



Monmouth County Homeless System Collaborative

Executive Committee

May 7th, 2020

Minutes

I. Introduction

In Attendance:

Kasey Congero	Kathy Weir	Jeff Schwartz	Darcy Dobens
Anna Diaz-White	Laura Kirby	Lisa Von Pier	Peter Boynton
Connie Fahim	Nicole Cyr	Paul McEvily	Maura Comer
Alan Ferraro	Alan Tedesco	Alicia Williams	Tina Mikes
Tim Hearne	Joan Mandel	Lisa Roland	April Hurley

- II. Public Participation- Tim called for a vote to open the meeting to the public. Connie made a motion, Darcy made a second, all in favor. Lisa Roland from NJHorizon Healthcare introduced herself as a housing specialist. No other public comment. Tim called for a motion to close the public comment. Jeff made a motion, Alan Ferraro made a second to close; all in favor.
- III. Approval of March meeting minutes-Tim called for a motion to approve; Alan Ferraro made a motion, Darcy made a second, all in favor.
- IV. New Business/Discussion
- a. ESG/CDBG funding- Laura Kirby, Community Development, has been working with HUD representative about how eligible uses for CARES funding. Laura reports there will need to be a revision to the 2020 con plan which will need Freeholder Approval. She aims to have this complete for the May or June Freeholder meeting but is awaiting further guidance from HUD. ESG money is able to be utilized for 2 years from when HUD provides the grant agreements. Jeff stated there are new efforts that the state is making to start contact tracing and there will be more need for space to help people to isolate and quarantine once those efforts come to fruition.
 - b. COVID-19 Response
 - i. Shelter- Peter Boynton, AHA, informed the group of the process about the safety precautions the shelter took early in March. They began screening staff by temperature before entering the shelter and also had implemented a 14 day quarantine in a non congregate motel room for clients coming into the shelter. Now they are utilizing the Visiting Nurses Association to monitor those in the quarantine period or those who are COVID+ in the motel. Peter states Interfaith assisted in getting meals on wheels to the COVID+ clients and Kathy Weir helped to connect with a medical transport company to assist in getting people from hospital to the shelters and to any other necessary appts. AHA has been assisting with linking persons that are ready for permanent placement to winter rentals at

lower rates as many landlords cannot do weekly rentals due to restrictions. They have been assisting with security deposits and first time rents as well. Jeff asked about max capacity and Peter reported he has been working with Red Roof Inn in Neptune and has an agreement to utilize 80 rooms there and can overflow to the Red Roof Inn in Freehold if needed, they might need to look at alternative options if capacity exceeded 100.

Peter also reported that as a Community Action Agency restrictions have now changed to 200% of federal poverty level until October 2022. AHA is looking to implement a RRH program to get persons housed quickly.

Anna reports 180's shelter has been full throughout this time and has utilized motels if needed for isolation or quarantine. Fulfill and the Soul Kitchen have assisted with getting meals to the families.

- ii. Prevention- Paul states they have been fielding calls since March 18th and will have had requests for over \$1million in back rent by the end of the month. Alicia reported the eviction moratorium exists until 60 days after the end of the public health emergency which right now ends June 5th and evictions will not be imminent until August. Maura expressed concern that landlords are being very difficult towards their tenants. Alicia stated in Monmouth County that the courts are still hearing eviction complaints and so tenants may still be getting those complaints so they can be scheduled for court dates once the moratorium is over. Confusion over the governor's statement that tenants can use their security deposits towards rent, but he failed to mention those deposits must be paid back at the end of 6 months. Alicia reports her agency has been educating clients on this stipulation so that tenants can be prepared.

Tina Mikes reports Soldier On has money available right now and any Veteran's that are coming to agencies for Rental Assistance or prevention money should be referred to her.

- iii. Outreach

Ewa reports they are still receiving referrals and meeting with people face to face as needed. They continue to work to assist people in getting housing as needed. MHA has staff stationed at the Soul Kitchen 3 days a week to assist anyone coming in homeless.

- c. Preliminary PIT data

- i. Preliminary numbers provided; most significant increase was in those that are homeless and sheltered. Kasey stated this could be due to the change in EA guidelines and the availability of it to more people since January of 2019.

V. Reports

- a. HUD Update

- i. Local Selection Process

1. Kasey reported that the Review team is continuing with the local selection process and should be completing monitoring by mid May. HUD has made statements that they are advocating with Congress to have an automatic renewal process this year so that CoCs can focus on COVID response, but there is no word as of yet if this will be approved.
 - b. Centralized Intake- Chris Aumack reported walk in numbers have decreased, but they did still have 81 walk ins during April, approximately 12 approved. They are being inundated with calls from the hospitals and are completing phone screenings for eligibility. Chris reports they are still referring to the Housing Navigator. She states there have been a lot of calls on rent arrears without eviction notices yet. Many 211 placements afterhours, 19 in March and only 1 followed up with DSS after the placement.
 - c. Housing Navigator Agency- processing referrals as they come in. Operating as normal, outreaching homeless persons in the community if needed and completing phone assessments as able.
 - d. Code Blue- ended early in Asbury Park due to the church closing. Code Blue has not been called since March. Women's Hospitality Network and Rotating Men's Shelter closed April 1st and clients were placed in motels during the last two weeks of the program. Joan reports she is still doing advocacy from home and opens 2x a week in the office to give out bus tickets, meals, etc.
 - e. Sub-committees
 - i. PIT/PHC- no update other than preliminary numbers
 - ii. Veteran's- all referrals should be sent to Tina as they have money to assist Veteran's with prevention and housing available
 - iii. Discharge Planning- no update
 - iv. Permanent Housing- Connie states there was a virtual meeting on April 7th, discussed the Affordable Housing Trust Fund money available for low income housing development. She just received notice that CAP agencies will have money available.
 - v. Coordinated Systems- Maura reported there was a virtual meeting in March and the MOU was completed between workforce development and the CoC. Next meeting will be TBD as most agencies are focusing on trying to establish protocols for operation.
- VI. Agency Updates
- a. Laura reports 2021 ESG applications are out and are accepting applications until July
- VII. Motion to Adjourn- Paul made a motion, Anna made a second, all in favor.

Next Meeting: **July 2nd, 2020 at 9am**

Monmouth County AG Building, Kitchen Conference Room – 4000 Kozloski Road,
Freehold, NJ