# HHC Advisory Board

## Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2021

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| Present: | Diane Cooper Currier, La’Shonda Hamiltion, Allison Brooks, Jackie Robinson, Amber VanderPloeg, Kristian Peterson, Megan Stuart, Sally Santangelo, Lindsay Bentley, Sue McMahon, Liz Vuillemot, Sherrain Clark, Marty Skahen, Renee Jensen, Kelly Gonzalez, Sally Curran, Monica Brown, Gidget Stevens, Ben Lockwood, Stephanie Pasquale, Mary Rathbun, Miranda Eddy |
| Next meeting: | March 9, 2021, 2:30 pm, |

1. Welcome

Diane Cooper-Currier called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm.

The previous meeting minutes were sent out in an email last week. Diane called for edits; none were proposed. Allison Brooks motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Sally Santangelo seconded the motion. The motion to approve the meeting minutes passed unanimously.

1. Point-In-Time Count

Megan shared that the Point-In-Time count is January 20th. We are changing how the count is conduct this year. We had hope that HUD would waive the requirement for the unsheltered count, however, they did not, so we are doing a truncated version. We are utilizing the volunteers who have done canvassing before and who are already front facing with the community, with people who work together or they are driving separately. People are going out night of and day after. In March, we hope to have the final count for the board. We hope to not have as many people as we normally do. Our homeless numbers are down and with the eviction moratorium, we think the trend will continue for this year. We are also giving out PPE to all the people we find.

In the typical PIT count, we visit 24-hour locations, such as Dunkin Donuts, laundromats, gas stations, etc. We are going to ask the community and board, if they happen to visit those locations, informing employees about 2-1-1 and that they can call if they see an individual in need of services or street outreach. Sally Santangelo referred back to the fact that there were non-profits/organizations that were asked to provide space for people to attend virtual court appearances. Sally Curran shared that they are working with the religious community to provide those spaces. PEACE, Inc. has shown interest. Once those places have been chosen/offered, she will keep us apprised.

1. CoC NOFA & YHDP NOFA Updates

In the last federal release package, HUD informed that we do not have to do a competitive application for FY2020. All recipients will receive the same amount of funding as the last competition. They will be directly contacted by HUD and will have to sign and return their contract agreement. During this meeting, Megan received the FY 2021 NOFA registration instructions. If you are a funded agency, please keep a look out for the instructions from HUD. We are looking to recruit for the PES committee from the non-funded board members.

YHDP: it is a pilot NOFA (in its 4th year) directly targeted to end youth homelessness. HUD has been hinting at it being released any day now. We have a workgroup dedicated to this but Megan will keep the board apprised. Sherrain shared about our youth advisory board. We currently have three members- 2 with lived expertise. All of them are age 17. We are still looking for representation from Cayuga and Oswego. Nan offered to reach out to the UW’s in those counties.

Rex had questions about the safe link phones? There is difficulty with people staying connected without the technology. Nan reached out to 211 if they know of safe link options.

1. ESG-CV Implementation in the 3 Counties

**Oswego**: Jackie Robinson from Oswego DSS reported that they have implemented their program. They currently have 5 families that they are working with; 2 of which are youth couples. One of the families has gone into successful placement for permanent housing. They are working toward their goals. The county has also started creating homeless bags for individual needs- personal hygiene products, masks, hand sanitizer, hand warmers, tissues and anti-bacterial wipes to meet needs in multiple ways. They do have cell phones on order because of the technology gap. They are also compiling cleaning supply packs for their RRH clients.

They have also created a street outreach component with OCO in hopes to bridge the gap between those who have been found under the bridge in the city of Oswego. There is an emergency shelter portion if they are not eligible for RRH. They also have back rent help for prevention.

There are two recipients for the ESG grant. Diane wanted to know how collaboration between Oswego County and Oswego County Opportunities was going. The collaboration has been helpful. Everything goes through Coordinated Entry so none of the programs have changed the policies and procedures.

