

Capital Area Coalition on Homelessness
General Membership Meeting
December 19, 2019
Minutes

Members Present: Jennifer Wintermyer, Tri County Community Action; Maria Chianos, UPMC Pinnacle Health Systems; Jennifer Strechay, TFEC; Michael Weisberg; Tabitha Kramer, ECYEH; Sandra Goodrum, Harrisburg School District; Christina Shull, Robert Mott, Symphony Jones, Alex Panuccio, Valley Youth House; Eva Chase, Previous Hearts; Lisa Scott, PHFA; Julia Fake, The Program, Angela Susten, Dauphin County MH/A/ID; Terricia Radcliff; Gillian Sumpter, Winter Overnight Shelter; and Ronda Kennedy-Rowe, Tri County Community Action.

Welcome and Introductions: Jennifer Wintermyer convened the meeting at 10:09 am and welcomed everyone. We introduced ourselves.

Motion to approve both October 17, 2019 meeting minutes by Tabitha Kramer. Seconded by Jennifer Strechay. Motion passed to accept meeting minutes without changes.

Treasurer's Report – Jennifer Wintermyer told us that Dan Eisenhower is developing the 2020 CACH budget. Thanks to The Foundation for Enhancing Communities for funding CACH through its Upstream grant. The funds will be used for developing a program in Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) for the Coordinated Entry System (CES).

Committee Reports

Community Conversations – In Denise Britton's absence, Jennifer Wintermyer said the community is planning a Faith-Based summit to be held in 2020. In CACH's revised by-laws this committee is renamed Faith-Based Initiative. It is the intent that the committee's membership will be expanded to include non-Christian faiths.

Public Information and Education – Tabitha Kramer reported that the committee worked with HACC students on an awareness project around National Hunger and Homeless week in November. Educating Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH) organized an art contest for this awareness week. No other activities were carried out. The committee will get more organizations involved next year and increase awareness.

Homeless Prevention – Maria Chianos told us that the committee heard from William McHenry from New Visions in Cumberland and Perry Counties.

Among other activities, New Visions manages a Fairweather Lodge. A Fairweather Lodge is a home where individuals establish their own support system, which enables them to live independently in the community. New Visions has Fairweather Lodges in Newport, Carlisle, Shippensburg, and Chambersburg. In Newville, New Visions maintains a 6-bedroom Lodge for military veterans. Mr. McHenry believes such a model better serves people with mental health issues. Maria spoke about the tie between health and homelessness and the need for people to be supported. We talked about other Fairweather Lodges in the area. She said Mr. McHenry is interested in speaking with others about this housing model.

Housing – Mike Weisberg invited all interested people to join this committee. It meets the third Tuesday of the month at the Housing Authority of Dauphin County, 501 Mohn Street, Steelton. He told us that the committee is working to broaden the Landlord Mitigation Fund. The fund is being under-utilized. The committee approved principles to make sure the referral agency provides services and that the person being referred is taken from the CES waiting list. A brochure will be developed and the Capital Region Property Owners Association will help distribute it. They also plan to work on having the Family Unification Program more fully utilized. The committee is exploring shared housing and thinks that zoning may be an obstacle.

Service Delivery/Data Collection – Angela Susten reported that the committee through its Data Quality Subcommittee is working on monitoring data quality. The committee will launch its goals for improving data the first quarter of 2020.

Planning and Resource Development – Jennifer Wintermyer told us the committee is planning the implementation of the revised by-laws, passed in November at the Coordinating committee meeting. It will take approximately six months for this implementation with the first focus being on the voting procedures that the General membership will have. One person from one agency will have a vote. She reported the Services Agreement between HRA and CACH was signed.

Other business – Several agencies present re-introduced themselves and told us about their work. Eva Chase from Previous Hearts told us they operate a shelter for women fleeing violence. Lisa Scott from the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency said there is a conference scheduled for June 2020 and she distributed PHFA materials. Tabitha Kramer told us about the March 12, 2020 conference in West Chester which will concentrate on serving college students who are homeless. Deb Ritchey talked about the upcoming 2020 Point in Time survey. Details will follow. **Next Meeting:** The next full meeting of CACH will be February 20, 2020 at a location to be confirmed and announced. Adjourned 10:55 a.m. Respectfully submitted, Deborah Ritchey, Project Manager