

**Morris County Continuum of Care (CoC) Executive Committee Meeting
July 22, 2021, 10:00 AM Meeting Minutes – WEBEX Conference Call**

Voting Members Present:

Mike Armstrong, Citizen Rep
Karina Calabuig, Catholic Family & Community Services
Allison Delcalzo-Berens, Atlantic Health Systems
Russ Hall, Housing Alliance of Morris County
Elorm Ocansey, Fair Share Housing
Rebecca Sherrod, Child & Family Resources, Inc.
Julie Roebuck

New Non-Voting Members Present:

David Saltzman, Legal Services of Northwest Jersey, Inc.
Jessica Padilla, Housing Partnership

Staff and Consultants Present: Amy Archer, Morris County Human Services; Nadine Azari, Monarch Housing; Kasey Errico, Morris County Human Services.

Welcome: Allison started the meeting at 10:04am and welcomed all attendees. Terry is on vacation.

Approval of May 2021 Minutes:

Edits: Remove Jeff's name from list of members and leave as a guest. We should only have one list of guests. Motion to approve minutes as edited by Mike Armstrong, second by Russ Hall. All in favor. Approved.

Racial Equity Training:

- Training was led by Nadine. Allison asked Nadine to give a brief description of the program for new members.
- Nadine: Monarch was awarded funding from RWJ Foundation to do racial equity work in homeless service systems. We have funding for three COC's. We chose Morris. We want it to be sustainable. We want this to be easily replicated in other COC's.
- Two arms:
 - Creation of an advisory board with lived experience so they can help make better decisions, including funding decisions.
 - Utilization of a racial equity lens in all the areas. Monarch is providing trainings throughout 2021.

Today's training is one of the last few. We hope to transition into just using what we learned in the Racial Equity trainings in all our meetings.

Summary of past trainings: Invisible Knapsack; Sr. Camara Jones: A Garden's Tale

Training #3: The Storytelling Project

Key Terms:

Race as a Social Construction: Race is a human construction with no foundation in biology.

Racism as a System: Racism is a system of interpersonal, social and institutional patterns and practices that maintain a hierarchy in which whites as a group benefit at the expense of other races.

Levels of Racism: Racism operates on the individual as well as systemic levels, in both conscious and unconscious ways.

White Supremacy and white privilege: Idea that being white and cisgender is the norm and everything else is not.

The Storytelling Project: Four stories are examined about race and racism in the US. (Stock stories, concealed stories, resistance stories and counter stories). We discussed what we lose and what we gain depending on how stories are told or what information is "concealed" by people.

Nadine had the group take some time to share Stock Stories and Concealed Stories as they relate to homelessness and racial equity.

Updates:

Lived Experience Update:

Nadine: Have advisory board that is up and running. It's about having a fuller picture of what is happening in the COC. Historically have only been listening to the providers. We want to start listening to the consumers. Goal is to have members intertwined with COC. Monarch's goal is for the Advisory Board to be sustainable without Monarch. Allison: three people are rolling off COC Executive Committee at the end of this year, it would be a good idea to fill in with Consumer Advisory Board members from this board.

Allocations:

Eleven renewal applications and four new Applications were received. The Committee split into review teams. Due next week, beginning of Aug. Score & training will be done by Nadine for anyone who hasn't done it before.

Allison: Once we receive NOFA from HUD we will have opportunity to review and decide if we can re-open for new applications.

Planning Group Update: Allison

Last meeting, presentation by Nadine overview of system of County funding. Decided to create a strategic planning group. Allison is in charge of this group. Orientation session will be held to set up goals, timeline and specific objectives. Two funded providers and two consumers will be represented.

Committee Report Questions:

Funded agency workgroup is requesting information on the scoring process of new questions and goal of new questions and a clarification on HUD vs. local requirements. Discussion was had about how to address. Nadine expressed that COC has the right to act like HUD and they have ability to score and ask what is needed from projects. Allison, Nadine, and Rebecca will talk offline regarding what response should be.

CLOSED SESSION:

Motion to accept Terry Connolly as person who will sign MOU with DCA, by Rebecca Sherrod, seconded by Mike Armstrong. All in favor, approved.

Amy Archer will send Terry's name as person who will sign the MOU.

Next Meeting September 23rd 10am.

Motion to adjourn, moved by Mike seconded by Rebecca.

Meeting adjourned at 12:02pm