



# Monmouth County Homeless System Collaborative

## Executive Committee

January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## Meeting Minutes

Kim Cole  
Laura Kirby  
Jeff Schwartz  
Steven Horvath  
Alicia Williams  
Laurie Duhovny

Wendy DePedro  
Joan Mandel  
Alan Tedesco  
Tina Mikes  
Ewa Farry  
Sue Kiley

Alan Ferraro  
Paul McEvily  
Maura Comer  
Melissa Campbell  
Kasey Congero  
Donna Blaze

Tim Hearne  
Stan Rosenthal  
Connie Fahim  
George Lowe  
Kathy Weir

### I. Introduction

### II. Public Participation

Paul called for a motion to bring the meeting into public session; Jeff motioned, Tim seconded, all in favor. No comments. Paul made a motion to bring the meeting out of public session; Tim motioned, Joan seconded, all in favor.

### III. Approval of November meeting minutes

Jeff made a motion, Joan seconded, all in favor.

### IV. Committee Membership/Elections

Tim Hearne was nominated for the Executive Committee chair as Paul McEvily has stepped down. Alan F. made a motion to approve, Jeff second the motion and all in favor.

Alicia Williams was nominated to the Executive Committee. Paul made a motion, Jeff seconded the motion and all in favor. The nomination will be put before the full HSC committee for approval.

### V. New Business/Discussion

#### a. 2020 Focus

Tim reported that a smaller group had a meeting in reference to the 2020 focus. Tim stated that he will be meeting with the subcommittee chairs to identify goals for all the subcommittees to work on for the coming year. He reported he would like to establish a larger, overarching goal for the HSC to accomplish. Tim would like to set a deadline for ending Veteran's and Chronic Homelessness in the next few years. Once the meeting with the subcommittees are accomplished a document will be developed for the Executive Committee to review that will describe the goals for 2020 as well as the longer term goal.

Sue Kiley asked how the county found the numbers for the chronically homeless and Veteran's in the county. Kasey informed the group that the numbers were found in the 2019 PIT report and up to date data will be provided once the 2020 count occurs on 1/29/2020. Ewa states she has

23 on the housing navigation list for 2019. Alan F. brought up the student population that are not stably housed (imminent risk, doubled up) and are seeing over 800 students (not including family members) in Monmouth County that meet that criteria.

b. 211

Melissa reported that as of January 1<sup>st</sup> 211 has taken over doing the emergency placements and afterhours hotline. Jeff reported that prior to this Monmouth County had a private vendor providing this service. Monmouth County chose to have a one month overlap to ensure there were no gaps. Jeff states there have been three calls since January 1<sup>st</sup> and all three persons were not screened appropriately by the 211 staff or placed appropriately. Jeff stated that there is going to be an adjustment period and they will continue to work with 211 to train them on resources in Monmouth County. Melissa reported they are working with 211 and HMFA to ensure the process is working and the documentation is accurate. Ewa mentioned that consumers have been asking if they should call 211 all day for services. Kathy states she will clarify on the website that 211 is after hours. Jeff reported there is a flier that DFD disseminated about 211 that can be distributed as well.

VI. Reports

a. Code Blue

Jeff thanked Stan for his tireless efforts in helping the county to secure a contract with St Mark's in Keansburg to be an official Code Blue Warming Center. Jeff stated the county and others are working to find a place to serve the Freehold area. Pilgram Baptist Church in Red Bank and Trinity in Asbury Park and now St Mark's in Keansburg will be receiving \$10,000 in county funding to support the sites for the Code Blue season. There is no restriction on how the money is spent just that it is used to support the Code Blue warming centers and they open every time Code Blue is called. Jeff informed the committee there is legislation up right now changing Code Blue temperatures to 32 degrees across the board. Jeff stressed that the legislation has no funding supported and sites will have to open once the community reaches those temperatures.

b. System Performance

Kasey provided data for the system performance measures for the first quarter of 2020. The system performance measures will be reported to HUD on February 28<sup>th</sup> 2020.

