

Capital Area Coalition on Homelessness
General Membership Meeting
August 13, 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; Angela Wise, YWCA; Frances Robinson, Interfaith Family Shelter; Maria Chianos, Pinnacle Health Systems; Elaine Strokoff, Downtown Daily Bread; Krista Hoffa, Berks County Intermediate Unit; Janet Jones and Carol DiBitetto, Gaudenzia/DELTA Community; Aubrey Stephens, Salvation Army; Darrel Reinford, Christian Churches United; Natasha Woods, Community Action Commission; and Beth Ellis, Self Determination Housing Project.

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

Approval of the Minutes: Motion made by Maria Chianos to accept the minutes of the June 11, 2015 meeting without revisions. Seconded by Angela Wise. Motion to accept the minutes passed.

Committee Reports:

Blueprint Implementation Team (BIT): Tim Whelan told us that the next committee meeting is September 24, 2015 at 8 am. Contact Tim if you are interested in attending this meeting. The community outreach presentation will be finalized. The committee will soon start work on reviewing and revising our current Blueprint Plan to End Homelessness. Completion date will be in 2017. Several changes have taken place including HUD's requirement that communities implement a coordinated assessment and our own community's changes. Tim said that the first part of 2016 will be to review the consolidated plan and we will use the second part of the year to revise the plan. He reported that CACH has an intern who will start to work this month. Her name is Amanda Cleveland and she will intern with CACH until May 2016. The drop-in center will open in September 2015 at Downtown Dailey Bread with an expansion of the Lunch Plus program in the afternoon. The exact date will be announced. Resources to support this effort are being sought. Bryan Davis asked if we could use social media to let the community know of the program's needs. He said that the opening would be announced via CACH's list serve and to be sure to "like" us on Facebook. There will be services and case management. Pinnacle Health Services will be on site.

Planning and Resource Development – Bryan Davis reported that CACH's income is greater than our expenses. Finances are stable because of the Harrisburg Redevelopment Authority's support.

Project Homeless Connect – Angela Wise requested that we go to www.fundraising.myevent.com on CACH's website: www.cachpa.org to support 2015

Project Homeless Connect (PHC). Also, visit CACH's website to volunteer and sign up for the required training. PHC needs will be posted on the website. The 2015 PHC is Friday, November 20th at the Farm Show Complex, 2300 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg (Maclay Street side). Set up is Thursday, November 19th for vendors and agencies serving our guests. This year's sponsors include \$5000 from Highmark/Blue Shield, \$2500 from both Gateway and Pinnacle Health Systems. Other sponsors include Community Aid, Penn State Hershey Medical Center and Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency. Angela continues to identify and seek additional sponsors. She has interns coming on board next week to help and she is conducting outreach for church support. Some logistical changes include moving agencies to access Wi-Fi. Local universities are involved. Maria Chianos reported that the Pennsylvania Department of Health wants to provide services this year. A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow at 1 pm at the YWCA, chapel. Committees have been meeting so sign up.

Community Conversations: The committee is working on its continued efforts to reach out to the faith-based community and its training goal. Maria Chianos reported that it is organizing a Reality Tour for this fall. Activities include there an acted out demonstration of "a day in the life of a heroin addict" complete with the gruesome realities that go along with addiction. A "scared straight" approach, the expectation is that the message will be powerful and impactful. The target audience is youth.

Homeless Prevention Committee – Maria Chianos told us that the committee met in July and is developing a training for agency staff based on the updated Homeless Services Reference Manual. The committee will again submit proposals for funding a case manager to work with residents going through the eviction process. Elaine Strokoff expressed interest in having that case manager supervised by Downtown Daily Bread. Appreciation was expressed of Kay Pickering's work on prevention to homelessness. Bryan reported that the state was pleased with Dauphin County's administration of homeless prevention funding resulting is Dauphin County not having these funds reduced.

Housing Committee – George Payne and Frances Robinson attended this committee meeting and reported that it is working with both the Dauphin County and the Harrisburg housing authorities' to include within their comprehensive plans a tool whereby CACH (i.e. its partners) will screen applicants for homeless status, a HUD goal. Process will be refined. At this time, CACH is the local lead agency for the PA Department of Human Services to act as a referral between property owners and housing providers. This task is in our Blueprint plan to end homelessness. CACH made its first referral, which includes the provision of services to the resident. There are memorandums of understanding between the housing agencies and CACH to provide services. Contact persons for this task include Bryan Davis, George or Rose Schultz. Dena Dupert from the Harrisburg Housing Authority will make a presentation at the committee's September meeting.

Education and Public Information – Angela Wise and Natasha Woods joined this committee on the spot. Angela is doing outreach for PHC including a taping at Comcast Newsmakers.

Service Delivery/Data Collection – Frances Robinson reported that the committee is moving along the adoption and integration of the coordinated assessment. She spoke with Frank Magel about topics for PATH trainings. The committee wants to have a representative from the Harrisburg Housing Authority on the committee. George Payne reported that he is working on memorizing governance and written standards as required by the HEARTH Act. We are required to prioritize services and report outcomes on the 2015 Continuum of Care application. George discussed the nine priority standards outlined in the Coordinated Assessment (attached). See page 3 and 4 of the attachment; the area George concentrated on in his discussion. Outcomes are outlined on page 5 of the attachment. Another task George is working on involves the HMIS assessment to be combined with the Vulnerability Index and Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI & SPDA). The Coordinated Assessment will be annually reviewed.

Homeless Youth – George Payne announced that two meetings are scheduled to plan for the count of homeless youth in Dauphin County. 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. We reached out to all relevant agencies that may have bearing with this population. We are going host two meetings: one on September 17th, 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. He and Deb Ritchey met with Helen Spence because Dauphin County is hearing from homeless youth. Janet Jones reported the Rev. Dr. Lavette Paige of the M. L King Baptist Church is doing outreach in Hall Manor to children leaving foster care.

Ad Hoc committee on Emergency Response - Frances Robinson reported that the Coordinating committee adopted RESOLUTION NO. 04-2015 (attached). By way of this resolution, CACH will formally establish an Emergency and Disaster Response Committee whose members shall be responsible to research emergency and disaster response best practices; to educate CACH members and the community on emergency and disaster response best practices; and to promote CACH members and the community to develop internal plans to meet the needs of community members who are homeless or dangerously close to becoming homeless in the event of an emergency, natural or man-made disaster. See the attachment for additional committee responsibilities. In order to achieve these goals, the committee will release a survey this fall to assess if our partners have a response to emergencies. Frances welcomed participants to join this effort. Bryan Davis discussed the conversation CACH is having with the city specific

to the homeless people encampments. CACH will be the point of contact in regards to ensuring public safety and health. He asked that people report to him and city law enforcement if they become aware of homeless people camping out.

Service Gaps, New Opportunities, and Announcements: Natasha Woods reported that full case management is available to residents of Section 8 through the Harrisburg Housing Authority. The Family Saving program operates out of 2101 North Front Street, Harrisburg.

See attachment concerning an event planned by the Women's Wisdom House.

Next Meeting: The next General Membership meeting of CACH will be **October 8, 2015** beginning at 10 AM at Christ Lutheran Church, 124 South 13th Street, Harrisburg

Adjourned 11:25.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Ritchey,
CCIMS Project Manager