

Capital Area Coalition on Homelessness  
General Membership Meeting  
June 20, 2019  
Minutes

Members Present: Bryan Davis, Harrisburg Redevelopment Authority; Jennifer Wintermyer, Tri County Community Action; Maria Chianos, UPMC Pinnacle Health Systems; Kay Pickering, Harrisburg Center for Peace and Justice; Joyce Vanderhorst-Gamble; Maureen Helmstetter, LaSandra Cousins, Family Health Counsel of Central PA; Wenona Wilson and Lillie Williams, City of Harrisburg; Julie Baughman and Bea Prosseda, Child Care Consultants; Melanie Hill, Valley Youth House; Patricia Laguna; Lissette Gonzalez, Family Promise; Pastor James Gamble; and Elder Keith Humes.

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

**Treasurer's Report** – Bryan Davis reported that CACH made \$2500 at the 2019 Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community, held May 18<sup>th</sup> at the main HACC campus starting. We had only virtual walkers. CACH's entire income exceeds the expenses.

### **Committee Reports**

Community Conversations – Bryan Davis referred to the committee's recently submitted report to tell us that they are setting its 2019 Priorities. These include their Dream Builders – Summer Learning Series to be held Mid-June through early August. The programming includes 7 to 8 instructors sharing learning opportunities (to include but limited to) – Martial Arts, Handball, Food Services, Earth Science, Health Education, an incorporating instruction in math, science & reading. Another priority is planning its Helping the Helpers – Faith Summit (initial date of May 30, being transitioned to June with more participation from leadership in the faith community).

Public Information and Education – Deb Ritchey said the committee developed a 2018 Annual Report, which is available to anyone and will be distributed to the public, members and public officials.

Homeless Prevention – Maria Chianos reported that the committee continues to work with Randie Yeager from Dauphin County Human Services on planning a prison discharge forum.

Service Delivery/Data Collection – Kay Pickering told us that the committee wants to meet with the Dauphin County Assistance Office to discuss obstacles to homeless people accessing benefits and other work obstacles. Many members of the committee attended the May 29 PATH-funded training on trauma-informed care. Efforts continue to reconvene the caseworker’s sub-committee.

Homeless Youth – Melanie Hill reported that Valley Youth House (VYH) plans to expand its program serving youth aging out of foster care. Support will be available to help them graduate from high school. The transitional living program will serve 12 youth. VYH is working with THRIVE to provide residential services for 18 months. At this time, seven homeless youth are housed. VYH conducts outreach in Northern Dauphin County. Other program efforts include collaborating with the LBGT Center to do HIV testing. UPMC is participating in the hiring of staff that will do this work. VYH’s outreach program will be monitored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in July. Marilyn Bellesfield said she enjoyed the article about VYH in the Burg publication.

Housing – Bryan Davis told us the placement of homeless people is taking place in the new 811 housing. There are issues to be resolved regarding getting back to eligible people on the Coordinated Entry wait list and case review. We discussed other 811 housing in the community that is different from this newer 811 housing.

Coordinated Entry and Assessment Referral – Deb Ritchey described the committee’s efforts to date. Bryan Davis said the next step is to consider the structure and technical support for this single point-of-contact model. Further development on the HMIS will be required. One goal is to have more agencies using HMIS. We discussed the no wrong door we currently use which now has the benefits of CCU’s expanded outreach. Kay Pickering asked about the status of the updated “Where to go for help” and its usefulness for the people she works with. Dauphin County is working on issuing a 2019 “Where to go...” Printing this booklet is expensive and the issue. Jennifer Wintermyer promoted the use of 211 for all services.

Planning and Resource Development – Jennifer Wintermyer told us that this committee’s goals are to strengthen CACH’s structure and its 2019 Continuum of Care application. They are reviewing CACH’s bylaws and developing a service agreement between HRA and CACH. Other goals based on the consolidated plan include coordinating the support that CACH is often asked for in the form of support letters to funders and building capacity.

**CCIMS** – Deb Ritchey cited specific numbers from the Systems Performance Measures, the federal report submitted by CACH to HUD. The numbers were for the length of time of homelessness, first time homeless, and other

factors that CACH is measured on. Another report labeled LSA, was discussed. The LSA include only the figures from HUD-funded programs. CACH's HMIS also includes programs funded through PATH and the U.S. Department of HHS. Contact Deb if you want copies of the Systems Performance Measures.

**Other business** – Pastor James Gamble and Elder Keith Humes told us about their outreach work on Allison Hill and their commitment to work with people needing assistance. They will join CACH. Maria Chianos recommended that they be put in touch with the Compassion Action Network.

Wenona Wilson and Lillie Williams told us a bit about their professional backgrounds and discussed the City's commitment to improve its administration of the public funding and the impact of recipients providing solid data, proof of eligibility, and fiscal management. They will provide technical assistance, some of it in writing, to ensure compliance. They affirmed that the City's Home Improvement Program was in place.

Julie Baughman and Bea Prosseda informed us about the Early Learning Resource Centers (handout) and how they serve people with low or no incomes, homeless people and working people. The resources include serving people working second shift. The Resource Centers are one-stop-shop for people needing affordable and quality childcare. Julie said that parents may apply and have 92 days to get a job, if unemployed.

Kay Pickering discussed Capital Region Water (CRW) again and that there is no PUC oversight. She told us about clients she is working with who are unable to ever catch up on money due CRW. There are no agencies to assist these folks. Our discussion included information about the Pennsylvania Utility Law Project. Jennifer Wintermyer suggested that the Prevention committee problem solve with CRW.

Maureen Helmstetter and LaSandra Cousins informed us about a new housing program assisting people struggling with opioid use (handout). The Family Health Council collaborated with UPMC and RASE. The housing is the housing first mode.. They want to partner with CACH.

**Next Meeting:** The next full meeting of CACH will be August 15, 2019 at the Polyclinic Hospital grounds, Kline /Reach 2nd floor conference room, 2nd floor Landis Building

Adjourned 11:45 a.m. Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Ritchey, Project Manager