Tim asked for a chart to track Veteran's and Chronic Homeless as this will be a goal for the HSC. Kasey reported she will take a look at adding charts for the monthly data to track these subpopulations.

c. HUD Update

Kasey reported there is a hope to get HUD notices for funding allocations in January or February. The CoC scoring report usually follows the funding announcements. Kasey reported that the committee has to begin thinking about the monitoring process and RFP process for CoC funding in March.

d. Centralized Intake

No update other than 211 given above.

e. Housing Navigator Agency

Ewa reported there 1802 people on the Housing Navigator's prioritization list. In the last quarter 130 homeless persons were served. 6 people were chronically homeless, 39 persons were housed: 20 of those got rental subsidies, 17 were permanently housed without a subsidy, and 2 people went into transitional housing. There is a large back log that the program is unable to serve just due to the sheer volume. MHA applied for more staffing in this CoC application to better serve the volumes of consumers they are seeing.

f. Sub-committees

i. PIT/PHC

Next meeting is January 13<sup>th</sup> at 10am to finalize planning for the date of the PIT. Kathy states food donations, clothing donations, as well as signage have all come in for this year. Survey training is January 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm. Kathy emphasized the need for volunteers to be trained in person to ensure that the data collected is accurate. Kim completes the data inputting in Freehold and states she often sees in the same mistakes year after year that make surveys unusable or she is left to try and decipher what was meant.

ii. Veteran's

Tina reported 11 Veteran's currently on the list. 3 of those have been awarded HUD VASH and one got a Habcore voucher and all are looking for housing. Tina states they are not meeting the benchmarks to ending Veteran's homelessness as they are not housing people fast enough and there are more homeless coming in then are being discharged. Tina states she would like to see more people attending the meetings as they used to do and feels it would be much more valuable to the process to have other resources and providers at the table. Soldier On is breaking ground this spring on a permanent housing project with 74 units in Tinton Falls. They hope to leasing up in 2 years. The committee meets twice quarterly, every other month a phone conference/in person.

Tina presented and requested a letter of support for renewed funding. Tina states 35 Veteran's were served with prevention dollars and 41 RRH in the past year. Paul made a motion to give Soldier On a letter and Jeff seconded, all in favor, no opposed.

iii. Discharge Planning

Steve reported they are waiting the final stats from FY2019 at a meeting on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Steve aims to bring the number of people readmitting to psych emergency services from 23% to the teens. Steve identified that staff turnover can affect these numbers but the committee is meeting with inpatient units to discuss discharge planning.

iv. Permanent Housing

Connie reported that in the past year the committee created MOUs for the HSC to use with developers and has worked on engaging developments.

v. Coordinated Systems

Maura reports no update since the last meeting and will meet with Tim and Kathy and schedule a subcommittee meeting after the PIT.

vi. Data Committee

No report

g. Updates

Stan reported the Women's Hospitality Network is up and running for the season. Call 732-705-7178 for information or to refer.

Joan reported her program is open for men as well. Call 848-459-6215 with referrals, they currently have one opening.

Motion to adjourn. Paul motioned, Jeff seconded; all in favor, none opposed.

Next Meeting: **March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 9am**

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



# Monmouth County Homeless System Collaborative

## Executive Committee

May 7<sup>th</sup>, 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup>, 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 at 9am**

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





# Monmouth County Homeless System Collaborative

## Executive Committee

March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### Agenda

- Attendees

Donna Blaze	Kim Cole	Wendy DePedro	Darcy Dobens
Tim Hearne	Laura Kirby	Joan Mandel	Paul McEvily
Stan Rosenthal	Jeff Schwartz	Leslie Stivale	Alan Tedesco
Alicia Williams	Maura Comer	Connie Fahim	Steven Horvath
Tina Mikes	Nicole Cyr	Kasey Congero	Laurie Duhovny
Ewa Farry	Laura Von Pier	Kathy Weir	Katrina Hawkins
April Hurley	Rebecca Rhoads		

- Introduction

Lisa Von Pier was introduced as the new Deputy Director of Human Services in Monmouth County.

- Public Participation

- a. Paul called for a motion to open to public comment, Alan T. motioned second- all in favor. No comment. Jeff made a motion to close; Paul seconded; all in favor.

- Approval of January meeting minutes

Donna Blaze reports she was here but did not sign in; minutes will be amended to reflect. Jeff made a motion to approve; Alan T. seconded; all in favor with amendment to include Donna.

