

Capital Area Coalition on Homelessness
General Membership Meeting
April 14, 2016
Minutes

Members Present: Bryan Davis, Harrisburg Redevelopment Authority; Tim Whelan, United Way; Rumulus Brown, City of Harrisburg; Rosalyn Deide, Harrisburg Housing Authority; Beth Ellis, Self Determination Housing Project, Deborah Donahue, Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick, Maria Chianos, Pinnacle Health Systems; Kaamilah Williams and Donald Rindfuss, Veterans Administration; Kay Pickering, Harrisburg Center for Peace and Justice; Nancy Chavez, Randi's House of Angels; Denise Britton, Shalom House; Darrel Reinford, Christian Churches United; Natashia Woods, Tri County Community Action; Janet Jones and Dolondri Flythe, Gaudenzia/Delta Community.

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

February Meeting Minutes will be available for review and approval next meeting.

Committee Reports:

Blueprint Implementation Team (BIT): In Tim Whelan's absence, Maria Chianos, Darrel Reinford and Deb Ritchey promoted the April 29th community meeting to seek community input on CACH's consolidated plan. This meeting will be at the Colonial Park United Church of Christ at 8:00 to 12:00. The plan is on the CACH website and up for review and approval. Bryan Davis reminded us the public input is crucial

Planning and Resource Development – Bryan Davis also reminded us that CACH is participating in the 2016 Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community on May 21st on the HACC campus. Highmark will award prizes. He thanked our gold sponsorship of the Harrisburg Housing Authority and a silver sponsorship in the Foundation for Enhancing Communities. CACH is the conduit for the City's Emergency Solutions Grant. This is a first time task and CACH is receptive to doing more of this for our partners.

Community Conversations – Denise Britton reported on the focus of this committee which includes among other goals a team approach to service and support; filling gaps for each other; building relationships, not more programs; collaboration, moving away from silos; planning and partnership between all entities; funding for nonprofit supportive agencies; develop measurable outcomes, implementation, and follow-ups. The committee wants integration of faith-based communities within this work. We discussed accountability, meeting with the business community and other community roles. Darrel Reinford asked what CACH's role is and Bryan Davis responded that relationships exist between CACH and the community and that there is a protocol. He said that CACH is not equipped to take on the responsibility of an "Emergency Responder Entity". Historically, CACH has had an informal response. Additional

discussion included the role of Crisis Intervention. Rumulus Brown said that if people what help, they get help. The next committee meeting is May 27th at 9 am at the Penbrook Church of God.

Homeless Prevention – Maria Chianos reported that the committee has met a couple of times since our last meeting and continues its work on its action plan, which includes goals of getting to the root cause of homelessness and concrete prevention activities. We will soon conduct outreach to specific agencies. The committee updated the Homeless Services Resource manual and is adding revisions to the resource titled, “Where to go for help.” Kay Pickering said she sees clients who become homeless because of the rise of utility rates. She said UGI is requesting a rate increase. Deb Donahue said in response to the discussion about people in the Harrisburg Housing Authority neighborhoods being solicited by middleman utility providers that the Attorney General’s Consumer Protection office should be contacted. We talked about the Tri County Commission’s On-track program and the challenges of education people about their utilities before they are shut off. Bryan Davis talked about the Pennsylvania General Assembly’s Joint State Government Commission on homelessness in our state. He will send out information about it.

Service Delivery/Data Collection – Deb Ritchey reported the work continues on the implementation of the Coordinated Assessment/Intake. Tim Whelan said that the Coordinating Committee voted to hold a 2016 Project Homeless Connect (PHC) with a transition team to explore moving services to Downtown Daily Bread’s Drop In Center. Darrel Reinford expressed concern that the Drop In Center does not have its own non-profit status, i.e. 501(c)3 ruling. This makes for a capacity issue. We discussed the purpose of PHC, what its impact is and what are other communities doing. A report on six years of outcomes will be provided. Bryan thanked everyone who attended the PHC debriefing. Costs of holding a PHC was calculated in 2014 to equal \$180,000 including professional and non-professional volunteer contributions. Deb reported that 21 surveys were received from November, December 2015 and January 2016 of homeless youth. Darrel told us the group meeting in upper Dauphin County about homelessness. The next meeting of this group is April 27 at 10:30 at the Dauphin County Human Services office. CCU is administering Homeless Prevention/Rapid Re-housing funds to serve the rural population.

CCIMS – Deb Ritchey reported that we are concentrating on improving data quality.

Service Gaps, New Opportunities, and Announcements:

Natashia Woods told us that her agency is working with the Harrisburg Housing Authority (HHA) for first-time home ownership opportunities. This includes targeting specific HHA residents for outreach and education. Fred Banuelos is the contact at HHA.

Nancy Chavez told us about Randi's House of Angels. They are also working with HHA in concentrating in helping victims of domestic violence and their children. Randi's volunteers go to agencies; they do not have an office. There is no cost for their services which includes therapy for the children, food and gas cards. She distributed literature about their camp (see attachment). Their other partners include the YWCA and area churches.

Kay Pickering told us about a series of events of hosted by the Harrisburg Center for Peace and Justice. The last in the series is April 17th. Dr. John is the keynote speaker and proposes a response to the violence in a community. He identifies it as a medical issue.

Janet Jones said there are two caseworker job openings at Gaudenzia/Delta.

Next Meeting: The next General Membership meeting of CACH will be **June 9, 2016** beginning at 10 AM at Christ Lutheran Church, 124 South 13th Street, Harrisburg

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