# HHC Annual Meeting

## June 17, 2020

Attendees: Greg Dewan, Harlie Wise, Frank Barwinczak, Kimberly Dunn, Amber Vander Ploeg, Renee Clark, John Tumino, Jessica Brooks, Jenni Gratien, Kristian Peterson, Donna Cruz, Brian Farranto, Laurie Rolnick, Ryan Grobosky, Jessica Cook, Jessica Horning, Nadine Dickerson, Jonathan Rodriguez, Nora Putnam, Gidget Stevens, Allison Brooks, Megan Stuart, Wendy Wigham-Maida, Fred Hintz, Katie Lemery-White, Suzanne Dianetti, Elizabeth Thompson, Natalie Gallagher, Sharon Sherman, Sherrain Clark, Olan Mack, Miranda Eddy, Jill Brzuszkiewicz, Harlan Dunn, Liz Vuillemot, Christina Bennett, Vadra Skinkle, Diane Cooper-Currier, Renee Jensen, Nicole, Sue McMahon, Joe King,4 unknowns, Christina Thornton, Carol Shaffer, Jan Moag, Karen Goetz, Monica Brown, Sally Santangelo, Sally Curran, Tiffany Patton, Marta Durkin, Anna and Izzy

Meeting was called to order 1:31

**Welcome and comments:** Allison Brooks called the meeting to order at 1:31 pm and welcomed all attendees to the meeting.

## **Eviction Updates:**

Laurie Rolnick from Volunteer Lawyers Project shared a presentation on the tenant eviction moratorium. Laurie is the program director for Legal Aid for Eviction Defense. This was updated as of 11 am today.

Nearly 1,000 cases a year. There is no court, at the moment, but things change moment by moment.

She asked as the service providers if/when they hear from their clients on legal actions to reach out to notify VLP.

There may be only a day or two notice prior to cases being tried.

If the resources are available, paying the rent is the only way to ensure no eviction. Non-payment issues strictly due to COVID-19 hardships are

Self- help evictions are illegal. The fines usually will get the landlord’s attention.

## **HHC updates:**

If this heroes bill passes, there will be no NOFA this year. HUD will fund as they did last year.

There will be an email to give more information in the coming newsletter.

Operational guidelines:

Last year, we changed the voting membership. Now voting membership is requiring a memorandum of understanding.

Two operational guidelines were approved.

One additional slot was added for a healthcare worker. There will be a nomination for the position in the September board meeting.

If a board member whose term is about to expire, they will be granted a 1-year extension.

Advisory Board slate is as follows as approved:

La’Shonda Hamilton from Syracuse Housing, Stephanie Pasquale from Allyn Foundation, Kristian Peterson from Catholic Charities and Gidget Stevens from Oswego County Opportunies.

Officer slate passed: Diane Cooper Currier- chair, Joe King- chair elect, Renee Jensen- secretary, Sue McMahon- treasurer.

All changes come into place on July 1, 2020.

## **Gaps and Need Survey Results:**

Fred Hintz shared the 2020 gaps and needs survey. Each year has a new topic. This year was Transition-Age Youth who had accessed shelter. The questions focused on the self-assessment of life skills taken from standardized life skills assessments related to housing.

There was a good representation for gender, sexual orientation. There was a little over-representation for race.

There were several life skills domains. 1-4 scale on comfort.

The three most uncomfortable was paying rent, paying utility bills, or maintaining a job.

Knowledge of community resources and finding a job were a little less than half.

The limitations of this survey were self-report, convenience sampling, incomplete coverage of youth in homeless services.

Our website will have the complete survey and the power point.

The worry is who we are not capturing in the survey as youth.

Jan Moag: SPOA update: thank you from commissioner of adult services for the work that is being done by housing providers in this challenging time. The coordination of services have been such an important factor. A record number of referrals, sadly some of the referrals were ineligible from other counties or disability criteria. Please reach out if you have questions, they will be happy to make sure all the requirements are met: resident of Onondaga County and disability level- much be SS disability qualification- due to the psychological disability. Does not include temporary disability. This is mandated by OMH. She recommends doing the SOAR trainings so that you are aware of the eligibility requirements. They have a monthly meeting to track all the OMH clients.

John Tumino: higher ground collab with Onondaga county. Started back this week. New protocols only 6 people on the van with temperature checks and PPE. Today they collabed with all 3 shelters today.

Sue McMahon: ESG update: City received 2 different funding COVID 1-2 $1.4 and$ 1.7. Priority is to street outreach as they are the most vulnerable. People in shelter into permanent housing- trying to limit communal living. Homeless prevention with rental assistance due to COVID-related issues. Newly funded programs will be happening on Aug 1. The plan just needs to be approved and then the funding process will get started. Sharon wanted to know how much is going to be put in for homeless prevention? The county and city are teaming up. There will be a number to reach out to and DSS will return the call and do a needs assessment to see which fund they qualify for- City, county or CDBG city funding- Up to three months rent or utility. If it’s ESG, they will be funnelled through the HHC and then refer them to the three different shelters. How many people do they think that they will be able to help? About 400 housholds, or 300 household. The funding will be based on a case by case. The prior info was for CV1 The budget for CV2 has not yet been created.

There is a new process and project with the HHC and the county and city. Cayuga and Oswego do not get funding from ESG. The State is planning to distribute to counties that normally do not receive ESG funding. The public comment period just ended last week. HHC will be letting people know about that information through the HHC weekly.

Sue Boyle: The county ESG funds. 100% allocation from both rounds will be to homeless prevention through the process that Sue McMahon explained. They are trying ti make the process as seamless as possible. Rental assistance will be hit probably the hardest so they are trying to mitigate that need. All of the logistics have not been set up yet but the start is a single point of contact once it gets started.

## **Committee Updates:**

Planning and Program Advocacy: hasn’t met recently. The advisory board has been looking at the policy and planning due to COVID with health and housing. We still need to develop a more comprehensive plan as everything feels very reactionary. We are trying to found our goals on a very changing environment. Megan will be sure to send out notification .

PES:is on hiatus until the NOFA notification happens.

### Cayuga:

Data Admin: July 10 is the next meeting. Project level performance and technical assistance. We are trying to do thoughtful analysis to make changes as needed for the population. Hic/PIT is due this month hoping to have it submitted on Friday or Monday. Longitudinal report is due July so there will be data quality fixes that will be sent out for that. CV funding will be hopefully released on Aug 1 and there will be subsequent training.

Housing Services Providers workgroup: on hiatus as those trainings are difficult to

Runaway Youth: Joe had no updates as there will be a meeting later this summer. The department’s report is due July 1 so they will be working on those in the coming weeks.

Outreach:July 8th is the next meeting. Over zoom and please contact Amber to add you to the list.

Coordination Entry: Sherrain shared July 2nd @ 10 am via zoom. The projects coming up and the COVID CE changes. Possible changes for DV.

Veterans Workgroup: Jessica Horning- they met briefly last week. Veteran numbers are low due to CARES and eviction moratorium. There is a lot of usage of hotel/motel. They are anticipating an influx in veteran referrals once the moratorium is over. July 8th.

Chronic Taskforce: 32 clients in shelter or on the streets. Prioritization has changed a little due to COVID. July 14th @ 10:30 is the next meeting.