- New Business/Discussion

- a. Subcommittee meetings debrief/ 2020 draft plan- Kasey explained the data which will be reported quarterly to the Executive Committee. The data reports will include information in who is entering Monmouth County's homeless system and leaving the system. This also includes breakdowns for the Chronically Homeless and Veteran's. Donna Blaze expressed concern with not having information for the Code Blue sites and the need for that critical information for those that would be unsheltered if Code Blue was not called. Maura informed Donna that her committee, Coordinated Systems, will be working on the gaps with data reporting and exploring options to bridge the gaps.
- b. 2020 plan draft- Tim called for a motion to approve; Donna made a first; Paul made a second; all in favor.
- c. Executive Committee Recruitment- Tim informed the group that the Executive Committee is looking to recruit members with lived experience to participate on the HSC Executive Committee. If anyone knows of someone who would like to participate they will reach out to Kathy or Kasey.

- Reports

- a. Data Reports-

Laura Kirby reported on the HUD released CDBG reports- 2.7 million in 2020 up from 2.2 million dollars in 2019. The funding mostly supports municipal and nonprofit projects; HOME dollars fund affordable housing projects and that is approximately 1.5 million in funding. ESG- funding will be \$220,000 in 2020 with a 2 year expenditure. The county is reallocating some money to nonprofits and shelters and this is up for Freeholder resolution at the next meeting. Community Development has also been able to fund HMIS any agencies that would like to apply can come into the office.

b. State Update

Rebecca Rhoads from DCA Office of Homeless Prevention, Director introduced herself. She reports she wants to do a better job of working together across all the departments. The office plans to use data collection to identify gaps and develop resources to fill those gaps. The office is tasked with developing a statewide strategy to address homelessness and will be working with CoC's across the state to establish best practices and processes.

c. HUD Update

i. Local Selection Process

Kasey reported that the monitoring notice has been sent out to funded agencies and Kaitlyn is working with Kathy to schedule all the site monitorings. The local application will be going out on Monday March 9<sup>th</sup> to the full email list serv and the Technical Assistance Session will be immediately following the Monmouth CEAS meeting on 03/30/2020 at 11:00am.

d. Code Blue- The Code Blue Shelter in Keansburg has been officially approved and the county now has 4 Code Blue Shelters. The county increased the funding to \$10,000 per season to each shelter and there are no restrictions on the use of those funds. Donna asked if the beds/cots that the county purchased after Sandy were in use. Jeff reported they were still in a warehouse as far as he was aware and he would inquire if they could be donated to Code Blue efforts.

e. Centralized Intake

Katrina and Jeff report no update

Alan had a question about those who are in need of social service assistance in the Bayshore area. Nicole from DSS reports that she is at Project Paul every Wednesday and can assist persons with everything but GA/TANF applications during the hours of 10am-3pm. On Friday's at Project Paul Fulfill has a representative there to complete online GA/TANF applications and then that will generate a face to face appt with social services in Freehold and Ocean Twp.

f. Housing Navigator Agency:

- Case Conferencing meeting on 3/11/20 at 2pm.

g. Sub-committees

- i. PIT/PHC- just received the de-duplication spreadsheet and will be finalizing the end of the week. Had a very successful debriefing meeting and will be changing some logistics for next year.
- ii. Veteran's - 9 on the list: 2 unsheltered, 2 housed, 3 HUD VASH, 1 Habcore voucher.

- Case conferencing will merge with new Housing Navigator Committee and Veteran's subpopulation will be discussed at this meeting
    - Continue to monitor the benchmarks for ending Veteran's Homelessness
    - Identify barriers to housing Veteran's and explore possible solutions
  - iii. Discharge Planning- decision makers are not at the table and discussing cases at SRC, facing same problems time and time again; discussion of a need to engage decision makers at the three hospital systems.
    - TBD; will be analyzing data in HMIS about the connection between hospital discharges and the Monmouth Homeless system
    - Identify an administrator at one Monmouth County hospital to have a strategic planning meeting and discuss possible solutions to recidivism rates
  - iv. Permanent Housing- Connie reported.
    - Compose a letter inviting the public housing authority's inviting them to collaborate with the HSC
    - Explore 'Housing Rehab' funding options
  - v. Coordinated Systems- Maura reported the 2020 plan.
    - Identify current members of the committee and identify which agencies/advocates/partners should also be attending
    - Explore opportunities to expand partnerships with Child Care Resources and Workforce Development
    - Streamline referral process between the HSC and these resources
    - Formalize partnership with MOUs
    - Monitor the Coordinated Assessment process and ensure the sheltering agencies are completing assessments
    - Identify barriers and explore possible solutions to ensure that all sheltering agencies are utilizing HMIS
    - Review Letter of Support Policy
- Updates
  - a. Laurie will be retiring and this will be her last meeting the Committee thanked her for all her work over the years, Nicole was introduced as she will be taking Laurie's position.
  - b. Connie reported the 2020 Census will be March 2020.
  - c. CEAS and TA assistance will be March 30<sup>th</sup> starting at 9am.
- Adjournment
  - a. Closing the meeting- Paul motioned, Jeff seconded; all in favor

