



# Monmouth County Homeless System Collaborative

## Executive Committee January 5th, 2021 Meeting Minutes

- I. Introduction
- II. Public Participation- Jeff, Darcy all in favor ; Paul motion to close, Jeff second, all in favor
- III. Approval of November meeting minutes-Alan T made a motion, Darcy second, all in favor
- IV. New Business/Discussion
  - a. Racial Equity/Community Led Planning Development Program
    - i. Kasey described the CLPD programs goals to incorporate persons with lived experience in the CoC and developing an advisory committee that will ultimately help to make funding decisions. There will also be a goal to bring racial equity trainings to the full HSC and executive committee.
  - b. Code Blue- OEM and social services
    - i. Mike Oppegard reports they are primarily utilizing motels for Code Blue; currently they have 7 partners; 23 nights of Code Blue serving 80 persons (could be duplicates); 228 nights of assistance. Mike reports transportation is still a barrier to getting to the Code Blue sites. Pilgram Baptist has run into challenges in reaching capacity and trying to find solutions to assist clients in getting to motels for additional placements. Mike reports no recent reports of any clients being turned away
    - ii. Wendy DePedro identified some barriers with persons at JBJ being denied placement and 211 being non-responsive to clients calling for placements. Mike reports he has a meeting tomorrow with 211 and will bring this issue up.
    - iii. Chris Aumack reports 211 is reporting every placement to social services every morning. Chris reported there has been a challenge with capacity for assisting those that are already in placement and the nightly Code Blue placements. Melissa reported those that follow up with social services after the placement are screened for eligibility for EA and longer term placement.
    - iv. Joan asked about how the public is being made aware that this is a resource. Is there any type of hand out? Ewa reported she posts a flyer at the Red Bank Resource center so that those who pass by can see that it is available.
    - v. Alan Ferraro reports he has been disseminating the information to the homeless liaisons at each Code Blue event.

- vi. Tina reported if the homeless person is a Veteran then Soldier On can put persons up in a motel and work with them.
- c. CARES Act Funding
  - i. ESG-CV
    - 1. Round 2- Laura Kirby reports Round 1 should be all cleared to be spending funding; Freeholders approved the submission and so did HUD and the money for Round 2 should be available to be spent fairly quickly once the Director signs. Funding decisions should be made in the next week or two.
    - ii. CDBG-CV- Round 1 has been allocated to small businesses and they are waiting on DCA to inform on Round 2; Round 3 they are still planning for how to spend that.
- d. COVID-19 Response
  - i. Shelter- Peter reports he has been receiving a lot of assistance with from OEM and Human Services; 5 individuals in need of isolation who were COVID positive; approximately 22 persons placed in motels December; an additional 22 people went through the shelter. Peter reports capacity of 40-45 in the shelter and motels. AHA has been working with social services to get persons placed through EA and Peter reports this process has been efficient and effective to allow the shelter to filter persons through to EA quickly.
  - ii. Jen Dingler reports vacancies at Linkages they aim to fill early this year
  - iii. Prevention- Paul reports they have spent down most of the SSH funding and are now spending CV funding and are seeing an inundation of calls.
  - iv. Outreach- Ewa reports they are seeing an increase in referrals; they have been able to hire two new staff due to the ESG funding who started yesterday. These outreach workers are training and will be assisting in the increase in referrals.

## V. Reports

- a. Chronically Homeless data
- b. HUD Update
  - i. Kasey reported that HUD announced an autorenewal process will be allowed for the 2020 funding but they have not announced as of yet what this will look like. The GIW has been confirmed and we are prepared to move forward once a process is announced.
- c. Centralized Intake
  - i. Melissa reports their numbers have been increasing due to Code Blue and those persons will all be referred to the Housing Navigator. Chris reports they have been very busy and are aiming to see persons in person as well as over the phone to complete assessments and placements
- d. Housing Navigator Agency
  - i. Current list:
    - 1. CH- 60
    - 2. December Admissions- 37