**Onondaga**: Sue McMahon from the city of Syracuse shared that they have multiple programs, including homeless prevention in coordination with the county for those who call DSS. ESG is for prevention. They can help those who are doubled up and those in danger of eviction. Direct financial assistance that the county is offering and case management help from Catholic Charities of Onondaga County and The Salvation Army. For COVID ESG for RRH, all 3 of the large shelters are receiving some of the funds. It really didn’t get started until November. They have placed 12 individuals. There are some funds for street outreach: In My Father’s Kitchen and Rescue Mission. Both teams have been able to extend their hours to weekend and evening hours as well. There are funds from both county and city. The county is helping those who are not in the city of Syracuse. It is more expansion that what was done previously to the pandemic.

**Cayuga:** Mary Rathbun from Cayuga County DSS shared that they subcontracted with Community Action Program to implement ESG, heavy on prevention with a side of RRH. They worked with OTDA. The program has not started. They have a meeting next week. What they had planned turned into something else. The plan is no later than Feb 1 implementation.

Sally Santangelo asked if tenants not able to receive funding for rental arrears, how is that affecting fairness to tenants? The city has not reported more “lock outs.” Sally Curran reported that they have clients that are not comfortable calling the police. The new spike hasn’t really been seen in landlord lockouts or inaction, but they are worried. Diane shared that in the city of Oswego, during inspections of the rental unit, the city is pulling the rental permit, if it’s not a code violation but in poor repair.

Megan shared that United Way did an application on the side of the HHC for ESG and contracting directly with the city to hire a temporary Data specialist to help with ESG implementation.

1. Strategic Plan Update

Megan reported that we have selected consultants to write our new 10-year plan. We are working with Karen Kaplan and Lisa Fasolo Frishman over the next 6 months to write the new plan. The timeline for this project proposal: January- July 2021. Please expect to review, finalize, and vote on the plan in July with hope to submit with the NOFA for this year. It is a requirement for the NOFA. There will be various ways that we will collect stakeholder information in the process. There have already been groups identified: Program, Planning and Advocacy committee, the members of the advisory board, and some of the outside stakeholders. They will be holding county specific meetings so we can have focused community level group plans. Sally Santangelo has agreed to the be the board level point of contact for the strategic plan. This will be a welcome move to toward ending homelessness in the next 10 years.

1. UFA Update

The Unified Funding Applicant is what we are looking into as the CoC. This would change the relationship between funded agencies, United Way and HUD. Right now, all the agencies contract with HUD individually. The UFA is the only contract holder and then subcontracts with the local CoC funded agencies. We are looking at United Way and their policies and procedures to see if it is feasible. Once United Way is on board, we will meet with the funded agencies. You apply during the registration process. We want to look to see if this would benefit this community. The Executive committee has had several intensive mapping discussions on this. There must be complete consensus from all funded agencies to go forward.

1. Committee Updates

Program, Planning and Advocacy: The committee has been on hiatus and will be helping to work on the strategic plan. The zoning change that has been proposed the Catholic Charities shelter. There has been a lot of neighborhood opposition. More significantly, Councilor Hogan has presented an amendment process, for any property that is considered a care provider, there are also issues with zoning codes, how everyone handles “care homes” and how they are worded. It was rejected by the planning commission. It was just tabled yesterday by Councilor Hogan. It will be back up for a vote in the meeting in 2 weeks. They are working with the common council. They are working on a report that will mirror what CNY Fair Housing’s legal council has presented. The city of the Syracuse is undergoing its own re-zone. Nan shared that they were explicit that they were not looking for more properties who do not pay property tax.

Performance, Evaluation and Selection: Will probably need to meet in March or April to go over policy and procedures.

The training on Friday will be how to complete the tenant hardship waiver form. They do not have to be in the process of eviction in order to fill it out. There will be a follow up with virtual clinics help to fill out the waivers and sign them electronically.

1. Adjournment

Our next meeting is March 9th. Motion to adjourn was given by Tim Donovan. The meeting was adjourned at 4:01 pm.