Next Meeting: **May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 9am**

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



# Monmouth County Homeless System Collaborative

## Executive Committee September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Meeting Minutes

- I. Introduction
- II. Public Participation
  - a. Alan F made a motion; Kim Cole made a 2<sup>nd</sup> to move into public participation; no public comment made; Paul made a motion to close; Wendy made a second; all in favor.
- III. Approval of July meeting minutes
  - a. Kim made a motion; Darcy made a second; all in favor
- IV. New Business/Discussion
  - a. CARES Act Funding
    - i. ESG-CV
      - 1. Laura Kirby gave an update on the Review Committee meeting for the first round of ESG funding for \$770,000. There were 7 applicants. Laura will submit a plan to draw down the second round of ESG so that the committee can allocate those funds as well.
    - ii. CDBG-CV
      - 1. Round 1 they are using to do a small business grant program in Monmouth County.
  - b. COVID-19 Response
    - i. Shelter
      - 1. Chris reports only having 2 referrals, but more go to Peter. Peter reports the shelter continues to operate the non-congregate shelter as well. Referrals continue to come in from the Board of Health and hospitals for those that are COVID positive. 52 persons have been served in the non-congregate shelter since March. They are maintaining roughly 50% capacity but think there will be a rise in the fall due to need. Coordinating with the Red Roof Inn in Freehold to work with people to allow people that do not meet homeless criteria that are working (once they tested negative) to be able to stay in the motel at the same rate as AHA as they have been unable to return to shared residences after testing negative.
      - 2. Anna reports 180's shelter is full and has been utilizing motels for overflow.
      - 3. Linkages has 6 vacancies- clients must be TANF eligible.

- ii. Prevention
  - 1. Paul reports they continue to see a high number of calls in need of assistance. Paul reports they have paid out around \$280,000 from private funds since March and Lunch Break has paid out about \$400,000-\$500,000 in private funds to assist those need.
  - 2. Alicia reported the eviction moratorium has been extended until December 1<sup>st</sup> and is likely to be extended another 30 days. The utility COVID moratorium is ending October 15<sup>th</sup> but the weather moratorium begins on November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- iii. Outreach
  - 1. Ewa reported PATH has continued to operate as well as Housing Navigation to meet with clients as they need to in the community. The teams have been working at JBJ Soul Kitchen and Pilgrim Baptist during free lunches to outreach homeless individuals.
- c. Chronically Homeless data
  - i. Kasey provided data report. The report does not include DV data but will at next meeting.

## V. Reports

- a. HUD Update
  - i. Kasey provided a CoC scoring breakdown and went over areas of need in the community and goals to address such. Kasey highlighted need to engage with PHAs and address racial disparities. Monmouth County is intending to partner with Monarch Housing and NIS on a community led planning development program to work to engage persons with lived experience in the homeless planning process.
- b. Centralized Intake
  - i. Chris reports they are still having walk ins, especially in the Ocean office. Persons who come in have been seen through a booth but phone applications are still available. Many referrals are from 211, but referrals have decreased in July and August which correlates with unemployment benefits. DSS is getting ready to place persons being released from incarceration due to the new law on September 14<sup>th</sup>.
- c. Housing Navigator Agency
  - i. Case Conferencing- Has started with DCA RRH program and had applied 12 people for the program and 7 had already been accepted; 2 were initially rejected but they are appealing that decision and the cases are under review; 3 are pending; diligently working to apply more persons for that
  - ii. Met with Belinda from CARC and Peter AHA to utilize the 20 units that AHA has coming available soon. CARC is providing the case management for the RRH project.
  - iii. 5 Stonehurst residents that funding is ending for- 1 is going to Habcore beginning of October; 3 others are in application process; 1 they have been unable to connect with as of yet. Kathy reports the 3 that are in contact can utilize RRH to

continue to pay rent and stay where they are right now. They will need to go to Social Services to apply.