3. Total Persons on list- 1331
- e. Sub-committees
  - i. PIT/PHC
    1. Kathy reported the PIT count is on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021, there will be a 14 day count this year in which homeless persons can be counted 14 days following the 27<sup>th</sup> as long as you are asking where they stayed the night of the 26<sup>th</sup>. Kasey reported that HUD is allowing agencies to complete phone interviews.
  - ii. Veteran's
    1. Tina reports in December the county met 3 benchmarks for ending Veteran's homelessness. The one benchmark not being met is quick access to PH.
  - iii. Discharge Planning- Kathy reports the committee has met and discussed recidivism of those being discharged from hospitals to homelessness; the planning committee has discussed bringing the hospitals to the table and discuss actual solutions and housing. We will be meeting with Hackensack Meridian execs to discuss systemic issues and possible solutions in the coming month.
  - iv. Permanent Housing
    1. Kasey reported that the committee is working to meet with PHAs to try and collaborate and establish a homeless setaside or moving on initiative. The committee is meeting with Asbury Park Housing Authority this week and is working to coordinate a time with Middletown and Long Branch Housing Authorities.
  - v. Coordinated Systems- meeting next week, will focus on data quality

VI. Adjournment motion Alicia, Leslie second all in favor

Next Meeting: **March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021**

GotoWebinar link will be provided prior to the meeting



# Monmouth County Homeless System Collaborative

## Executive Committee

March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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 Oppegaard- 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup>, 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 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

GotoWebinar link will be provided prior to the meeting



# Monmouth County Homeless System Collaborative

## Executive Committee

May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### Meeting Minutes

Alan Ferraro	Alan Tedesco	Alicia Williams	Anna Diaz White
Charles Venti	Christine Aumack	Darcy Dobens	Ewa Farry
Joan Mandel	Kasey Vienckowski	Kathleen Weir	Kim Cole
Laura Kirby	Leslie Stivale	Mark Harding	Meghan Bennett
Nicole Cyr	Paul McEvily	Peter Boynton	Randi Moore
Steven Horvath	Tim Hearne	April Hurley	Wendy DePedro

- I. Introduction
- II. Public Participation- Paul made a motion, Alan F made a second; all in favor; no comment; Alan F made a motion to close; Laura made a second; all in favor
- III. Approval of March meeting minutes- Kathy made a motion; Nicole made a second; all in favor
- IV. New Business/Discussion
  - a. CARES Act Funding
    - i. Funding Matrix
    - ii. ESG-CV
    - iii. CDBG-CV- submitted a plan for a second round of small business grants; hopefully will go live in May; waiting on HUD approval
    - iv. Dept of Treasury- want to announce it as of May 13<sup>th</sup> going live; received an initial amount of 18.1 million and will be getting another 14 million
    - v. HOME- Laura reports HUD indicates regulations will come in August and plan to utilize for
      1. Presentation on ending homelessness plans- Kasey
  - b. COVID-19 Response
    - i. Landlord/tenant- Alicia Williams reports the eviction moratorium is extended until mid July; we will know by the end of next week if this is going to be extended again. The court could decide to hold off on landlord tenant trials even if the public health emergency isn't extended. Alicia reports there is a lot of negotiation with landlords right now; agreeing not to sue/evict if tenants will leave or paying tenants to leave. There are also landlords on the other end of the spectrum that are suing tenants to get them out so they can use properties for summer rentals. A lot of landlords are suing and stating there are emergencies as they are the only cases being heard by the court. Landlord/tenant court has a new judge who started two

weeks ago and only one case has been heard so Alicia will update more at a future meeting. Randi Moore reported AHA received a grant from Housing and Community Development network to assist with landlord mediation. A number of the housing counselors at AHA have been trained in landlord mediation and the program is live now.

