

**Morris County Continuum of Care (CoC) Executive Committee Meeting
November 15, 2018 MCDHS – 1 Medical Drive, Morris Plains**

Meeting began at 10:03 a.m.

Voting Members Present:

Jeffrey Bashe, Community Rep; Russ Hall, Housing Alliance of MC; Kesha Moore, Drew University; David Scott, Market Street Mission and Rebekka Zydel, Child & Family Resources.

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Niamh Barker, Family Promise; Janice Kaniewski, NJ211; Dan McGuire, Homeless Solutions and Meagan O'Reilly, MC Office of Temporary Assistance.

Voting Members Absent:

Mike Armstrong, Community Hope; Terry Connolly, Community Soup Kitchen; Nancy Magee, Community Foundation of NJ; Jodi Miciak, United Way NNJ and Gwen Rippey, Atlantic Health.

Ex-Officio Members Absent:

Bob Davison, MHA of Essex & Morris; Joann Bjornson, Family Promise; Jennifer Carpinteri, MCDHS and Diane Williams, JBWS;

Staff and Consultants Present:

Laurie Becker, Shelia Carter, Patricia Mocariski, Morris County Human Services and Jay Everett, Monarch Housing.

Others Present:

Rose Brown, Danielle Pera; MHA of Essex and Morris Inc.

I. Welcome and Introductions

All were welcomed and introductions made.

Approval of Sept. 27 minutes

Mr. Bashe asked for the approval of the Sept. 27 minutes. There was a comment on Page 4. There needs to be clarification regarding the Coordinated Entry and the statement that the person must be a resident with an address for 30 days to apply for GA/TANF. This is not really a TANF rule and is on a case-by-case basis. This is a Coordinated Entry policy restriction that the person must be a resident for 30 days in order to be put on a priority list. The issue is if the person is a resident or not.

Mr. Hall made a motion to approve the Sept. 27 minutes and Mr. Scott seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstention.

II. Business Items That Need Discussion At This Time

EC Nominating Committee –

Mr. Bashe said the CAS needed to approve the new Executive Committee leadership for 2019. Ms. Zydel will give a quick update and report.

Ms. Zydel passed out voting results. The vote was held at the Nov. 13 CAS meeting. She distributed the new membership list. Letters went out to those elected and not elected. Ms. Brown and Ms. Becker are welcome to attend meetings but they were not elected. She suggests the County retain these letters and files as samples for the next Chair.

Mr. Bashe said that the membership voting is complete and next step is to vote for Chair and Vice Chair. Ms. Zydel is running for Chair and Ms. Connolly for Vice Chair. These are busy jobs and thanks to both for stepping up. Are there any other nominations? There were no other nominations made. Vote was in favor of Ms. Zydel, Chair, and Ms. Connolly, Vice Chair for 2019. There were no abstentions and no opposition. Motion carried.

Ms. Zydel stated that the maximum membership is 15. Things are reorganized and now the County (lead agency) personnel will serve as only one member. Ms. Becker or Ms. Carter may act on Ms. Carpinteri's behalf. We need to identify new members and those that will go off in 2020. Some discussion ensued.

Plans for 2019 By-Laws Review and Updating – Mr. Bashe

The by-laws need to be reviewed and amended. The Committee may want to expand membership. Mr. Bashe stated that he supports the need of a by-laws review and possible amendment. This was discussed at the last meeting. A small subcommittee should do a full by-laws review. Ms. Zydel asked that anyone interested sign up. CAS representation is needed. She sent around a sign-up sheet.

Plans for 2019 NOFA Process/Tools Review and Updating – Mr. Bashe

Mr. Bashe said they are wondering how best to tackle the need to clarify CoC goals and priorities for next year. Ms. Zydel suggested engaging an outside facilitator. Her agency is willing to contribute to the cost. She feels it is important to have an outside facilitator to share the group's perception of where our priorities are. This way when we set goals we are all working toward the same goals. We can get rid of some of the things bogging us down. Ms. Zydel suggested a single day retreat with an outside facilitator.