d. Code Blue

- i. Mike O. from OEM will be presenting at the October 8<sup>th</sup> full HSC meeting. Pilgrim Baptist has their first Code Blue meeting on Sept 17<sup>th</sup>. Jeff reports there is still funding available for the sites in the coming season and plans are still being discussed.

e. Sub-committees

i. PIT/PHC

1. Kathy reports there has been discussions about moving away from the PHC events and moving to doing more outreach to ensure that they are targeting the literally homeless individuals where they are at.

ii. Veteran's

1. Tina informed the group that Soldier On has money so to please screen for Veteran status and refer anyone in need. Tina showed the application for the county once they have met all the benchmarks for ending Veteran's Homelessness in Monmouth County. Tina reports Monmouth needs to work on Benchmark B- quick access to permanent housing; Benchmark C- does the community have sufficient permanent housing capacity
2. Tina reports there is a ribbon cutting ceremony for Soldier On's PH development which would be 71 units this weekend

iii. Discharge Planning

1. Steve reported census has been low so there have been no issues. The census has gone back up in August and these issues are resurfacing. There has been a loss of approximately 150 beds due to the closing of the Manalapan Manor and Dover Woods.

iv. Permanent Housing

1. Kasey reported the group is going to begin working to engage housing authorities to try and advocate for Moving On initiatives and homeless set asides. Please email Kasey and Kathy any contacts you have at specific housing authorities to engage with them.

v. Coordinated Systems

1. Kasey reported Maura has had to step down from chairing this committee due to increase in work and inability to commit time. Kasey reports she will chair and will be combining this committee with the data committee and will begin looking at the CH data report and break that down to actionable items.

VI. Agency Updates

- a. WHN has their first meeting next week to see if houses of worship will be able to continue in 2020-2021. Stan reports they had 1000 bed nights last year and they need to strategically plan for the upcoming season. Kasey suggested applying for the DCA shelter support grant and will email the information to him.

- b. Alan F. reports he is running a training for every school district and it aims to provide resources to schools on resources to provide to families in need.
- c. Alicia provided an update on landlord-tenant issues and states there have been settlement conferences scheduled to try and alleviate the backlog. The CDC entered a federal eviction moratorium last week but this was more helpful in states where the eviction moratorium has ended. Part of this is a declaration that tenants need to sign, but there is no harm in having tenants sign this but it is not necessary as tenants have protection under the state moratorium. The landlord may request that a tenant sign so they can apply for assistance so the tenant can sign as long as all of the declarations are true. There has been an increase in landlords suing tenants for back rent when in the past they may write off the loss but due to the amount of months due this could lead to wages being garnished if a landlord was awarded a settlement. There have been cases of persons being evicted “in the interest of justice” which the court is hearing. Refer any of these cases to Alicia.
- d. Peter reports they can assist individuals in back rent through CAP funds without an eviction notice. They also have security deposits up to \$2,000 for persons that are income eligible. The applications are available on AHA’s website.

VII. Adjournment

- a. Tim called for a motion; Anna made a motion; Tina Mikes made a 2<sup>nd</sup>; all in favor

Next Meeting: **November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 9am**

GotoWebinar link will be provided prior to the meeting





# Monmouth County Homeless System Collaborative

## Executive Committee

July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

## Meeting Minutes

### Attendees:

Kasey Congero	Peter Boynton	Joan Mandel	Anna Diaz-White
Jeffrey Schwartz	Lisa Von Pier	Lynn Seaward	Ewa Farry
Alan Tedesco	Tina Mikes	Alicia Williams	Darcy Dobens
Leslie Stivale	Tim Hearne	Kim Cole	Donna Blaze
Martin Bershtein	Steven Horvath	Kathleen Weir	Stan Rosenthal
Wendy DePedro	Paul McEvily	Laura Kirby	Nicole Pelliccia
April Hurley			