ii. Shelter

1. Peter Boynton reports they have 11 individuals in shelter through the congregate and non-congregate shelters. They are working diligently with VNA to ensure the homeless population is getting access to vaccines if wanted. They are working on a contract with uber to provide assistance to anyone in need that needs a ride to get their vaccines. Peter reports an increase in calls for assistance since the end of Code Blue but not the increase seeking shelter that was anticipated.

iii. Prevention- no update

iv. Outreach- Ewa Farry reported current numbers:

- 192 open – 7% chronic, 7% unsheltered, 40% sheltered, 27% at risk, 31% unknown
- 205 closed
- 65 housed – 55 PH, 10 temp housing.

c. “Building Healthier More Equitable Communities” initiative- Paul McEvily

- i. Paul reports this initiative is sponsored by RWJ and is a 3 year grant to work on social determinants of health. Asbury Park was one of the cities awarded this grant in NJ. One of the main goals is to work on affordable housing and identifying systemic issues in the community that affect the members of the community. The group has had a number of conversations with Hackensack Meridian about the development of affordable housing, they have not yet decided whether or not to invest in this. There is a meeting later this week with executive members of the hospital system to have further discussions about the development of housing.

V. Reports

a. HUD Update

- i. Kasey reported that the HUD hdx submissions for HIC and PIT are due on May 14<sup>th</sup>. The HIC has gone out to the community for final review and will be submitted by May 12<sup>th</sup> pending any recommended changes.

b. CLPD Project

- i. Kasey reported the first Advisory Board meeting met statewide last week and went really well. There were 3 representatives from Monmouth County in attendance an another meeting will be scheduled for May with the Monmouth Advisory board to go over the HSC process and system set up in Monmouth County. Policies and procedures as well as bylaws will also go out to the committee for review. There will be another racial equity training scheduled in June as well.

- c. Data
  - i. Homeless System Data
- d. Centralized Intake
  - i. Melissa reports they saw 160 clients in the month of April; 12 new EA placements and a total of 426 phone calls in the month.
- e. Housing Navigator Agency
- f. Sub-committees
  - i. PIT/PHC
    - 1. PIT Preliminary Numbers- 2021 numbers provided; committee informed HUD will not be looking at a comparison of 2020 to 2021 due to the pandemic.
  - ii. Veteran's
    - 1. As of the last 90 days they have identified 7 new Veteran's and 6 have been placed. Soldier On's Tinton Falls development is aiming to open in the fall and they are hoping to begin taking applications over the summer.

VI. Agency Updates

- a. Darcy reports there is a second pop up diaper pantry in Keansburg that had great success. They will have another event next month and anticipate double the attendance.

VII. Adjournment- Wendy made a motion; Peter made a second; all in favor.

Next Meeting: **July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021**

GotoWebinar link will be provided prior to the meeting



# Monmouth County Homeless System Collaborative

## Executive Committee

July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## Agenda

Alan Ferraro	Alan Tedesco	Bhavin Patel	Christine Aumack	Ewa Farry
Heather Barton	Kathy Weir	Katrina Hawkins	Kim Cole	Marissa Cortese
Mark Harding	Meghan Bennett	Meyer Pincelli		Paul McEvily
Peter Boynton	Tim Hearne	Troy Torres		April Hurley
Toi Collins	Nadine Azari	Lara Schwager	Darcy Dobens	Wendy DePedro
Melissa Campbell		Nicole Cyr	Joan Mandel	

### I. Introduction

- II. Public Participation- motion made by Paul, Alan Ferraro second; all in favor; April Hurley- "I have no comment. I am hoping for a discussion of Code Red and water provisions for homeless in light of evictions ahead. Also always regarding outreach to assist"; motion to close Alan Ferraro; second Mark Harding; all in favor
- III. Approval of May meeting minutes- motion to approve Alan Tedesco, second Kim Cole; all in favor

