



Monmouth County Homeless System Collaborative

Executive Committee

March 2nd, 2021

Meeting Minutes

Alan Tedesco Kasey Vienckowski Kathy Weir Laura Kirby Nicole Cyr
Randi Moore Steven Horvath Tim Hearne Mark Harding Wendy DePedro
Ginger Mulligan April Hurley Anna Diaz-White Christine Aumack
Darcy Dobens Donna Blaze Ewa Farry Joan Mandel Mike Oppegard Lisa Von Pier
Meghan Bennett Nicole Pelliccia Paul McEvily Peter Boynton Jen Dingler

I. Introduction

II. Public Participation- Nicole made a motion to open; Donna made a second; all in favor; no comment; Donna made a motion to close; Alicia made a second; all in favor

III. Approval of January meeting minutes- Alan made a motion to approve, Alicia made a second; all in favor

IV. New Business/Discussion

- a. Code Blue Update- Mike Oppegard- Mike thanked the partnership with social services for assistance with Code Blue; 1721 bed nights to date; 75 nights of Code Blue so far for the season; 41 persons at maximum in the motels on one night; last year- 27 nights of code blue; so far this season OEM has billed out \$50,000 and will probably reach \$95,000 at the end of the season when all bills are settled; very few issues of removal of clients due to behavior; to Mike's knowledge no one who has been seeking shelter has been turned away; Chris reports social services is following up with all Code Blue placements the following morning, often clients are eligible for EA and they are being applied for assistance, referred to Housing Navigation
- b. CARES Act Funding
 - i. ESG-CV- Round 1 &2 have been awarded and many agencies are drawing down funds and submitting invoices.
 - ii. CDBG-CV- small business program is rolling out for round 1; submitting the application for the 2nd round
 - iii. Dept of Treasury- putting out an RFP for a consultant next week to manage those funds for the prevention dollars; estimating \$15,000 per household will be available; focusing on those with eviction notices and 0-50% of low-moderate income
- c. COVID-19 Response
 - i. Landlord/tenant- Alicia reported the moratorium has been extended through May 18th, landlords are being more creative in stating there have been "emergencies" to try and get people out, but judges have been good at recognizing this. Monmouth County currently has 1600 pending evictions, NJ has 50,000.

Alicia reports SJLS referrals have been down and so have the eviction filings across the state, but that is expected to go up when the moratorium is over. SJLS has had 800 referrals for landlord tenant issues. Kathy reports she is working to try create a mailing or public posting for the Dept of Treasury money for those who will be in need. Alicia reported her agency can share that information to any referrals.

- ii. Shelter- Peter provided an update. January- 6 males, 8 females; 348 bed nights including motels, quarantine, and in congregate shelter. Feb- 16 males, 7- females. Partnerships with social services have been critical in creating movement and determining EA eligibility; this will be helpful as the shelter will likely get referrals from Code Blue once the season comes to an end. Semi-random COVID testing every nine days, 2 positives recently, both guests placed in isolation, no spread to other guests or staff. Food is being provided by Chef Toni, the food bank, and Meals on Wheels. Life Ride assists with medical transports for those that are COVID positive. Peter reports he expects there may up to about 20 people that may be referred to shelter when Code Blue ends for the season.
- iii. Prevention- Paul reports his volume of calls is still up and they are making good use of ESG funds awarded. Nicole reports SSH prevention funds the state had stopped requiring future affordability at the beginning of the pandemic and the state is making this a requirement again which will restrict who will be eligible for that funding. Anna from 180 reports she has federal funds that are being spent down in a timely manner; biggest barrier is working with landlords and difficulty partnering. Anna reports 30 persons sheltered in congregate and motel rooms.
- iv. Outreach- Ewa reported outreach is occurring through HNA and PATH. 72 people have been outreached since January through HNA, 597 were opened in total in 2020; 145 were admitted since January and 102 were closed since January. Ewa echoed Anna's concerns over difficulty partnering with private landlords. All the homeless set aside units are now in a program in HMIS. HNA was awarded funding through ESG Round 2 for more staff to focus on outreach and developing landlord relationships.

