

**Morris County Continuum of Care (CoC) Executive Committee Meeting
November 21, 2019 - MCDHS – 1 Medical Drive, Morris Plains**

Meeting began at 10:01 a.m.

Voting Members Present:

Mike Armstrong, Citizen Representative; Jeffrey Bashe, Community Rep; Terry Connolly, Community Soup Kitchen; Russ Hall, Housing Alliance of MC; Kesha Moore, Drew University; Gwen Rippey, Atlantic Health; David Scott, Jacob Gaeta, Market Street Mission and Rebekka Zydel, Child & Family Resources.

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Allison Delcalzo, Atlantic Health; Joann Bjornson, Family Promise and Maria Fodali, MC Office of Temporary Assistance.

Voting Members Absent:

None

Ex-Officio Members Absent:

Rose Brown, MHA; Janice Kaniewski, NJ211; Laurie Litt, NJAS; Dan McGuire, Homeless Solutions and Diane Williams, JBWS

Staff and Consultants Present:

Shelia Carter, Patricia Mocarski, Sharon Yoo, Morris County Human Services; Maria Fodali, OTA and Jay Everett, Monarch Housing.

Others Present:

Moraima Diaz, Horizon NJ Health; and Arthur Pressley, Drew University.

I. Introductions & Approve Minutes

All were welcomed and introductions made. Motion to approve the Sept. 26 minutes made by Ms. Terry Connolly and seconded by Ms. Kesha Moore. There was no opposition and no abstention. Motion carried.

II. Discussion

Election of Officers

Ms. Zydel said that the elections were held at the November CAS meeting and new Executive Committee Members have been approved. Ms. Zydel nominated Ms. Terry Connolly as the 2020 Chair and Ms. Allison Delcalzo is the Co-Chair. Ms. Zydel moves the slate be approved. All were in favor with no opposition and one abstention. Motion carried. Congratulations to Ms. Connolly and Ms. Delcalzo.

System Strategies/Strategic Planning

Ms. Zydel state they are working on a letter of support for Vista Neighbors in Need Project. They are looking for two volunteers to recruit landlords.

They are preparing a letter of support for mainstream vouchers. Ms. Bjornson stated that the county received 25 vouchers for the non-elderly and non-disabled, which will be administered through the Morris County Housing Authority. Eighty percent of the vouchers need to be filled within a year. Mr. Hall said they are putting together a support group to work on this. Once the opportunity comes, they will apply for more vouchers. Mr. Bashe suggests a thank you to the Housing Authority for their help. Ms. Connolly will reach out and thank them.

Ms. Zydel said as a follow up to the Coordinated Entry (CE) conversation last meeting, Ms. Connolly is involved and working through some of the challenges. The Coordinated Entry self-assessment tool is educational and looks at what is mandated and best practices. They shared the tool with the Coordinated Entry Committee. It was suggested they use the tool to help move along the process. Ms. Zydel thinks it is a challenge for people so close to the work to make decisions. The tool is very helpful. They shared the data guide with Ms. Janiec Kaniewski.

Mr. Bashe asked if anything has evolved in clarifying roles. Ms. Connolly said they are having discussions with 211 and they will work together to create a better description for 211 and the Coordinated Entry Chairperson. Ms. Moore suggested using the Coordinated Entry Process of Self-Assessment (see Page 24) as part of the analysis and evaluation.

III. Comments

Committee Questions- None

Lead Agency (Report provided/Attached)

Nominating-Governance (Report provided/Attached)

By Laws

Ms. Connolly said there are many new people on the EC in 2020. In the future, we want to look at staggering terms.

Pro bono sent the By Laws revisions this morning. She will email them to all. The ballot and vote were distributed.

Allocation (Report provided/Attached)

The committee has looked at the legacy tools, legacy language and CoC documents and developed a revised scoring tool that they believe will work better in 2020.

Community Assistance Services Committee (CAS) (Report provided/Attached)

Ms. Delcalzo said the committee is looking at best practices around prevention and diversion. When people double up it is a prevention strategy; however, over time they have shared vulnerability and will often become homeless. Some communities have other programs such as stipends if the homeless person can go stay with family and they will explore these options and make a recommendation.

Ms. Delcalzo proposed that we explore creating standards of care that incorporate best practices for all funded programs. A decision was not reached and it will be moved to a future agenda for further discussion.

Veterans (No Report)

Project Homeless Connect (No Report)

Coordinated Entry (Report provided/Attached)

Permanent Housing & Public Policy (Report provided/Attached)

Mr. Bashe stated that Ms. Yoo, Ms. DeFillippo, Mr. Hall and he are working together on the Homeless Trust Fund. They are developing strategies to educate the Freeholders and trying to broach the Homeless Trust Fund with them. Mr. Hall met with two Freeholders that do support us.

They sent out an email to other counties asking about their experience. Freeholder Shaw advised the committee that they should prepare a white paper, which they will develop. Middlesex suggested that it is helpful to know how we would use the funds from the Homeless Trust Fund. HSAC will be doing a state mandated Needs Assessment in 2020 and we can use their data.

The Neighbors in Need program has identified needs and who is falling through the gaps and is designing programs to support them. They are currently working on a countywide Landlord Support Program and perhaps the Homeless Trust Fund can be used for the Landlord Support Program.

IV. New Business

Census 2020 was discussed and the need to coordinate the efforts of all parties who are working on this. The county developed a Complete Count Committee and applied for two grants, Wind of the Spirit is working on the Census and there may be others. Working together around outreach and education would be desirable.

Mr. Everett said that the Rapid Rehousing Work Group has met twice to work on standards of care for Rapid Rehousing and the process is moving along smoothly.

Ms. Zydel thanked everyone for their dedicated service on this committee. Ms. Connolly thanked Ms. Zydel for her many years of hard work and devotion to this committee.

V. Public Comment

Ms. Bjornson said Family Promise and Homeless Solutions are working on the Homeless Children & Youth Act. Mikie Sherrill is sponsoring the bill. There is a change in the definition of homelessness. It now allows for consumers living in transitional housing and those who are doubling up to be included in the definition of homeless.

VI. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:01. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Mocarski
Administrative Secretary