### IV. Letter of Support

- a. Triple C- Meyer Pincelli presented for a project in partnership with CIS for 102 units in Manalapan; 5 units will be for homeless person and 2 for survivors of DV; services will be provided by Triple C. CIS will be applying for tax credits and if approved the project is anticipated to be complete by end of 2023. Paul asked about the number of set asides and if this meets the minimum, Meyer stated this number reflects the mandatory minimum. Alan Ferraro made a motion to approve; Peter Boynton made a second; all in favor.
- b. PIRHL- Bhavin Patel presented for a project in Freehold that will be financed through HMFA with low income housing tax credits. The plan calls for 60 units; 5 homeless units; 5 disabled residents; 20 units will be affordable units. MHA will provide the services to the residents. Partnerships also made with Centra State, Navicore, and Monmouth County Workforce Development. If approved for tax credits the project would anticipate being completed in 2023. Motion to approve letter of support Paul McEvily; Kim Cole made a second; all in favor.

### V. New Business/Discussion

- a. CARES Act Funding
  - i. ESG-CV- Marissa Cortese made an update for Community Development; quarterly HMIS reports due July 30th
  - ii. CDBG-CV- county has applied for second tranche it is 1.6 million. The county is still planning on how to spend

- iii. Dept of Treasury/ERAP- 287 applications; \$2.6 million; 139 community assisted applications; 175 of which were landlord applications for \$1.4 million. Paul reports he anticipated being overwhelmed with requests and he was surprised that those requests were so light. Alan and Kathy reiterated their surprise at the same and seeing a lower number than anticipated of applicants. Nicole discussed some efforts the county has made to increase mailings and get the word out to landlords and tenants. Kim Cole and Chris Aumack reported they both have not seen an influx in requests for rental assistance since the eviction moratorium was extended until January.
- iv. HOME- still awaiting the guidance from the American Rescue plan for \$5.5 million that was allocated.
- v. DCA- EHV- DCA's PHA was allocated approximately 960 vouchers through the American Rescue Plan. DCA is rolling out the vouchers statewide as 'first come first serve' through the coordinated entry programs, similar to the RRH initiative. The MOU with MHA was signed and we are awaiting the applications from DCA and anticipate they will begin accepting referrals July 15<sup>th</sup> for households that are homeless, at risk, recently homeless, or survivors of Domestic Violence.

b. COVID-19 Response

- i. Landlord/tenant- Troy Torres, SJLS provided updated; approximately 62,000 cases backed up in the NJ court system; trying to minimize the amount going to the judge and mediate as many cases out of court. Eviction moratorium is set to expire January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. There is legislation on the governors desk to move this up to August 31, 2021 for anyone over 80% AMI which would have to be certified. Nicole reported when speaking with the courts for the ERAP there were approximately 1800 cases in Monmouth County. The court aims to begin addressing settlement cases by those that were filed first. Peter brought up the need for having someone in the mediations to provide support to tenants about what services are available to tenants to assist. Kathy stated this was a great idea and that Rachel who she has worked with through the courts was open to providing this support and she would discuss this further. Troy reported of the legislation currently out there would staunch the tide of evictions and convert this to a civil settlement so as not to effect tenants credit scores and would not have eviction on their records.
- ii. Shelter- Peter Boynton reports the shelter has resumed normal operations. There is a quarantine shelter option still available to those in need especially with the Delta variant raging. Peter reports there has been a lot of success with MHA and CV funding to place persons in RRH from the shelter. Peter reports they have a case manager that has been able to be solely dedicated to doing outreach in the community. Peter also reports significant success in connecting clients to gainful employment and stabilizing housing as the income increases.

- iii. Prevention- no other comments
- iv. Outreach- Ewa Farry gave an update for HNA since January total of 158 persons were outreached. They are focusing on those that are unsheltered and resistant to accessing shelter. The staff are working to engage those unsheltered persons to seek shelter, connect with services, and utilize and partner with PATH as needed.

