

Capital Area Coalition on Homelessness
General Membership Meeting
October 25, 2018
Minutes

Members Present: Bryan Davis, Harrisburg Redevelopment Authority; Jennifer Wintermyer, Community Action Commission; Maria Chianos, UPMC Pinnacle Health Systems; Darrel Reinford, Christian Churches United; Michael Weisberg, CACH Housing committee; Rachel Rasmussen, Valley Youth House; Kay Pickering, Harrisburg Center for Peace and Justice; Sheila Forrester, Keystone Human Services; Teddy Maurer, Hands Up Ministry; Angela Susten, Dauphin County Human Services office; Susan Cann, Downtown Daily Bread; Rachel Mains, Shalom House; Beth McConney, Capital Area Intermediate Unit; and Scott Dunwoody, Bethesda Mission.

Welcome and Introductions: Jennifer Wintermyer convened the meeting and welcomed everyone. We introduced ourselves to each other.

MOTION by Kay Pickering to accept the August 2018 General Membership meeting minutes without changes.

Seconded by Teddy Maurer. MOTION passed.

CCIMS – Deb Ritchey informed us that the HUD report, Annual Homeless Awareness Report (AHAR), has been replaced by a differently named report: Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA). It is another HUD approach whereby the HMIS data is deposited directly into a portal, in lieu of us *entering* data into a portal.

Committee Reports

Public Information and Education Deb Ritchey reported on the county-wide activities planned for National Awareness for Hunger and Homelessness Week, November 12 through 16, 2018.

Community Conversations – Rachel Mains updated us on the committee activities, which include the Dream Builders bringing specialized learning opportunities to about 45 youth from the community. The committee's next meeting is November 7, 2018.

Homeless Prevention – Maria Chianos told us that the committee is part of reviewing the Coordinated Evaluation and Assessment Referral (CEAR) tool. This review is in addition to the newly formed Coordinated Entry committee. UPMC is identifying how to create a county-level coordination of health and

homeless issues. The CACH Housing committee will be approached about UPMC's efforts. They are asking questions about how long are people homeless because of health issues.

Housing – Mike Weisberg reported that the 41 units of 811 housing will be available in January 2019 with a public posting notice. This housing creates placement opportunities for homeless people with a disability. People on the Section 8 waiting list will be notified but homeless people will be kept on a separate list from non-homeless people. It is crucial that homeless people be in HMIS. Coordination of this placement is required. Mike talked about the partners in this effort including the Center for Independent Living. Further discussion included the roles of the Coordinated Evaluation Referral Tool (CERT) and the CEAR. The committee is working with Capital Region Property Owners Association (CRPOA) to create awareness about the people we serve. Another program that CACH accessed funding for is the Landlord Mitigation Program, also being launched in January 2019. The Housing Authority of Dauphin County will administer and protocols are being developed for programs and property owners accessing this opportunity.

Service Delivery/Data Collection – Kay Pickering and Deb Ritchey attended the last committee meeting and told us that there was presentation by Case Worthy, an HMIS vendor. The committee is planning trainings on domestic violence sensitivity and equal access. Kay expressed the concern that the needs of people experiencing domestic violence are not being met specific to safety and housing. She informed us that application for the Pennsylvania Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) was mailed out to previous recipients. We discussed the increase in utility shut offs in the City. There is a hotline for people facing shut offs. Utility workshops are scheduled in November for in Harrisburg and Lancaster.

Homeless Youth – Rachel Rasmussen reported about Valley Youth House's (VYH) participation the National Awareness week for Hunger and Homelessness. Awareness events were held at Strawberry Square, the steps of the Capital Building and other locations. VYH was awarded funding for residential placement of 12 units for unaccompanied youth 18 to 24 years old. THRIVE will provide six of those units.

Other business – Susan Cann reminded us the Winter Overnight Shelter will start up December 1st. Downtown Daily Bread (DDB) will have 40 cots for men in this effort in addition to the YWCA (for women and children), Susquehanna Harbor Safe Haven and the Bethesda Mission (both for men). Bryan Davis asked if these folks will be entered into HMIS. No is the answer. DDB is raising \$100,000 for it shelter assistance and drop-in center. The Drop-in Center is now open seven days a week from 8 am to 4 pm. It serves approximately 80 people. Partners of DDB include UPMC,

YWCA, Veteran Affairs, Penn State Medical, CMU, Dauphin County office of Drugs and Alcohol plus others.

It was announced that there is transportation to Bethesda Mission's dental clinic and that the dental practice of Friedman and Abrams will have a free cleanings on November 16, 2018 for approximately 100 people.

Kay Pickering told us she is seeing an increase in single room occupancies being developed. There is no certification provided by the City and rentals are often \$100 a week. She provided a corrected Guide to Low-Income Rental Opportunities brochure.

Sheila Forrester announced that general assistance is now available for single adults. Kay said doctors must complete a portion of the application and that assistance is available from Community Justice. Sheila discussed a new program being rolled out by the assistance office that is like an employment program, but developed to remove obstacles. It is like case management and an attempt to address advocates' concerns.

Next Meeting: The next full meeting of CACH will be February 21, 2019 at the Christ Lutheran Church.

Adjourned 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Ritchey, Project Manager