

**Morris County Continuum of Care (CoC) Executive Committee Meeting  
May 27, 2021, 10:00 AM Meeting Minutes – WEBEX Conference Call**

**Voting Members Present:**

Mike Armstrong, Citizen Rep.; Karina Calabuig, Catholic Family & Community Services; Terry Connolly, Nourish NJ; Allison Delcalzo-Berens, Atlantic Health System; Russ Hall, Housing Alliance of Morris County; Elorm Ocansey, Fair Share Housing; Rebecca Sherrod, Child & Family Resources, Inc., Jeff Bashe, Arthur Pressley, Drew University, Brian Frommelt, Market Street Mission; Arthur Pressley, Drew University; Julie Roebuck

**Staff and Consultants Present:** Shelia Carter, Morris County Human Services; Amy Archer, Morris County Human Services; Nadine Azari, Monarch Housing; Anna Marie Hess, County of Morris

**Others:** Invited Guests: Jeff Bashe; Laurie Litt, EDGE; Rose Brown, Mental Health Association

**Welcome:** Terry Connolly started the meeting at 10:05am and welcomed all attendees.

**I. Approval of April 2021 Minutes:**

Motion by Mike Armstrong, second by Russ Hall. All in favor. Approved.

**II. Public Comment:** None

Jeff Bashe thanked everyone for support of the HTF support letter. In final stages of reviewing a paper Monarch developed to explain the HTF and it should be available shortly. Working with commissioner DeFilippo to work with all commissioners during June. Terry thanked Jeff for supporting this project.

**III. Closed Session:**

All non-voting members asked to leave the meeting and return at 10:30am.

**IV. Committee Reports:**

Terry asked if anyone had comments on all the committee reports. No comments or questions.

**V. Data and Planning Discussion:** Terry will send everyone the Power Point Presentation. Below is a summary of discussion:

**Morris County Point in Time Study:**

- Went over Point in Time numbers for 2019, 2020 and 2021

### **Morris County 2019 System Report:**

- Went over Highlights and Gaps
- Only 35% of consumers entering CE exited to permanent housing  
Only 43% of people exit Shelters to permanent housing
- 68% of people exit Safe Haven to permanent housing
- 69% of people exit Transitional Living to permanent housing
- 62% of people exit Rapid Rehousing exited to permanent housing
- 88% of people entering Permanent Supportive Housing Programs exited to permanent housing

### Issues discussed:

- Barriers: Mental Health, legal issues, addictions
- HUD is expecting COC to use a true Housing First model.
- We need to surround consumers with supportive services.
- The return to homelessness is something HUD looks at as our performance levels.
- Were wrap around services available to the consumers?
- This COC requires agencies we fund to use Housing First model.
- What do the discharges look like? Where are consumers being discharged to?
- Most difficult populations often not eligible for supportive services.
- Some consumers do not accept services, maybe we need to look at how we offer services
- Providing Family re-unification supports, funding.

Conclusion: Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing programs are most effective

### Gaps:

Consumers had difficulty

- gaining entry to programs
- exiting to permanent housing
- maintaining housing

As a COC we need to look at eligibility criteria for programs we are currently running. What is happening to people who cannot enter into programs? Look at waitlists.

### **Morris County System Performance Measure**

(HMIS 10/1/19 to 9/30/20)

- This report includes COVID numbers.
- Most people are returning to homelessness within 6 months.
- Most people who returned to homelessness exited Shelter

- Out of 531 people who entered Shelter, Safe Haven and Transitional, 355 were first time homeless

**As a System in 2020 we spent \$5.5 Million including approximately \$1.4 Million in COVID funding**

- Prevention \$68,605.67
- Outreach \$1,594,250.00
- Shelter \$1,031,247.32
- Transitional Housing \$303,311.00
- Rapid Rehousing \$923,143.00
- Permanent Supportive Housing \$1,311,710.00
- Coordinated Entry \$135,636
- Rehab and Acquisition \$199,900.00

Discussion: Rose Brown and Mike asked: How much of these funds are vouchers, overhead, admin, staffing, etc...

Nadine: this is a working list, there is some funding not included. (State allocations or Housing Authority)

**What now?**

Recommendations listed that were already discussed.

Terry reiterated that we need to take a deeper dive into all of this information and come up with recommendations. Please let Terry know if you are interested in serving on the committee to do this work.

**VI. Funded Agency Spotlight**

EDGE – Laurie Litt

- Organizational Overview
- Since 1994
- NJ AIDS Services, Eric Johnson House
- Transitional Housing for homeless women and men living with HIV
- Temp. Clinic Space: Blood lab, exam rooms, nurse.
- Residential Services
- Pride Center
- Trainings in the Community
- HIV 101

- New Building coming soon in Denville by end of 2021!

Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris – Rose Brown

- Merged with Essex County in 2017 - Now in 5 counties - Union county in EWR with homeless
- Case management
- educational presentations
- Faith Liaison Program
- Basis Supports
- Information and Referral
- Intensive Family Support Services
- Crisis Counseling
- In-Home Therapy
  
- Assisted Outpatient Treatment Services: (AOT) Court mandated cases
- Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)
- collaborative Justice Services (CJS) - for people in Jail before they are released, criminally psychiatric patients
- Community Support Services (CSS) Long term for permanently housed services.
- Integrated Case Management Services (ICMS) For consumers committed to state hospitals who are released home
- In-Home Therapy: for Seniors
- Community Companions Program (CCP) like Big Brother Big Sister program for consumers with mental illness.
- Peer-to-Peer Warm Line: Mon to Fri 11am to 2pm 877-760-4987 - When not a crisis
- Hope One: one MH professional goes out with Hope One van.

Motion for adjournment Julie, seconded by Russ Hall.

Next Meeting: July 22, 2021 – 10am to 12pm