## VI. Reports

- a. HUD Update- Kasey reported that HUD announced they will finalize the GIW by July 16th and the NOFA is anticipated to be released after that. The funding committee will meet within one to two weeks of the release to make funding decisions.
- b. CLPD Project- Kasey reported the committee is meeting regularly and integrating into the HSC regular meetings and will be meeting as an advisory committee later this month.
- c. Data
  - i. Resources to End Homelessness- Kasey presented data for May 2021.
  - d. Centralized Intake- Christine Aumack reports in the month of June there were 86 walk ins and 389 phone calls for their office most of which were referrals.
  - e. Housing Navigator Agency- Ewa reported for the last quarter the numbers were: 111 persons opened; 153 discharged; 50 were discharged to PH status; 3 were discharged to temporarily housed; the remainder may have been LOC. 10 persons admitted were unsheltered homeless. Ewa states the housing navigation program is fully staffed but PATH is currently in search of one case manager.
- f. Sub-committees
  - i. Discharge Planning- Kathy reported that Steve updated her and states there has been significant issues due to lack of housing and discharging from the hospitals. Paul reports they meet with HMH and discussed the number of hospitals that are entering into housing development; Paul reports they were non-committal to partnership and may need some financial assistance from the state to pursue moving forward with development plans. Kathy and Wendy discussed trying to schedule another meeting with HMH behavioral health admin to discuss future planning.
  - ii. PIT/PHC- reports should be finalized and published in the next few weeks.
  - iii. Coordinated Systems- Kathy reports they met in June with shelter providers and Lynn Seward from RWJ as they have outreach program for those with substance abuse issues that may jeopardize their opportunity for shelter due to substance abuse. The committee is working on developing a policy for referring to other services to provide support; especially for the private shelters to adhere to. The county shelters have policies in place to ensure there are referrals made.
  - iv. Veteran's- Mark Harding reports last meeting was June 21<sup>st</sup>; no Veteran's were housed since the prior meetings; 120 days to

house persons and to meet the benchmark this would have to be 90 days or less. Soldier On is aiming to open applications in August for their housing in Tinton Falls and aiming for lease up by late October, early November.

- v. Case Conferencing- next meeting is July 14<sup>th</sup> and the meeting is starts now at 130pm for RRH providers and then 2pm the general meeting begins.

VII. Agency Updates

- a. Alan Ferraro reports the Dept of Ed has received some funding that should be coming out in the fall and he is trying to prepare data as the funding could be coming directly to the regional directors.

VIII. Adjournment- motion to adjourn Paul; Mark made a second; all in favor

Next Meeting: **September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021 \*meeting date change**

GotoWebinar link will be provided prior to the meeting



# Monmouth County Homeless System Collaborative

## Executive Committee

September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021

### Minutes

Alan Ferraro	Ewa Farry	Wendy Depedro	Elizabeth Townley
Stan Rosenthal	Darcy Dobens	Meghan Ann Bennett	Randi Moore
Joan Mandel	Leslie Stivale	Kim Cole	Melissa Campbell
Alan Tedesco	Alicia Williams	Laura Kirby	Lenore Gibson
Kathy Weir	Nicole Cyr	Steven Horvath	Kevin McGee
Tim Hearne	Paul McEvily	Anna-Diaz White	Dyease Davis
Nadine Azari	Peter Boynton	Mark Harding	

- I. Introduction
- II. Approval of July meeting minutes – motion to approve by McEvily; second by Cole. All in favor.
- III. New Business/Discussion
  - a. CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) release – Azari reported that the NOFO was released on August 18<sup>th</sup> and the CoC has begun compiling information to complete the application. A few additions were made to the NOFO: emphasis on racial equity, focus on data and system performance measures and involvement of persons with lived experience.
    - i. 2021 Budget approval – Azari and Weir then went over the final budget. All ten renewals are fully funded and there are three new projects that are in tier 2.
  - b. CARES Act Funding
    - i. ESG & ESG-CV – Kirby reported that ESG 2022 grants are being reviewed on 9/25. For ESG-CV, the county made the 20% expenditure requirement by September 30<sup>th</sup>. The County has so far spent 31.6% of ESG-CV funds.
    - ii. CDBG-CV – Kirby reported that small business/nonprofits program to be released through online application. DCA also accepted the County's application for CDBG-CV2, increasing the dollar amount for this program to around \$6.5 million.
    - iii. Dept of Treasury/ERAP – Kirby reported that they're trying to expedite and streamline this process. Cyr shared that 344 cases that have been approved, 715 fully completed applications (meaning both landlord and tenant have completed their information and provided necessary verifications). Most pending denials are due to lack of contact. The County is also using the flexibilities offered by the federal government for the program: approval by proxy and 10% of total grant towards activities that support housing stability. There is also great

