

Capital Area Coalition on Homelessness  
General Membership Meeting  
June 11, 2015  
Minutes

Members Present: Bryan Davis and George Payne, Harrisburg Redevelopment Authority; Tim Whelan, United Way of the Capital Region Greater Harrisburg; Rumulus Brown, City of Harrisburg; Steve Schwartz, Brethren Housing Association; Angela Wise and Trudy Forney, YWCA; Maria Chianos, Pinnacle Health Systems; Denise Britton, Shalom House; Elaine Strokoff and Cynthia Swanson, Downtown Daily Bread; Rosalyn Deida and Cedric Bowling, Harrisburg Housing Authority; Kay Pickering, Harrisburg Center for Peace and Justice; Airika Pollard and Kaamilath Williams, Veterans Administration; Krista Hoffa, Berks County Intermediate Unit; Janet Jones, Gaudenzia/DELTA Community; Bill Frederick, CMU; Melissa Snyder, Salvation Army; and Chuck Wingate, Bethesda Mission.

**Welcome and Introductions:** Bryan Davis convened the meeting, and welcomed everyone. We all introduced ourselves.

**Approval of the Minutes:** Motion made by Denise Britton to accept the minutes of the April 9, 2015 meeting without revisions. Seconded by Angela Wise. Motion to accept the minutes passed.

**Committee Reports:**

*Project Homeless Connect* – Angela Wise reminded us that set up for the 2015 Project Homeless Connect (PHC) is Thursday, November 19, 2015 and the event is Friday, November 20, 2015 at the Farm Show Complex and Expo Center, 2300 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg. This is our fifth PHC. Invites will soon be sent for our first large group-planning meeting. Highmark Blue Shield is again our major sponsor at a contribution of \$5000. People interested in volunteering please contact her at 234-7931.

*Drop In Center* – Elaine Strokoff reported that Tim Whelan, Chuck Wingate and she have been working for several months to extend the hours of Downtown Daily Bread (DDB) to provide a place for people to go to. The plan is to extended operation hours to 4:30 pm five days/week. They hope to have a soft launching of this extension in July 2015. There will be programming offered to homeless people. The activities to be offered at DDB will be showers, recreation, computers, television viewing, cell phone charging and refreshments. Additional counselors will be on site and there are plans to have representatives from Pinnacle Health, YWCA, Drug and Alcohol and other agencies. Tim Whelan said that they hope the programming offered to people will be comprehensive. The third floor of the Boyd Center is being made available. Appreciation was expressed to everyone and especially for Elaine's efforts to make this happen. Chuck Wingate said they are looking for robust support and that there are needs for small tables, chairs, snacks, coffee and a coffee pot, board games, towels,

washcloths, and toiletries. Please join the community-wide effort. Cynthia Swanson expressed the hope that other churches and local colleges will become engaged.

*Blueprint Implementation Team (BIT):* Tim Whelan told us that the committee is close to finalizing the CACH “Public” power point presentation. The power point presentation can be used to recruit volunteers. He plans to show it at the next General Membership meeting in August. Maria Chianos said she has a list of churches we could approach. Bryan Davis reported that CACH now has 650 “Fans” on Face Book. The BIT will meet in July; everyone welcome.

*Planning and Resource:* CACH raised over \$3500 at the 2015 Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community; more funds than we targeted. Awareness about our work also took place. Bryan Davis thanked all of our supporters and sponsors: Harrisburg Housing Authority for \$1000 and Mt. Calvary Episcopal Church/\$500and Harristown Enterprizes/\$250.

*Community Conversations:* Denise Britten told us about that Michael Macchioni from Gemma's Angels is involved with Community Conversations to provide fresh produce and work on community gardens on Allison Hill. Area shelters also receive food from Gemma’s Hummelstown garden. In addition, Community Conversations is working with the Tri County Community Action (TCCA) and its Growing Strong program. Denise will combine the resources from TCCA and Maria Chianos church list to expand participation. The next meeting is July 15, 2015 from 9 to 11 am at the Penbrook Church of God.

*Homeless Prevention Committee* – Steve Schwartz and Maria Chianos co-chair this committee and reported that the proposal before Pinnacle Health to provide respite care was placed on a back burner because of the merger between Pinnacle and Penn State Hershey Medical Center. Maria defined respite care as after care following acute care, staffed by a nurse. Other committee activities include identifying funds for a case manager to work with people being evicted. Steve expressed appreciation to Kay Pickering for developing a job description. The committee approached Kathy Possinger at TCCA for supervising this case manager. No word on that as Kathy is leaving TCCA to work with the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. Kay provided multiple copies of “Where to go when you need help.” Contact either her or [www.efmr.org](http://www.efmr.org) for copies.