V. Reports

- a. HUD Update- Kasey reported that the 2020 renewal amounts were posted and for projects with rental assistance were updated to include current FMRs. The review committee is meeting Friday to go over local selection materials for the 2021 process and to establish funding priorities. Kasey reports she hopes to release the applications some time mid to end of March. The monitoring process was completed for 2020 and will be done again in the fall to allow for quicker follow up by the review committee and hold agencies more accountable to clean up their data and rectify any programmatic issues.

- b. CLPD Project- Kasey reported that she has received about 6 referrals, mainly from Linkages, Path, and Joan Mandel. Kasey stated she has initiated contact but would like to double the amount of referrals before scheduling a meeting. The first training on lived experience occurred at the February CoC meeting and there will be a training on racial equity during the April CEAS meeting. There will also be a webinar made available with a two part training on racial equity, structural racism, history of race recorded by NIS, this will hopefully be made available late March early April.
- c. RRH Initiative/Data- Kasey provided data on the current homeless individuals in the Monmouth County system. Discussed strategies to try and end homelessness, CH, and Veteran's homelessness with next ESG allocation. The planning committee spoke with RRH providers to discuss a targeted approach to make a real impact on the current homeless population with the next round of CV funding that comes to the community. The plan will be to allocate all of the next round of funding to RRH to use to meet the HSC's goals of ending CH, Veteran's homelessness, and a large percentage of the current homeless population with this funding. Strategies around how to structure a bridge housing program for CH population and leveraging existing case management resources were discussed as well as hiring a realtor to assist with landlord engagement and expanding current pool of landlords.
- d. Centralized Intake- Jen reports Code Blue referrals, determining eligibility has taken a lot of work/focus in last few months, about triple the number of placements then at this time last year. Linkages is full. Mostly seeing single homeless adults in Centralized Intake.
- e. Housing Navigator Agency- reported above under Outreach.
- f. Sub-committees
 - i. PIT/PHC- Kathy reported a meeting on 3/9 to debrief the 2021 PIT. Kasey reported that the de-duplication process will be underway during March to finalize the data.
 - ii. Veteran's - Mark reported there are 12 Veteran's on the list, 3 have HUD VASH, 3 more pending vouchers; meeting only half the criteria to end Veteran's homelessness in the community. There has been much more participation in the subcommittee meetings which has been very valuable.
 - iii. Discharge Planning- Steven reports a meeting with Hackensack Meridian was postponed due to vaccination roll out and will be rescheduled. Has been talking to Ocean County about the model for the RHCF and boarding home committee meetings and aim to model creating a similar meeting in Monmouth. They hope to have the first meeting sometime in March.
 - iv. Permanent Housing- Kathy reported that she and Kasey met with two housing authorities to try and discuss establishing a moving on initiative and/or homeless set aside. There have been some barriers as the housing authorities don't necessarily see the benefit to their agencies to partnering with the CoC despite HUD guidance encouraging CoC's to try for this collaboration.

- v. Coordinated Systems- Kathy reported there was a meeting in January to address significant data quality issues that arose during the LSA submission. HMFA is also hosting bed inventory trainings in the coming months that will be mandatory as there were several errors on the LSA on that data quality field. The training had great attendance and response from agencies.
- VI. Agency Updates
 - a. Donna Blaze thanked everyone for assisting in filling the Patriot Square 20 vacancies. Donna states they are developing 20 more now. Affordable Housing network of NJ has been awarded funding to provide legal services for tenants and provide mediation services to help prevent evictions. AHA will be doing local landlord mediation.
 - b. Alan gave an update on St Vincent DePaul, launched a program called 'project safe at home' to help prevent evictions when the moratorium is over. The project helps to train clients on household budgeting, finances, strengthen relationship with SJLS.
- VII. Adjournment- motion to adjourn Anna, Kathy made a second; all in favor

Next Meeting: **May 4th, 2021**

GotoWebinar link will be provided prior to the meeting