Ms. Zydel thinks the retreat should be in the beginning of the year to help us move in the right direction for the year. She thinks January would be a good time for the retreat. She has someone in mind to hire as the facilitator that her agency has used.

Mr. Bashe feels we have not focused on how well we are doing based on an analysis of overall performance data. He proposes we create a System Performance Monitoring subcommittee to meet four times a year to review data. They can bring the information back to us and let us know how we are doing. We need to look at HUD scores and see where we can do better. He is offering to chair the committee if that is what we decide to do.

Project Homeless Connect (PHC) Plans Update by MHA – Ms. Pera

MHA has been organizing this event for many years. This year there is a formal subcommittee working on the event. She passed out fliers. The event is scheduled for Jan. 24 at St. Peter's Church in Morristown. It is the same day as the Point in Time (PIT) count. They are looking for donations and have a list of items they are collecting. There will be many free items for those attending. MHA has funded lanyards and signs. They may also provide vans for transporting clients but will need funds to pay the drivers. Ms. Becker said that perhaps the county could donate in a small way.

Ms. Pera said they are training volunteers for the PIT surveys and finalizing transportation arrangements. There is a need for more volunteers. They are working on transportation and may rent a bus to pick up and drop off people from motels. It cost about \$800 to rent a bus. The bus holds 55 people. That is an option. MHA may do runs with their vans if they are unable to secure funding for the bus. OTA is working on shuttle services. They are working with the Sheriff to see if they can secure more parking passes. The Assumption Church has offered their lot for overflow parking.

The press release will go out. They are trying to get a reporter to post the press release. If not they will send the information directly to the paper. Mr. Bashe suggested we get media coverage for the event. Ms. Becker said we would get this information on the county website. NJ 211 has people's phone numbers and can text the PHC information to them. Fliers have been distributed to the hospitals, soup kitchens, etc. There will be a keynote speaker and a speaker for the opening ceremony. They will unveil the Navigating Hope van at this event.

Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Update – Ms. Carter/Mr. Everett

Mr. Everett asked if we want an Addendum this year to the Point in Time. If so, we need to get Monarch the information by the end of December. Mr. Bashe stated that the addendum was somewhat useful but if we do it again this year, we need to figure out what we want to get out of it. Perhaps we should not do the addendum this year.

The basic results from last year were that most people came here due to family connections. The LBGTQ question did not really reveal anything. Ms. Moore stated that she is not sure the survey told us what we wanted. If we want more information, we need to figure out what to do with the information we received. Mr. Bashe said that perhaps we could discuss this further at the retreat.

Mr. McGuire said that he suggested the out of town question and Ms. Miciak organized the subcommittee. Mr. McGuire stated that although the addendum sounded good the information received did not really help. Ms. Moore said the information did not match what we thought. Mr. Bashe said we discussed getting more information at the agency level. Further discussion ensued. Mr. Everett said that we added a youth question and a nature of

the household question. HUD asks us this information. However, this is not really expanding outreach to homeless youth. That is what HUD wants.

Morris County Systems Performance Report – Mr. Everett (copies distributed)

Two handouts were presented:

1. A review of Morris County Continuum of Care System Performance Improvement Opportunities based on the HUD scoring tool, which was prepared by Mr. Bashe
2. A 4-page handout showing Morris results over the past 4 years on HUD's key SPM metrics, which was prepared by Monarch.

Discussion ensued. There were several questions from the EC members. Mr. Everett said that HUD looks at those that are first time homeless. This refers to someone who has never been in a shelter before. Eighty percent said they have never before received services. There is a lot of conversation about the need for emergency services. The need for shelters does not go away even though they are trying to get people out of the shelters and into housing quickly.

Mr. Bashe asked about JBWS. They need to give the EC data although they cannot put their client information in HMIS. Mr. Everett said they committed to this about a year ago but we need to revisit this. We need to know those we are serving that are not in HMIS through SAGE. Ms. Kaniewski asked if JBWS could put information in HMIS without names. She heard a place in PA does that.

