

Capital Area Coalition on Homelessness
General Membership Meeting
February 20, 2020
Minutes

Members Present: Jennifer Wintermyer, Tri County Community Action; Jennifer Strechay, TFEC; Darrel Reinford and Jessie Osborne, CCU; Christina Shull, Robert Mott, Symphony Jones, Alex Panuccio, Valley Youth House; Lisa Scott, PHFA; Angela Susten, Dauphin County MH/A/ID; Gillian Sumpter, Winter Overnight Shelter; Rumulus Brown, AmeriHealth Caritas; David Zilkan, Paxton Ministries; Brittany Larson, Messiah College nursing student; Elizabeth Perez, UPMC; Michelle Jones, Keystone Human Services; Kay Pickering; Harrisburg Center for Peace and Justice; Terrica Radcliff, Breaking the Chains.

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

Motion to approve both December 19, 2019 meeting minutes by Kay Pickering. Seconded by Rumulus Brown. Motion passed to accept meeting minutes without changes.

Treasurer's Report – Jennifer Wintermyer told us we have a 2020 CACH budget. Revenue and expenses balance. Jennifer Strechay promoted CACH's involvement in the 2020 Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community, May 16, 2020 (see attached). Funds raised in this event are discretionary monies and the outreach opportunity is robust. She encouraged team building and support; virtually walking is an option. She challenged us to support her with a donation since she is walking a mile a day for CACH.

Committee Reports

Community Conversations – Jennifer Wintermyer said that under the revised by-laws this committee is re-named Faith-based Initiatives.

Public Information and Education – Deb Ritchey reported that the committee meets regularly. Via January meeting minutes, Tabitha Kramer has been voted as the new chair of the committee since Crystal Brown changed jobs. The committee invited other agencies to participate, some of which includes Valley Youth House, YWCA, Safe Families, and Tri- County Community Action.

Service Delivery/Data Collection – Deb said that the committee continues to work on the objectives identified in CACH's consolidated plan. Some of these objectives include advocating with the Dauphin County Assistance Office to improve services and to strengthening our partnership with CMU. We are also working to revive the Case Managers subcommittee. A meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2020.

Housing – Jennifer Wintermyer reported that this and the Homeless Prevention committees will combine efforts. Housing is developing a brochure to promote the Landlord Mitigation fund. These funds are for property management of units rented by our clients. The committee's goal is

to increase awareness about the fund. Kay Pickering offered the attached updated Low Income Housing rental brochure. She had numerous copies to distribute. She provided a brief explanation of low income tax credits and the impact on low-income housing. One of the points Kay made is that tax credits stabilize the rents regardless of the resident's income. Several members discussed the role of service provision to residents in tax credit housing. Terrica Radcliff told us how beneficial these services are to people re-entering communities after incarceration. David Zilkan told us the Paxton Street Homes' new facility is fully occupied. Kay asked how the women's overnight shelter was going and was told that though it has challenges, all is going well.

Coordinated Entry – Darrel Reinford told us that the committee will submit policies and procedures for the Coordinated Entry System (CES) to the CACH Coordinating committee for its approval in April 2020. The CES will be used to house the literally homeless, a departure from our current Coordinated Entry and Assessment Referral process. We are proposing to work with 211, a referral to human services accessible 24 hours, seven days a week. Though CCU has three CES staff, we look for funding to underwrite this HUD-required tool.

Planning and Resource Development – Jennifer Wintermyer told us the committee released the application to be a member in good standing, a required form to be completed for people and agencies interested in CACH membership (attached). To date, twenty (20) individuals and agencies completed and sent the form. The application is on the CACH website: www.cachpa.org

The plan is to close the application process March 13, 2020. The next steps are to form a nominating committee of representatives from two of the founding agencies and two members at large. We are seeking interested people on this committee. CACH committee chairs were notified. Jennifer requested that people please join CACH as a formal member and send in your form. Another goal is to hold elections in June 2020.

Other business – Deb reminded us that the 2020 Point in Time (PIT) surveys are due to CACH by February 14, 2020. Kay asked about surveying people living in tents and abandon buildings. To the best of our outreach teams, we survey those people. She told us about a couple living in a camper on city property uptown. Darrel asked Kay to provide details so that Jessie Osborne, an outreach worker, can visit them. We discussed other vulnerable populations and how to ensure they are included within PIT. Jennifer Wintermyer told us about an article in the 'Burg magazine by Susan Reider that covers local homelessness. She said the article is excellent. Jennifer then talked about the 2020 Census and the importance of counting everyone. \$20,000 is lost for every person not included within the Census. Jennifer talked about some of the challenges for the counters and the strategies in ensure people are counted.

Jennifer Strechay told us a funding opportunity available from The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC) called The Fund For Women & Girls. Five agencies may receive \$20,000. In addition, Upstream Grant provides grants equaling \$10,000 and opens up April 1, 2020.

Lisa Scott reported that the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency will hold a multi-family conference at Seven Springs June 3 to 5, 2020. PHFA has a new CEO, Robin Wiessmann. Previously, Ms. Wiessmann served as the secretary of the Department of Banking and Securities

Next Meeting: The next full meeting of CACH will be April 20, 2020 at this location: Family Life Center, Goodwin Memorial Baptist Church, 2447 Green Street, Harrisburg.

Adjourned 11:05 a.m. Respectfully submitted, Deborah Ritchey, Project Manager