

**Morris County Continuum of Care (CoC) Executive Committee Meeting
March 23, 2017
Meeting Notes**

Meeting began at 10:03 a.m.

Voting Members Present:

Mike Armstrong, Community Hope, Jeffrey Bashe, Community Rep.; Joseph Gallo, Market Street Mission; Russ Hall, Housing Alliance of MC; Nancy Magee, Community Foundation of NJ; Jodi Miciak, United Way of NNJ; Meagan Quinn, Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance; Gwen Rippey, Atlantic Health System; David Scott, Market Street Mission.

Voting Members Absent:

Terry Connolly, Community Soup Kitchen; Kesha Moore, Drew University; Rebekka Zydel, Child & Family Resources, Inc.

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Joanne Bjornson, Family Promise of MC; Jennifer Carpinteri, MCDHS; Dan McGuire, Homeless Solutions; Patty Sly, Jersey Battered Women's Service.

Ex-Officio Members Absent:

Lou Schwarcz, Mental Health Assoc. of MC.

Staff and Consultants Present:

Laurie Becker, Shelia Carter, Patricia Mocarski, Tim Tansey, Morris County Human Services; Jay Everett, Monarch Housing.

Others in Attendance: Shannon Mowery and Noah Frieberg, Pennrose Management Company; Danielle Pera, MHAMC.

1. Welcome & Introductions

Mr. Jeff Bashe, Chair, opened the meeting with welcomes and introductions.

2. Approval of Jan. 26, 2017 Minutes

Mr. Bashe asked for the approval of the Jan. 26 minutes. Mr. Russ Hall made a motion to approve the Jan. 26 minutes and Ms. Miciak seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition and one abstention. Motion carried.

3. Presentation by Pennrose Mgmt. Company

Shannon Mowery and Noah Frieberg, Pennrose Management Company gave a presentation on the proposed project in the Town of Dover. They are planning to redevelop an underutilized parking lot into a 68 unit high quality, affordable housing complex. Five units will be set aside for the homeless. They will be looking to the CoC for referrals for these five units. Pennrose will manage the new development. They are hoping to start construction in early 2018, with units being available for lease in early 2019.

This is their first project in Morris County. They have projects in other parts of NJ. They will be looking to partner with agencies to come on site and provide services to the residents of the housing project.

There were some questions and discussion. Pennrose asked for a letter of support from the committee. They can provide a draft letter. Mr. Armstrong stated that Community Hope is applying in the same round and there will be intense competition. They would like a letter of support. Mr. Bashe made a motion in favor of the committee sending letters of support for Pennrose and Community Hope. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion carried.

4. Open Items from Prior Meetings

2017 Program Review Plan –Mr. Bashe/Mr. Everett

All agencies have submitted their desktop monitoring reports. Mr. Everett and the county will work together to get all these materials in a manageable format before setting up a program review meeting. This year is the desktop monitoring and next year will be a site visit. It will alternate every other year.

Mr. Bashe, Ms. Miciak, Mr. Hall, Ms. Connolly and Ms. Magee are on the review committee. Mr. Everett will coordinate a meeting to review the monitoring materials in the beginning of April. He said last year's scoring tool incorporates all the pieces collected in the desk monitoring. The goal is to make this process seamless and non-duplicative as possible. Feedback will be provided to the EC at the next meeting.

2017 CoC Application Update – Mr. Everett

They are expecting the NOFA for CoC funding to be released in May. The implication is to make sure the local process is oriented to meet the deadlines. Ms. Carter looked at her materials from last year. There were two separate applications. One was for renewal projects and one for new projects. HUD can change what they allow you to fund so it is important to get the full information before releasing it. Last year new projects were announced in April and May and renewal projects in May and June. Agencies had about four weeks to complete their project applications. Agencies were required to attend a technical assistance session.

Point-in-Time Count Update – Mr. Everett

The 2017 preliminary count should be available next week. We will need to look at that since it will impact our score and funding. Presented will be de-duplicated data. It will be necessary to figure out some of the missing pieces before the final report is done. Discussed the idea of the one-day count versus doing the seven-day approach. It was decided not to do a seven-day count in 2017.

The 2017 PIT results will be used to evaluate whether and why Morris may be seeing an influx of homeless individuals from outside the county. Mr. Everett and Ms. Carter will come up with an approach to figure this out using data we have already. Perhaps in the future an additional question can be added to find out when the person began to reside in Morris. They will report on this at the next meeting.

Code Blue Update – Ms. Carpinteri

Human Services is working with OEM and monitoring legislation. There may be some funding attached to new legislation. Ultimately, it is Human Services responsibility and not necessarily OEM's. Discussed having protocol and a plan in place as well as accessibility to information. They have asked OEM to put information on their website. The municipalities are responsible for opening sites. There is a list of warming sites but they do not want to put it out there since municipalities do not always open their sites. NJ211 is working with OTA. They are looking at something that could be grant funded. There may be money available for an agency to have a warming center. This needs to be looked into and the hope is to get something in place by next winter. At this time, a community partnership is the way to go where providers accept more homeless clients and work together to keep them off the street in extreme weather.

