# HHC Advisory Board

## Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2022

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| Present: | Diane Cooper-Currier, Megan Stuart, Joe King, Kristian Peterson, Monica Brown, Danielle Johnson, Nan Eaton, Sue McMahon, Rex Beverage, Sherrain Clark, Mary Rathbun, Allison Brooks, Amber Van Ploeg, Andrea Wandersee, Kelly Gonzales, Laurie Rolnick, Liz Vuillemot, Martin Skahen, Sally Curran, Miranda Eddy, Stephanie Pasquale, Renee Jensen |
| Next meeting: | March 8th, 2:30 pm, Zoom |

1. Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 2:34 pm.

The chair called for approval for the previous meeting minutes. There was an edit requested via email for Stephanie Pasquale to be added to the attendees. Joe King motioned to approve the minutes with the edit. Andrea Wandersee and Monica Brown seconded the approval. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

1. Board Characteristic Survey and Recruitment

The board wants to do some more thoughtful and intentional recruitment. We would like the advisory board to reflect the people that they serve.

Megan shared a PowerPoint with the results of the board characteristic survey.

91% of the board is white, with the previous PIT count numbers reflecting the population of 50% Caucasian.

The board mainly comprises of executive or upper/middle management, therefore, we would like to recruit some direct service providers.

There is a good amount of age diversity, without youth being represented.

Recommendations for board outreach were listed as this was an open-ended question:

* A county behavioral health as a stakeholder with mental health or substance use expertise.
* A candidate was put forth who has a background in youth homelessness.
* New Americans.
* A school district representative. Renee Beaulieu is the new lead for McKinney Vento.

Increasing the lived experience slots is going to be added to the governance in May.

There was concern that the meeting time could limit the accessibility of certain attendees.

There are two seats open currently: one stakeholder and one service provider. The health care representative slot is still vacant. Diane was wondering if there was a smaller health care provider that would be involved. Kristian reported that Derek Murray is leaving SCHC with Keith as is his replacement. Rex recommended reaching out to the St. Joseph’s city clinic.

Sally Curran thinks that it would be helpful to have a lawyer on the board as she will be cycling off. She recommended Laurie Rolnick.

Please email Megan and if possible, do an email introduction if you have a relationship. The nominations are due before April.

The chair-elect position is opening in July. We would like to have someone who is currently on the board. Diane said that the HHC staff does make it an easier lift in the role.

1. Point In Time Count

Megan reported that HUD sent out a release that communities can delay if the local community has an uptick in COVID cases. We have put several protections in place- PPE, drive-through distribution, checking vaccine status, or a negative COVID test within 72 hours prior.

Joe thought that we should just go ahead to do the January date.

Diane had a concern with people in vehicles together.

There was concern about individuals who are experiencing homelessness who have COVID and are in the hospital.

There was a question about why the count is done at night. It is to ensure that people are indeed sleeping in places that are not meant for human habitation. The consensus was to keep the January PIT date and not to apply for the delay waver.

1. Eviction Moratorium

This is not a moratorium. It is a period of time for extra protections for tenants in the landlord/tenant relationships.

Tenant Safe Harbor Act is intended to no court shall issue a warrant for eviction that has suffered hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic. The governor has stated that she does not intend to extend the January 15th date. So this law should go into effect.

It is illegal to evict someone without a court order; that comes into play if they are locking people out, or cutting utilities. The Court builds in time. Accounting practices like earmarking the rent for the future date of rent are becoming more important. Some people may be held in judgment for back pay if their payment is applied to the incorrect time.

There is an active Codes Department that has been good about not paying landlords who have not been keeping the apartments up to code.

Nan thanked Laurie for her presentations and helpful direction that she has given throughout the pandemic.

Megan implored the board to have some system planning and strategies to put in place as the protections are not extended. Every county has CARES funding that expires in September. This discussion will be on the agenda for the next couple of years.

Andrea wanted to know if any education or support is being offered to the Syracuse Police Department on how to deal with housing issue situations, as reported in the newspaper. Kristian reported that there is a lot of direct service providers in contact with officers. CCOC has done a lot of work to engage the officers and inform them of the process. There has been engagement but it presents a challenge because much of the decision-making is in the moment. Education has not necessarily been consistent. Sue added the police are interested and receiving training through the crisis management mobile unit through LRI. It is a big department and some are more capable in these situations than others.

Sally shared that in 2019, the 4,500 cases for eviction only tallied to $5 million. Increasing the good cause eviction limitations could go a long way to help those who are part of the ALICE population.

Legislative advocacy may become one of the more pressing focuses of this board.

Megan would like to see the PPA committee meet again.

Stephanie asked if we could write a letter in support of the good cause eviction protections. Nan asked someone to draft a letter that all the stakeholders can customize to fit their niches. Sally, Laurie, and Megan will start a draft of the letter.

1. Standing Agenda Items

There will be standing agenda items going forward.

Marty shared that the American Rescue Plan with the County has several million $ and there are very specific ways on how the funds can be utilized. There are 8-10 advocacy groups and 8 years to spend this funding. Megan said that the HHC is happy to give any information that the county or city needs.

Mary Rathbun shared Cayuga County Homeless numbers are double what they were this time last year. The tenant protections ending is concerning. However, word on the street is that the landlords have a stock of empty apartments that they will begin renting when it ends. Hopefully we can get the current homeless population housed before the next wave comes through.

The SPARC committee has been renamed for REDI Committee- Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion committee. They will be working toward meeting in the coming weeks.

1. Adjournment

Diane asked for a motion to adjourn: Nan Eaton motioned to adjourn. Rex Beverage seconded. The meeting adjourned at 3:59 pm.