities include a business incubator as well as some off-site development for housing for ex-offenders. Mrs. Edrington-Grant formed a collaboration with Governor Leader, who left a generous trust fund to CRAM. CRAM has been providing housing and services to ex-offenders and serves people on the Meghan list. Additional funding has been awarded including Community

**Committee Reports:**

Blueprint Implementation Team (BIT): Tim Whelan reported the CACH's current consolidated plan expires in 2017. A subcommittee is working on the review and renewal process. The plan is to hold a community-wide half-day meeting the last week of April 2016. The review process will take throughout 2016 and the general membership will be kept informed. The next subcommittee meeting is late this month.

Planning and Resource Development – Deb Ritchey told the group that the CACH Coordinating committee passed a 2016 budget. CACH will participate in the 2016 Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community.

Community Conversations – Dave Seaman reported that this group is renewing its vision and creating resource opportunity. The committee is successful in engaging faith-based organizations. They will meet in March. See Dave for details.

Homeless Prevention – Steve Schwartz told us that the committee continues to work on its short and long-term goals. He and Krissy Marshall developed a strategy specific preparing students for employment. One opportunity they want to develop is a partnership between civic groups and high school students. They will contact the Harrisburg School District for a discussion. Steve wants to talk with area employers about creating internships for residents of transitional housing that could lead to employment. Maria Chianos distributed the resource, “Where to go for help” and asked that anyone seeing a need for an update and/or revision should provide that to Deb Ritchey. Bryan Davis agreed to get this resource on the CACH website. We discussed the role of the CACH website in serving homeless people and service providers. This discussion included the resource available through Contact/Helpline - #211. Another activity the Prevention committee is working on is approaching the agencies that participated in the 2015 Project Homeless Connect to participate in the Downtown Daily Bread’s (DDB) Drop In Center and to hear more about CACH. Kay Pickering brought more “Guides to low-income Rental Opportunities” for distribution.

Housing Committee – George Payne said that the last committee meeting was cancelled because of the snowstorm. The committee continues to work with both the Harrisburg and Dauphin County Housing Authorities to revise their comprehensive plans to include the definition of homeless as a priority population. Referrals for housing will be made through HMIS. CACH provided support letters for housing projects seeking tax credits through the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency. These projects include Cherry Orchard Place Senior Housing Project, Sunflower Fields, and the CRAM project in the Hamilton Health Building on Fulton Street that we heard about earlier. Rosalyn Deide told us that the Harrisburg Housing Authority (HHA) would open up enrollment in Section 8 Housing February 29 through March 2, 2016. A lottery system will be used to manage the applications. The application is available on line and assistance is available. Kay Pickering discussed the frustration the clients and service providers feel in accessing HHA housing.

Service Delivery/Data Collection – George Payne reported that the 2016 Point in Time (PIT) is complete with surveys due to him February 12, 2016. We had a postponement because of the snowstorm. We interviewed people at DDB over a seven-day period. He thanked all of the agencies involved. He is working with the Bethesda Mission to get their data including PIT. George also reported that we received 21 surveys from homeless youth in an effort that covered November, December 2015 and January 2016.

He then told us that the committee is concentrating on implementing the coordinated assessment. The following populations will be prioritized: chronic homeless people with a disability, unsheltered people, youth, Veterans, domestic violence victims and chronically homeless without a disability. Part two of this effort is the implementation of the Vulnerable Index - Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT). The VI-SPDAT is on Bowman.

*Project Homeless Connect* – Deb Ritchey reported that the 2015 Project Homeless Connect served 344 guests including 26 children seeking various forms of assistance and near homeless people received services; with a total equaling 370 people. Another five children stayed with their parents while receiving services. Three unaccompanied youth attended PHC. In addition, many other individuals obtained support and made connections with service providers that will work with them in addressing barriers to obtaining permanent housing. There were more than 82 hours of case management services following the event as of December 31, 2015. The Project was supported by more than 460 volunteers and had 72 different service providers and agencies available to offer assistance.

CCIMS – Deb Ritchey told us that CACH submitted an Annual Homeless Analysis Report (AHAR) for a second year. The AHAR highlighted specific HMIS training needs and the need to ensure data quality.

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

Michael Macchioni has two new programs. One encourages families to eat fresh fruits and vegetables. This program has a mascot called Farmer Andy. Another program he works with in called Veggie R Us where medical providers provide prescriptions to a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). Gemma's Angels continues to have their gardens and the food from these gardens goes to local shelters.

Deb Donahue talked about Randi's House of Angels that serves children affected by domestic violence. They are gearing up for their three-day camp this summer. Their partners include the YWCA and the Victim Witness office. See handout.

Darrell Reinford told us that Iris Thomas is the new staff person at Susquehanna Harbor Safe Haven for men.

Tim Whelan distributed a flyer about United Way's Community Conversation meetings (attached).

**Next Meeting:** The next General Membership meeting of CACH will be **April 14, 2016** beginning at 10 AM at Christ Lutheran Church, 124 South 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Harrisburg

Adjourned 11:40. Respectfully submitted, Deborah Ritchey, CCIMS Project Manager