collaboration with the courts, creating process so that all approved applicants are removed off their docket.

- iv. HOME – Kirby reported that ARP guidance was released in mid-September; the County has \$5.5 million that needs to be expended by September of 2030. CoC needs to be involved in planning process.
- v. DCA- EHV – Farry and Townley shared that 100 applications were submitted in 36 days. 130 applications submitted total. Issues with documentation, especially for those experiencing street homelessness. 32 approvals so far, but unsure of what clients have been accepted.
- vi. McKinney-Vento Program – Ferraro announced that through the Department of Education from the American Rescue Plan Ocean, Middlesex, Mercer and Monmouth region will receive funding. The region will receive around \$600,000. Funding to assist families who are homeless with school aged children.

c. COVID-19 Response

- i. Landlord/tenant – Williams shared that landlord/tenant court is up and running; the oldest cases will be addressed first. Any new filings will take a bit longer. Anyone that fills out certification for inability to pay rent during the covered period is being administratively dismissed by the court. Cases with nonpayment of rent and a lease violation are not being administratively dismissed.
- ii. Shelter – Boynton explained that shelter is preparing for Code Blue season. Shelter is at 62.5% utilization at the moment. COVID hotel/motel placements still occurring as referrals are being made.

#### IV. Reports

- a. CLPD Project – Azari reported the committee is meeting regularly and integrating into the HSC regular meetings and will be meeting as an advisory committee in the next few weeks.
- b. Data
  - i. Resources to End Homelessness – Azari presented data for August 2021.
- c. Centralized Intake – Campbell shared that in month of August, 356 phone calls came in; saw a total of 82 households. 16 new EA placements.
- d. Housing Navigator Agency – Farry shared numbers for current quarter: 93 admissions. Of 93 admissions, 17 were unsheltered, 35 sheltered homeless and 33 at-risk of homelessness and 8 with unknown living situations. 66 discharges, 26 were housed, 37 closed due to no contact. 514 people currently on the waitlist; 1,292 cases in total.
- e. Sub-committees
  - i. Discharge Planning – Horvath explained that it's easier to get a psychiatric appointment upon discharge, but there are long waiting lists for face-to-face outpatient therapy. There is also a shrinkage of the census at the State psychiatric hospitals putting a strain on community hospitals. State has funding

dedicated to psychiatric services high frequency users (threshold is 4 or more times a year). State has CARES funding (\$80 million for addiction issues and \$70 million for mental health issues), a portion is dedicated to this population, but has not been RFP'd yet.

- ii. PIT/PHC – Weir reported that the 2021 Point-In-Time report was recently released. 2022 Point-In-Time count has not been planned yet as the County is waiting on guidance from HUD.
- iii. Case Management – Farry reported that there are 37 outreach cases; a lot of case management is being provided to those who are receiving EHV's.
- iv. Veteran's – Harding reported that since the last meeting 3 new veterans were identified and 2 have been housed, 9 people currently on the list. Two of the 4 benchmarks for ending veteran homelessness are being met by Monmouth. Tinton Falls will have a November move-in date – for referrals, looking for female veterans and veterans that fall in the 60-80% income range.