- I. Introduction- reading of open public meetings act
- II. Public Participation- Tim called for a motion to move the meeting into public participation- Anna made a motion; Darcy made a second and all in favor; no public comments made; Tim called for a motion to close; Anna made a motion; Darcy made a second; all in favor
- III. Approval of May meeting minutes- Alan T. made a motion to approve; Kim made a second; all in favor
- IV. New Business/Discussion
  - a. Letter of Support- Walters Group- Martin Bershtein
    - i. Asking for support of a development in the Holmdel/Hazlet area that would include 5 homeless set asides. Martin reports the Walters group will sign an MOU to fill the units from the Housing Navigation Agency
    - ii. Tim called for a motion to approve a letter of support. Anna made a motion and Darcy made a second; all in favor
  - b. Barnabas Case Management Program- Lynn Seward
    - i. Innovation mobile recovery grant- this was just awarded, and they are in the hiring process- will be doing outreach to “hot spots” in the community to work with people in need of recovery support. Trying to work on case management collaborative to assist those in need and will be collaborating with law enforcement as well. Kathy informed them of monthly case conferencing meeting and Lynn will touch base with Ewa to participate and include MHA in the collaborative.
  - c. ESG/CDBG funding
    - i. Laura Kirby- Freeholders approved the plan for the CARES Act funding on June 25<sup>th</sup> meeting; plan has been submitted to HUD and should take about one week to process- CDBG money is

going to help small businesses; ESG money hopefully planned by August and second tranche about a month or two later

- ii. Kathy will be sending out a survey to the full CoC to gauge agencies needs so that the community development office can plan for the ESG money coming in to better assist agencies and consumers who are struggling

d. COVID-19 Response

i. Shelter

1. Anna reports they are 50% over capacity and have placements off site in hotel/motel. 180 had some assistance in paying for this placement but that is not continued and looking for assistance to continue making these placements
2. Peter- 27 individuals in the non-congregate shelter are receiving COVID testing due to showing symptoms and being monitored or being positive and not needing to be in the hospital. VNA provides in person CM every other day for the clients. Lifeline is providing transport for necessary medical appts. Interfaith through meals on wheels is providing food to these consumers. The shelter is operating at 50% capacity so as to ensure social distancing.
3. Kathy reported Family Promise is not currently sheltering anyone but aims to apply for ESG funding to begin operations again.
4. Donna reports they recently came to an agreement about the 20 units on Fort Monmouth and there are now condominium fees are more than anticipated and hope to get some vouchers to support those units. Kasey discussed DCA rental assistance vouchers allocated to Monmouth County that could provide 12 months of assistance to support those units. Donna reported that would give CM time to figure out a longer term solution. Ewa stated she would work with AHA when those vouchers become available for placement. Donna also reported AHA is looking to purchase a site for an Emergency Shelter in Ocean County.
5. Joan reported 211 has been excellent in placing persons in motels but there is no transportation to get to those motels. Donna suggested utilizing CAP transportation and Peter provided the CAP mainline or after hours call the shelter and they would be able to provide assistance for the transportation. Persons can also pre qualify so that if it is after hours they can be processed much quicker.

ii. Prevention

1. Tina reports they have SSVF money for Veterans for prevention and rental assistance and agencies should refer anyone who is a Veteran to Soldier On. Tina

reports there is no limit on months for rental assistance for the foreseeable future.

2. Donna stated she anticipates the need with consumers to escalate at the end of the month. Darcy and Kim reported persons coming in with significant financial stressors (money tied up with vacations, not planning to pay on any of past due bills, etc) and once the courts open there is going to be a complete inundation on the agencies offering assistance. Donna reports they have money for back utilities and will be taking applications starting on Monday so to send them to her agency for that. Intakes will be done by appointment in the Neptune office.
3. Alicia Williams states that landlords, specifically smaller landlords with one or two properties, are having significant difficulty without rent payments. Some are even harassing tenants due to non payments of rent.
4. Paul reports since mid March 1520 calls from COVID impacted families; engaged with 350 household; paid out \$150,000 from non-government assisted dollars; 300 households in a pending status for back rent and the amount they are in need of is about \$800,000-\$1 million.
5. Stan Rosenthal- Economic Stimulus for \$1200 on a gift card- qualifications are that the person has no income and has a SSN. Persons must apply and then activate those cards. Contact Stan with any questions about this opportunity