Housing First Consortium Update – Mr. Bashe

They are working to try to address the lack of housing. There are many challenges in utilizing the 50 vouchers received from DCA. They were only able to submit 18 vouchers since housing is scarce. There are many administrative hurdles to overcome for clients. There were recent appeals to DCA to use the vouchers outside the county or exceed the FMR by 10% for vouchers. DCA denied this request. The likelihood is that if we are not able to use these vouchers by Sept. 30 we will have to return a good portion of this funding.

Healthcare Initiative Update – Ms. Connolly/Ms. Rippey

An overview was given on the recent healthcare initiative begun by Atlantic Health, Morristown Medical Center, Community Soup Kitchen, Homeless Solutions and Zufall to make sure homeless individuals coming into the emergency room are connected to health services. They are trying to get others involved in this collaborative. The goal is to have a medical home for the homeless. They mainly want to provide preventative health, physicals and care. They are putting a process in place. Mr. Bashe would like an update on this initiative at each meeting.

Project Homeless Connect – Ms. Becker

Project Homeless Connect is scheduled for November 16. November is homeless awareness month. MHA will lead on planning effort, which will soon begin. MHA will work with the CAS and its members. All agencies are asked to assist and participate.

5. Presentation to Freeholders in May – Ms. Carpinteri/Mr. Bashe/Mr. Russ Hall

Mr. Bashe stated that the CoC and the Housing Alliance will present to the Freeholders on May 8 at 9:30 a.m. on affordable housing and the challenges faced in Morris County. This will be an educational presentation. We want to get this on the table so that the Freeholders understand and are concerned about the federal cuts. Fortunately, the county money is the same and there are no cuts to Human Services. ESG and CDBG funds may be going away. We need to do what we can to advocate for funding. It was suggested that all should advocate on behalf of saving federal and state funding.

Mr. Armstrong stated that HOME funds have helped build over 32 units over the years. CDBG money helped with getting repairs and renovations for many homes. These funds have greatly helped the community. Perhaps we should tap into the municipalities. The municipalities need to be engaged since this will affect them. Ms. Carpinteri stated we have to let legislators know the impact cutting this funding would have. It is important to quantify and show the impact of this funding. Mr. Armstrong suggested getting a list of how much money came into CDBG in the last few years. Ms. Carpinteri said it is not only CDBG funds they are also talking about Title 3, Workforce Investment Board and other areas we serve. Every level is talking about the potential impacts of cuts.

6. Committee/Sub-Committee Reports

Community Assistance Services (CAS) – No meeting due to bad weather

Coordinated Assessment – Ms. Joanne Bjornson – See Report

See report distributed. They want to get 211 into the planning process and work closely with them. They have established a planning committee to talk about the logistics of the grant. They are changing the name from Coordinated Assessment to Coordinated Entry to comply with HUD. Mr. Bashe asked for a description of the plan in process. Ms. Bjornson stated Homeless Solutions, JBWS, OTA, Community Hope, the County and 211 are all at the table. They have also asked Market Street Mission and NJAS to join them.

Mr. Bashe asked for a presentation on this in the future at the EC and to the CAS. This will make all agencies aware of the significant impact this change will have on our overall service model in the county. Ms. Bjornson agreed to do this and to facilitate having the 211 team get more directly involved in these meetings. Mr. Bashe would like to see them at the EC but as a non-voting member. Mr. Bashe thanked the sub-committee all for their work.

HMIS Data Quality – Ms. Carter – No meeting due to bad weather (See Report)

Permanent Housing – Mr. Hall – See Report

They are working to assist the HF Consortium with the housing inventory. They are working with the Coordinated Assessment Committee. The biggest problem is the lack of landlords. They are working with the Morris Housing Alliance and the Fair Housing Committee to try to educate and mobilize potential landlords regarding opportunities associated with voucher rentals. They are hoping to increase the number of landlords willing to take vouchers. If the Affordable Housing presentation goes well, they will try to work with the Freeholders to make a landlord recognition program.

System Performance Monitoring – Mr. Everett/Ms. Miciak – See Reports

Mr. Miciak stated that in the HUD Standards/Morris County Performance improved in some areas. There needs to be a committee to look this over and then an agreement made as to what measures to use going forward.

Mr. Everett stated it is necessary to look at all programs. This year HUD told us we would be scored on systems performance. Handout was distributed with the current recommended system performance standards. Discussion ensued.

Motion made by Mr. Armstrong that where we exceed the HUD standard we use that standard as the target. Where we are short of the HUD standard, we will set a target of 5% improvement over the prior year's result for that metric. Ms. Nancy McGee seconded the motion. No opposition and one abstention. Motion carried. Also agreed to review system performance data twice per year.

Mr. Everett stated that HUDs intention is to get us to reach their standard and continue to work on it and improve. There is a new system (from HMIS) now to SAGE. It is raw data HUD can put into a spreadsheet to see how our projects are doing. The data is critical to their funding decisions. We need to work to maximize the funding we receive.

Now that the system performance metrics are approved, the work group led by Ms. Zydel can begin to revise the CoC application, the scoring tool and any instructions/guidelines for use. The revised documents will be used for the upcoming application round, and hopefully completed by the end of April or early May so they can be approved at the next EC meeting.

Veterans Homelessness – Mr. Armstrong – See Report

7. **Other Business/Systems Advocacy**
 - DHS Best Practices Feedback – No Report**
 - Youth Homelessness Planning – No Report**

Adjournment –

Motion made to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.