# HHC Advisory Board

## Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2020

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| Present: | Megan Stuart, Miranda Eddy, Mat Roosa, Allison Brooks, Joe King, Gidget Stevens, Monica Brown, Sarah Schutt, Mary Rathbun, Kelly Gonzales, Amber Vander Ploeg, Danielle Johnson, Diane Cooper-Currier, Sally Curran, Sonja Gottbrecht, Lindsay Bentley, Marty Skahen, Sue McMahon, Timothy Donovan, Renee Jensen, Liz Vuillemot, Sally Santangelo, Ben Lockwood. |
| Next meeting: | July 14, 2020, 2:30-4:00 pm, |

1. Called to order

Allison Brooks called the meeting to order at 2:34 pm.

1. Presentation of Eviction Laws and Moratoriums

Sally Curran presented information on the eviction moratorium. The complete moratorium lasts through June 19th. Landlords’ grievances cannot be filed until June 14th. Additional federal non-payment in subsidized housing is August 20th. The extension for the pause on filing for eviction is for non-payment and only for people who are affected by COVID directly. There is hope that all moratoriums are extended. The Volunteer Lawyers Project is instructing clients to send a letter or text with documentations to their landlords asking for extensions or leeway. The worry is that landlords will evict those who are the most vulnerable. A question was asked if there was grace given in terms of financial burden and loss of income or increased household expenses. The VLP will try to make every argument possible. The executive order is very vague, but it is an either/or, not both. They are trying to encourage people to pay rent if they can. The Attorney General sent out an article on the definition of unlawful eviction. Federally subsidized moratorium ends on August 24th. Governor’s orders states that no filing an eviction until after August 20th. No late fees are allowed to be added or charged. There has been a possibility of applying the security deposit toward rent owed and then pay it at 1/12% of deposit for the next year. Constructive evictions are illegal; these evictions are when the landlords are cutting off water or power. There are some news media outlets that have been releasing this information.

1. NY 505 COVID Framework

Megan Stuart presented on the COVID response framework. This plan is for 60 days from now. Please see attached presentation.

There have been some good collabs and good organization. Megan will be inputting historical documentation to fill out.

Action-Priority: Phase 1- already done. Street outreach has been going out 5 days a week in Onondaga. There is minimal outreach in Cayuga and Oswego Counties. Syracuse Health Center is doing some testing for the shelters throughout Syracuse. Transportation has been problematic- no contracts have been able to be placed. Oswego is keeping the code blue center to open for covid reasons. Onondaga has worked with Lyft with no official capacity. Sue is thinking there is going to be some ESG/CDBG carve-out for street outreach

Shelters: Healthcare is present at CCOC and soon to be at RM. County is providing PPE as they can. ODTA mandates counties to help re-entry of previously incarcerated individuals.

Shelters have been utilizing the COVID HMIS that has been privatized for HIPAA purposes.

Tim D. has been doing some outreach as a peer advocate in Cayuga with information, referrals to the soup kitchen and providing some PPE.

Strengthening for the future- new regulations have been put in place

1. Phase 2

Utilizing grass roots and faith based organizations?

Scaling up on shelter is happening. Relocation for high-risk people? It is something that we are willing to do. Tracking is only those who are most high risk. We could possibly add symptoms/ immunocompromised in HMIS

Has testing been adequate in shelters? Rescue mission. Anyone can get tested at the Syracuse Health Center- regardless if you have symptoms or not. Are we mandating testing for residents and staff? It’s only the positive/negative COVID test- not antibody testing.

Tracking individuals who are denied shelter- you can only pull up bans in servicepoint. We need to look into that data- in the future.

Any other thought for prevention/diversion? Chronic taskforce Chronic PH are worried that the residents are going to be evicted due to legal issues of drug usage. There will most likely be a few from each of the 7 agencies that provide the PH for clients.

Some of the things that would be required, we are not collecting that data in the HMIS.

We need to focus on reallocating some of the funding with an equity lens

1. Discussion

There is concern for the support groups for those suffering from substance abuse/mental health issues. There are a lot of barriers in technology and income disparities.

The board thanked Allison Brooks for serving as the board chair for the last two years.

1. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 4:01 pm.