iii. Outreach

1. Ewa reports path and housing navigation are seeing more referrals then they had in the beginning of the pandemic.

e. Chronically Homeless data

- i. Kasey reported data on the Chronically Homeless, Unsheltered, and Racial disparities from the PIT data. These numbers are being looked at for planning purposes around involving voices with lived experience becoming actively involved with the CoC. Donna reported that the shelter would be able to host meetings for residents that wanted to get involved. Kasey reported Monarch is doing work with NIS and piloting a program to do this work in about a month or so and will work with the shelters to plan for this.

V. Reports

a. HUD Update

- i. Kasey reported that the HIC/PIT have been submitted to HUD and there is no update on the CoC application at this time.

b. Centralized Intake

- i. No update

c. Housing Navigator Agency

- i. Numbers have been increasing in the past few weeks from the beginning of the pandemic. Ewa reports this will likely continue in the coming month.
      - d. Code Blue
        - i. Kathy reported Jeff and Mike Oppgard had a meeting with Keansburg about need for a shelter in the area. Kathy reported considerations are being made for how to operate under COVID-19 issues and planning is being done for 2020-2021 season.
      - e. Sub-committees
        - i. PIT/PHC
          - 1. Kathy reported planning will begin with a meeting in August and they are looking at advertising differently. Kathy reported they are considering how to do a PHC in the time of COVID.
        - ii. Veteran's
          - 1. Tina reported 10 Veteran's on the list; 2 have a HUD VASH voucher. 9 have been house in 2020 5 with vouchers. Soldier On is breaking ground on the housing development on July 9<sup>th</sup>.
        - iii. Discharge Planning
          - 1. Steve reports they have not met since the last meeting. The hospital census for inpatient psychiatric units has been down in the past few months. They have seen a slight uptick in June, but they do not have the full statistics for the month yet.
        - iv. Permanent Housing
          - 1. Leslie reports she is working on developing a list of developments in process or stalled
        - v. Coordinated Systems
          - 1. No updates
- VI. Updates
  - a. No updates
- VII. Adjournment
  - a. Motion to adjourn- Anna made a motion; Tina made a second; all in favor

Next Meeting: **September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 9am**

GotoWebinar link will be provided prior to the meeting



# Monmouth County Homeless System Collaborative

## Executive Committee November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Meeting Minutes

- I. Introduction
- II. Public Participation-
  - a. Donna made a motion and Paul made a second- moved to the end of meeting due to technical issues for participants in connecting with audio
  - b. motion- Paul; second Stan; all in favor- Tyler no comment; Paul made a motion to close; Sue made second; all in favor
  - c. Public comment was opened a third time due to issue in participants in connecting to audio; Motion- Alicia; Tina second; all in favor- open to public comment- April Hurley commented:
    - i. commended the group for brainstorming and working to prepare for the tsunami of need for those that will be homeless once the moratorium is over; April also stated being encouraged to hear that Pastor Kaperdale is working to develop new housing in Monmouth;
    - ii. highlighted issues with access to Social Services and inadequate transportation
    - iii. encouraged more data to be available to the public including data on open shelter beds and hotel/motel placements
    - iv. request for more participation of those with lived experience on the executive board
    - v. motion to end public comment made by Tina; second- Nicole; all in favor
- III. Approval of September meeting minutes- motion made by Joan; second by Paul; all in favor
- IV. New Business/Discussion
  - a. Letter of Support- Reformed Church of Highland Park Affordable Housing Corporation-Pastor Seth Kaperdale reports there is a faith based building in Long Branch(650 Broadway) that he is looking to redevelop the property for housing for very low income housing for seniors. He is looking to partner with the CoC to assist with finding vouchers to help fund some of the units. Motion to provide letter of support- wendy made a motion; Kim made a second; all in favor