*Housing Committee* – George Payne attended the committee’s May meeting. Bonnie Kent from the office of Upper Dauphin County Human Services presented to the committee on services provided by her office. This area does not have a real response to homeless people. Area churches are doing what they can. CACH must remember the rural homeless. Bryan Davis talked about recent resources citing the lack of affordable housing. Rosalyn Deida said that the Harrisburg Housing Authority (HHA) has two types of housing openings. She talked about qualifying criteria. Bryan said that HHA was approved for 50 new units. The Housing Authority of Dauphin County

recently signed off on three tax credit applications submitted to Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency. Two were approved for funding: One is in Susquehanna Township called Sunflower Fields and has a set aside of five units for handicapped individuals/families and that, all units are available to households with income at or below 60% of area medium income (AMI). The other proposal that was funded is called Union House Apartments and is located in upper Dauphin County in Lykens. This development has 28 affordable rental apartments plus three units to be available to individuals/families at or below 20% AMI. Bryan Davis said these projects should close on their financing by the end of this year, with construction started and possible completion by Summer/Fall 2016. CACH will let our partners know when these new affordable housing units, plus the set asides, are available for placement. Rosalyn promoted the HHA's Spring has Sprung! Event. See attached flyer. Kay Pickering said she has clients in HHA housing that need a larger unit. She talked about people not having permanent addresses and agencies reminding them to follow through. The Homeless Prevention committee recognized that agencies need training.

Education and Public Information - Bryan Davis said that help is need on this committee specific to web site updates, social media and outreach/awareness opportunities. Maria Chianos asked if CACH had approached local universities for help in this area.

Service Delivery/Data Collection – George Payne said the committee has a new chair, Frances Robinson. This committee prioritized the implementation of the coordinated assessment; the topic of our next meeting. He announced that the 2015 Point In Time is available along with a five-year analysis. George then talked about the trends in Dauphin County: a decrease in the number of chronically homeless; increase in transitional housing (TH) because of the additional TH beds and in the nearly homeless; and that emergency shelter and veterans' statistics stayed the same. We are not capturing the overflow of homeless people. These include the unsheltered men with drug and alcohol or mental health problems. The only area housing for such men is Trinity House. Other challenges include counting unaccompanied youth. Someone mentioned the Susquehanna Harbor Safe Haven will not house men less than 21 years. George will follow up on this. Chuck Wingate said that last winter Bethesda Mission had an average of 170% increase. Bryan said that on any given day, there are about 402 people (134 of these are children) living in shelter, transitional housing, Safe Havens or Unsheltered. Another 182 (37 of these are children) are formerly homeless, and living in a CACH Network permanent housing program. 56 persons, including 9 children, are "near homeless". Chuck said that staff in Lancaster homeless agencies will not serve non-Lancaster homeless people. These folks receive five days of shelter. He then reported that the mission has a \$5 million capital project to increase capacity but adding 50 beds to the men's shelter and replace the women's shelter and increase capacity in that effort to serve 18 to 25 year old women. Chuck told that two men froze to death last winter. The only details he had on these fatalities is that one man died in upper Dauphin County. Other committee tasks include memorizing standards for prioritization of homeless people, HMIS policies and procedures and governance

policies. When these items are completed, CACH will receive points on its 2015 CoC application. George said the 2015 CoC application may be released this summer.

Homeless Youth – George Payne described CACH's effort to count homeless youth; unaccompanied youth up to 24 years old. CACH is gearing up to conduct a survey of homeless youth (minors and 18-24 year olds) who are unaccompanied i.e. those who may be runaway or kicked out by their families, over a window of three months: November, December, and January. As such, we are reaching out to all relevant agencies that may have bearing with this population. We will host two meetings: one on September 17 Thursday at 1:00 p.m. at the YWCA of Greater Harrisburg, with key contact persons, to go over the project and hammer out any issues. Then the second meeting is a few weeks later on Thursday October 15 also at 1:00 p.m. at the YWCA for training all survey participants who may encounter these youth and conduct the survey. Kay Pickering talked about youth who received Social Security, did not follow up with the required paperwork and are now homeless. Bill Frederick is placing youth. Steve Schwartz said that Dauphin County Children and Youth are looking for partners to house children aging out of foster care.

**Service Gaps, New Opportunities, and Announcements:** Denise Britton reported that Shalom House and its partners participated in a Mother's Day event and are planning a Father's Day event. Both events concentrate on promoting healthy children through nutrition.

Janet Jones announced the availability of free hepatitis screening. Maria Chianos continues to seek assistance to get medicine for Hepatitis C.

Melissa Snyder told us about employment opportunities at the Amazon warehouse in Carlisle. Amazon is considering providing transportation. SMX management staffing is the contact for these openings. The Salvation Army is holding its annual civic event to raise funds for capital improvements. They purchased the old Weis Market at 29<sup>th</sup> and Rudy Roads. Their Green Street office will relocate to the renovated site. Bethesda Mission is working with the Salvation Army to continue a breakfast program.

Rosalyn Deida said that the HHA is working with Representative Kim to identify housing and services for elderly women.

**Next Meeting:** The next General Membership meeting of CACH will be **August 13, 2015** beginning at 10 AM at Christ Lutheran Church, 124 South 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Harrisburg

Adjourned 11:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Ritchey,  
CCIMS Project Manager