V. Agency Updates

VI. Public Participation – motion made by McEvily, Ferraro second; all in favor. Gibson, program director at Family Promise, announced that FP is in the process of merging with Lunch Break. Currently housing 8 families with ESG funds; 2 additional families using private funds. Submitted 8 EHV applications, 12 RRH applications, three families housed. 157 applications for emergency housing due to homelessness.

VII. Adjournment – motion made by Depedro, Harding second. All in favor.



# Monmouth County Homeless System Collaborative

## Executive Committee November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 Minutes

Alan Ferraro	Michael Oppegaard	Alan Tedesco	Wendy DePedro
Tim Hearne	Nadine Azari	Joan Mandel	Darcy Dobens
Christine Aumack	Nicole Cyr	Ewa Farry	Randi Moore
Kathy Weir	Stephanie Cervino	Kim Cole	April Hurley
Marissa Cortese	Peter-Donnell Boynton	Paul McEvily	

- I. Introduction
- II. Approval of September meeting minutes – Alan Ferraro first, Kim Cole second
- III. New Business/Discussion
  - a. HUD CoC NOFO – Azari gave update on NOFO.
  - b. CARES Act Funding – Cortese gave update.
    - i. ESG & ESG-CV - 80% needs to be spent by March, and currently county is at 39%. Weir explained that it's difficult placing persons making the RRH placements more difficult.
    - ii. CDBG-CV – opened small business program recently.
    - iii. Dept of Treasury/ERAP – Cortese explained that \$1 million needs to be expended by the 15<sup>th</sup> of this month. County has made changes to get the money there faster. Upping amount that each household can receive up to \$30,000 (from \$15,000).
    - iv. HOME – more guidance on ARP. Requirements pretty extensive.
    - v. DCA- EHV – Farry explained that Monmouth submitted 199 applications with 32 approvals. MHA was allocated funds to hire a realtor to move housing process along.
  - c. Landlord/Tenant Updates – Cyr explained that the County is working very closely with the courts. Social worker available at court to get connected with resources.
  - d. Shelter Updates – Boynton explained that referral process has been streamlined. 10 males on average, 2 females on average for a total of 12 on average for October. Not at full capacity. Working with County and OEM in planning for Code Blue. Outreaching hotel/motels for Code Blue use. Aumack explained that Linkages is full and clients have been referred to EHV and will need support with identifying housing.
  - e. Code Blue Updates – Oppegaard gave Code Blue update. Overview of last year, 89 Code Blue nights last year, 2,868 bed nights for the year last year. \$118,000. Present budget of \$160,000 for Code Blue costs. Pilgrim to go back to regular capacity (14 people). Looking to fund

transportation. Weir suggested using some funding for case management to support persons in hotel/motel, giving hotel/motels some sense of relief.

IV. Reports

- a. CLPD Project
- b. Data
  - i. 2021 System Performance Measures
- c. Centralized Intake – Aumack gave update.
- d. Housing Navigator Agency – Farry gave update. Ready to hire realtor.
- e. Sub-committees
  - i. Permanent Housing – Cervino gave update.
  - ii. Discharge Planning – no update.
  - iii. PIT/PHC – Weir gave update.
  - iv. Case Management
  - v. Veteran's

V. Agency Updates – Ferraro gave update on ARP rescue plans; creation of strategic plan. Mandel gave update on overnight program for men who are homeless. McEvily gave updates on affordable housing.

VI. Public Participation First by McEvily, Second Ferraro

- a. Hurley shared the following: I have no comment except to notice no genuine advocacy, no proactive ideas to house people, no efforts to secure safety of those without shelter - just expensive (fed funded) motel stays, clucking, & hand wringing. Chronic transportation issues getting attention finally (Mike), but partially. This foot-dragging is always curious to me. Please quote this in the minutes. Thank you

VII. Adjournment – First by DePedro, Second by McEvily, all in favor.

**Next Meeting – January 5<sup>th</sup>, 9am-11am**

**CEAS/General Membership Meeting – December 7<sup>th</sup>, 10am – 12pm**

GotoWebinar link will be provided prior to the meeting