- b. St Vincent DePaul- slides to be sent out by Kathy Weir following the meeting
- c. Code Blue
  - i. Melissa Campbell reports Pilgram Baptist Church is still providing shelter and there are motel placements as well. There were no issues during the first Code Blue night.
- d. CARES Act Funding
  - i. ESG-CV
    - 1. Round 1 Awarded and letters were sent to agencies and most have been returned
      - a. Interfaith Neighbors; Catholic Charities; MHA; Project Paul; 180 all funded
    - 2. Round 2 funds will have the plans opened for public comment period in the next week or two
  - ii. CDBG-CV- Round 1 is funding for small businesses and nonprofits; unsure of how the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of funding will be utilized
- e. COVID-19 Response
  - i. Shelter- operations are moving forward and COVID precautions are in place; AHA has also began working with Code Blue in Ocean County
  - ii. Prevention
    - 1. Project Paul and Interfaith Neighbors were awarded prevention dollars in ESG Round 1
    - 2. Nicole Cyr reported the CHAP program through the state- 3 units processing the cases right now and have touched base about 125 cases
    - 3. Alicia reports the rent moratorium has been extended through the end of January 2021; this is just for lock outs but landlords can still file for eviction; more complaints about landlords harassing tenants
    - 4. Tina Mikes- reports that they saw one tenant in Burlington County get locked out of their unit; Soldier On is looking to develop new ways to outreach Veteran's in need as they have money they need to spend down and are having a difficult time finding people
  - iii. Outreach
    - 1. Housing Navigation has been doing in person outreach and operating as normal
- f. 2021 Schedule
  - i. Kathy provided this; next meeting is January 5<sup>th</sup>; full schedule available on HSC website

## V. Reports

- a. Chronically Homeless data
  - i. Kasey presented data report
- b. System Performance Report
  - i. Kasey presented 2020 SPM report; SPM will be due to HUD in March 2021; Tim request comparison with state trends; Kasey will work on getting this data for next meeting

- c. HUD Update
  - i. Kasey reported no update from HUD at this time
- d. Centralized Intake
  - i. Has seen upwards of 300 calls in a month but anticipates more calls coming due to inmates being discharged from incarceration starting yesterday; will refer to re-entry if appropriate
- e. Housing Navigator Agency
  - i. 130 new cases in the last quarter; 1386 total open cases; closed 74- housed (65 of those went into PH and 9 went to temporary residences)
  - ii. Working on hiring new staff for the program through the ESG program
- f. Sub-committees
  - i. PIT/PHC- instead of PHC the county is planning on Project Homeless Outreach to be able to target those that are literally homeless; next meeting is November 17<sup>th</sup> at 10am
  - ii. Veteran's
    - 1. Last meeting was October 19<sup>th</sup>- had 13 veteran's on the by-name list; 6 have HUD VASH, 1 has Section 8 and just are not in units yet and 2 have been approved for Patriot's Square
    - 2. Tina reports she feels there are more Veteran's homeless and are not included or working with SSVF agencies; Tina urges any agency working with a vet to atleast refer veterans to be included on the list even if they do not wish to work with a SSVF agency
    - 3. Next meeting is November 16<sup>th</sup> at 2pm- conference call
  - iii. Discharge Planning
    - 1. No update
  - iv. Permanent Housing
    - 1. Working group has met that consists of housing development agencies to explore opportunities for development; the group identified some research needed to be done by municipality and will be completed; there is an upcoming meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup> at 2pm for the subcommittee to discuss opportunities for approaching PHAs and collaboration with HSC
  - v. Coordinated Systems
    - 1. Met early October and had HMIS training on new data entry fields by Chris Bensen. Next meeting on 12/2 at 10am.

## VI. Agency Updates

- a. Donna Blaze, AHA, reports 20 units at Patriots Square are almost ready to open and working MHA; also just awarded the Page Grant (starts January 4<sup>th</sup>) and assists with utilities
- b. Tina Mikes has accepted a new position with Soldier On and Mark Harding will be working with Monmouth HSC; she will be the health

care navigator for Soldier On focusing on mental, physical health and substance abuse linkages

- c. Sue Kiley reports there has been a second round of funding for 501c3's and small businesses for \$10,000 on monmouthcountycare.com

VII. Adjournment

- a. Tina mikes; motioned Alan second; all in favor

Next Meeting: **January 5<sup>th</sup>- Webex; CEAS meeting Dec 11<sup>th</sup>**

GotoWebinar link will be provided prior to the meeting