Mr. Everett said we need more housing linkages and more involvement there. Mr. Bashe said we need more rapid rehousing. Mr. Everett said we are scored on the number of rapid rehousing beds. There are specific questions. We have under five beds and only SSVF. Mr. Everett said the numbers are going in the wrong direction and HUD lowered our score.

Mr. Bashe said there is a need to put more emphasis on systems performance monitoring. He suggests the Systems Performance Monitoring Committee meet with Mr. Everett four times a year. He sent around a sign in sheet. Mr. Bashe said we have targets and goals and we need to adhere to them. We set targets but we do not usually look at the data. We need to come together and look at the numbers and see how we are doing.

Mr. Bashe said there are a couple of areas we really need to work on. Mr. Hall said we could look at our rankings vs. similar areas. Mr. Everett could try it if given criteria. Monarch usually knows New Jersey's scores. We can try to get information on other areas. Mr. Bashe said maybe we can look at communities with higher scores and see what they are doing different. Ms. Moore said that perhaps we could reach out to others that are doing better than we are.

Ms. Brown said there are 21 counties in New Jersey. There are 16 CoCs. Mr. Everett said we have access to data from 14 out of the 16 CoC scores. We scored in the 40 percent. There were 60 percent that scored above us and 40 percent that scored below us. Mr.

McGuire said that Mr. Everett probably already brought these ideas to us. Mercer and Hudson Counties were at the top. We should learn from other counties their different approaches. Mr. Everett said that some of the scoring is out of our control. Mr. Everett said we have a low amount of rapid rehousing and most of it is dedicated to the vets.

The need for a formal SPM subcommittee was confirmed.

III. Sub-Committee Updates

Coordinated Entry – Ms. Kaniewski (Handout distributed)

Ms. Kaniewski has taken over as Chair of Coordinated Entry and is looking for a Co-Chair. They are tracking the number of calls, no. of chronically homeless, no. of individuals, families, couples, etc. They will see what these results reveal and report at each EC meeting. There were 547 calls from June to Oct. There were more calls at the beginning. Mr. Bashe stated there is data out there and we need to use it.

Permanent Housing – Mr. Hall

We are counting on the results from the Drew study. There will be a meeting tomorrow. We are planning the study and working on getting an understanding of how the study will lead to improved CoC results.

Data Quality – Ms. Carter

Recently had the annual Administrator's meeting. It went well. The surveys returned at the meeting were helpful.

CAS – Ms. Niamh Barker

The November meeting was this past Tuesday. There will be a webinar on Nov. 27. For further information, see the flier distributed. Since not everyone can attend the webinar, information went out on the u tube channel where the webinar can be viewed.

Veterans –

Ms. Becker said that Mr. Armstrong retired from Community Hope. On Mon., Nov. 19, the Freeholders will recognize him. This will take place at the Administration Building on Court Street in Morristown at 4:30 p.m. Mr. Hall stated that the Housing Alliance will also be honoring Mr. Armstrong, Ms. Strater and Ms. Gilmartin for their many years of service. Mr. Hall will send out the information. This event will be on Dec. 13 at the Park Avenue Club.

Bridging the Gap – Ms. Becker

The next meeting will be on November 20 at 10:00 a.m. at the OTA Building, 340 West Hanover Ave., Morris Plains.

IV. New Business –

Mr. McGuire said that Homeless Solutions has moved their administrative offices to 3 Wing Drive in Cedar Knolls.

Ms. Becker said that the RFP for the CoC Consultant was posted on the county website and printed in the legal notices in the paper. Applicant response is due today. It is an open

process; however, not a lot of folks do the work that Monarch does. It is targeted work and how we got Monarch on board as the CoC Consultant. It is an open and competitive process. All input is welcome.

V. Adjourn –

Motion made by Ms. Niamh Barker to adjourn the meeting at 12:08 p.m. Motion seconded by Ms. Terry Connolly. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned.