



# Monmouth County Homeless System Collaborative

## Executive Committee

March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## Meeting Minutes

- I. Introduction/Open Public Meetings Act
  - a. Tim Hearne read the Open Public Meetings Act.
- II. Approval of January meeting minutes
  - a. Minutes were approved by Kathy Weir and seconded by Laura Kirby.
- III. New Business/Discussion
  - a. Code Blue
    - i. Scott Nielsen reported on current Code Blue season. Total placements (not including past few nights) -1,101 placements. 93 placements in December, 91 placements in February – 7 placements being the lowest number of placements during the season.
    - ii. Municipal meeting – in-depth meeting on Code Blue – explained that it starts at the local level. Municipal level placements occur when county is at max capacity. Municipalities need to have the plans in place for Code Blue and Code Red. Hotels can refuse service to anyone, so municipalities need to have back-up plan for persons who are refused service. Issues have also been identified with transportation on the municipality level – municipality is responsible for finding transportation to the motel.
    - iii. OEM/ the county believes congregate shelter would be best option. For next season, they are looking at setting up a designated Code Blue season where the congregate shelter is open throughout.
    - iv. 2023-2024 Code Blue Season Planning
      1. April 10<sup>th</sup> there will be a planning meeting for the next season. Social services to be involved in meeting. MHA requested that Ewa Farry and Housing Navigators be involved in that meeting. Meeting structure will be as follows:
        - a. Review 2022-2023 Code Blue
        - b. Billing
        - c. Input on PIT Count
        - d. Congregate Shelter Model
        - e. Funding
        - f. Partnerships with Faith-Based Institutions
  - b. Office of Homelessness Prevention RFPs

- i. Kathy Weir gave update on the street outreach RFP – still waiting for the funding notifications as multiple agencies in Monmouth applied.
  - ii. Integrated Homelessness Prevention & Services
    - 1. Combined state money with state ESG funds, for Homeless Prevention, Diversion and Rapid Re-Housing. Kathy Weir forwarded RFP to the full CoC. Money targeted for Monmouth specifically in the RFP. Due on April 7<sup>th</sup>.
  - iii. Enhance Data-Driven Decision Making for Continuums of Care in New Jersey
    - 1. Kathy explained that the RFP has two levels – Track 1 and Track 2. Track 1 involves putting together a strategic plan, hiring a data analyst, and attending a 12-week intensive data training. Track 2 involves preparing a data strategic plan. If CoCs don't get funded Track 1 this year, there will be an opportunity for them to receive Track 1 in the following year.
    - 2. Kathy reported that the CoC will be applying for the Track 2 funding.
- c. CARES Act Funding
  - i. Community Development
    - 1. Laura Kirby reported that the HOME-ARP plan was denied. Her team spent the month of February updating it and resubmitted the plan on Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
    - 2. Laura also reported that 2023 grant amounts were released and HOME and CDBG declined, but ESG stayed roughly the same.
    - 3. 87% of ESG-CV funding has been expended, will make the September 30<sup>th</sup> ESG-CV expenditure deadline.
  - ii. Dept of Treasury/ERAP
    - 1. Nicole Cyr reported that there is \$3 million dollars to spend on rental assistance. Expenditure deadline of 2024.
    - 2. Possible focus on persons who are older.
    - 3. Nicole introduced Candance Sparks as the new Monmouth ACTS coordinator.
- d. System Performance Measures
  - i. Nadine Azari reviewed the Monmouth County 2022 Year-in-Review data along with the submitted System Performance Measures.
  - ii. Tim Hearne suggested taking a deeper look at the System Performance Measures at the next Executive Committee meeting.
- e. Landlord/Tenant Updates
  - i. Christopher Benson, the new managing attorney for South Jersey Legal Services, reported that overall landlord/tenant process is returning to pre-COVID levels in terms of how quickly they are scheduling case management sessions and scheduling trials after those case management sessions. Older

- cases still have delays, but newer cases are being seen on a more regular basis. Still playing catch-up with older cases.
- ii. Once a complaint has been filed, they can expect to have their case management session within a month, and the trials are happening within one to two weeks of those case management sessions. Once cases hit court, they are not necessarily heard that day.
  - iii. When tenants have a warrant of removable and they go to court and file a stay, if it's for rent and they don't have all of their rent, the court does not have the authority to stop it. What they do have the authority to do is something called orderly removal, which is typically a 1-2-week extension.
    - 1. They've standardized this process - an orderly removal is now just one week, and the forms include language that the tenants cannot retrieve their property after the orderly removal.
    - 2. Tenants should be aware of this.
  - iv. The court is still doing ejectments – they do have a longer delay than landlord/tenant court.
  - v. Chris shared that if anyone has any questions or a tenant, to send them his way.
- f. Shelter Updates
- i. No shelter updates from AHA.
  - ii. Joan Mandel is full and has seen an increase in the number of people who are undocumented.
  - iii. Katrina Hawkins reported that Linkages is currently full.

#### IV. Reports

- a. HUD NOFO
  - i. Nadine Azari reported that there are no current updates.
- b. Centralized Intake
  - i. For the month of February, 179 people came in for homeless services.
- c. Housing Navigator Agency
  - i. 2022 Summary - 576 referrals, 426 admitted, 189 outreached, 72 were chronically homeless at admission, 135 were housed, out of the 135 housed, 76 were housed with some form of rental subsidy, 51 were housed without a subsidy, 14 were temporarily housed, 534 still remain on waitlist.
  - ii. EHV update – as of mid-to-end of January, 213 applications approved, 61 were housed.
  - iii. Realtor program just ended – positive was lots of communication and information sharing with landlords and other realtors. Only one person was housed throughout duration of the project.
    - 1. Will not continue with funding, but the realtor and MHA will stay in touch.
- d. Sub-committees
  - i. Veteran's

1. Did not meet last month due to President's Day. 16 veterans on BNL – if anyone would like to attend the meeting please reach out to Mark.

V. Agency/Additional Updates

- a. Wendy DePedro shared that advocacy for affordable housing should be a top priority for the CoC.
  - i. Nicole Cyr shared that the CoC should think about the types of advocacy strategies they want to take – it's beyond writing a letter. We have to think about the ways in which we can truly advocate locally and on the state level too.
  - ii. There has to be concrete steps to build more affordable housing, along with advocacy.
  - iii. DePedro suggested creating a subcommittee or action plan on creating affordable housing.
  - iv. Randi Moore shared that SHA in partnership with Fair Sharing Housing Center, has a grant to look at each municipality's requirement for affordable housing and publicly share that information. Putting money to tenant-based vouchers is not helping.
    1. Use this information to target what towns need to get on board.

VI. Public Participation

- a. Motion to open up for public participation, motion to close public participation. No public participation.

VII. Adjournment

- a. Next meeting is May 2<sup>nd</sup>. 2023.
- b. Meeting adjourned at 10:32am