

**Morris County Continuum of Care
Executive Committee Meeting
May 25, 2023 OPEN SESSION MINUTES - draft**

Attended by:

	Name	Representative Category	March 2023
	NONVOTING		
P	Archer, Amy	County/Lead Agency	1
P	Brewster, Candy	HMFA/Consultant	1
P	Errico, Kasey	County/Lead Agency	1
P	Fodali, Maria	County/Lead Agency	1
P	Kooper, Raquel	Advisory Board Committee/Monarch	1
P	Matthew, Ashni	Monarch/Consultant	1
P	Alvarez, Alicia	Neighbors in Need – Nourish NJ -	1
P	Bordenabe, Dom	Nourish NJ	1
P	Calabuig, Karina	Catholic Family & Community Services	1
P	Curry, Clarence	MC Human Relations Commission	1
P	Delcalzo-Berens, Allison	Atlantic Health System	1
P	Deo, Carmine	Community Hope	1
P	Frommelt, Brian	Market Street Mission	1
P	Kirk, Chris	Community Citizen	1
P	Ocansey, Elorm	Community Member/Advocate	1
A	Stephens, Kelly	Morris County Housing Authority	0
OL	Sherrod, Rebecca	Child and Family Resources	N/A
		9 voting present	

Guests:

- Jeff Bashe – MC Housing Alliance
- Diane Williams – JBWS Executive Director
- Rose Brown – Mental Health Association
- Jennifer Combs - Norwescap

Allison welcomed all present and everyone introduced themselves.

1. **Point in Time Initial Data** – Ashni Mathew:
 - a. Morris County PIT Comparison chart was shared
 - b. 2023 Numbers look more like numbers from 2019
 - c. Numbers were lower in 2021
 - d. 2023 – Total counted 465
 - e. Questions:
 - i. Jeff: emergency shelter, how many in shelter vs. hotel?
 - Ashni: about 200 in hotel placements.
 - ii. Clarence: why is there an increase?
 - Ashni: we speculate end of moratorium. Seeing increase across the state of NJ.
 - iii. Allison: definition of severe mental illness?

- Rose: One of the 5 major ones, severe and persistent: schizophrenia, bipolar, etc. PTSD, anxiety and depression does not qualify.
- Candy: data standard in HMIS defines as supposed to substantially impede individual to live independently. With goal of improving their MH by providing permanent housing assistance.
- iv. Allison: Why have the chronic homeless numbers not gone up?
 - Rose: most individuals are connected to services in the community. Most chronic homeless also have chronic mental illness. Most are linked to multiple services in the community. MHA has searched for housing outside of Morris County for these clients due to the difficulty finding permanent housing for these clients.
 - Maria Fodali: decrease in 2022 and 2023 might be due to large number of permanent housing opportunities that cycled through CE. CE prioritized chronically homeless.
- f. Allison: this shows success and that prioritization is working. Data is also in line with anecdotal data received.

2. **2022 NOFO Score and debrief** – Ashni Mathew:

- a. Tier II is extremely competitive.
- b. CoC application score about 72% - a bit lower than last year
- c. Total Score: 143.5 out of 200
- d. Keep in mind that 2021 some areas were not weighted very heavily. However, in 2022 they were.
- e. Areas with Low Scores:
 - i. 1C & 1D Coordination & Engagement – 55 points
 - ii. 2C. System Performance – 31 points
- f. Full Points Received:
 - i. Housing First
 - ii. Increasing capacity for non-congregate sheltering
 - iii. Partnerships
 - iv. Street Outreach
 - v. Bed Coverage Rate
 - vi. LSA Submission
- g. Areas of Improvement:
 - i. RRH Beds
 - ii. System Performance: Reduction in # First Time Homeless, Length of Time Homeless, Exits of / Retention to PH, and Returns to Homelessness.
- h. Jeff asked about 0 score on RRH Beds.
 - Ashni: CoC did not have at least 20% increase RRH beds.
- i. Candy: System Performance: could be due to difficulty in finding housing, but there is also room for data clean up. Many clients being discharged from RR but no “Move In Date” is included in HMIS.
 - Allison: project plan is set up to create RR Standards. Also, discharge standards.
- j. Allison: next leadership meeting we will go over areas of improvement.

3. **Policy Review:**

- a. Conflict of Interest

Questions:

- Do we need to include specific language around the Allocation Committee or is article 4, number 2 sufficient?
 - Carmine Deo: the language already seems to include all CoC committees
 - Dom Bordenabe: make language more gender-neutral, remove he or she
 - Rose Brown: provided insight about the board vs. executive committee language having to do with the difference between voting members and non-voting members who represented CoC-funded providers
 - Alison: We should look at standardizing the language for By Laws and Conflict of Interest Policy
 - Raquel: this does not include people with lived experience who receive housing vouchers
- Should we add to include volunteers, professional relationships, and advisory members under Article 2, number 3?

- No objections from the members, the words will be added to this section.
- Should we add a space to record/list potential conflicts of interest?
 - Yes. It will be added.
- Other suggestions?
 - No other ideas or suggestions were given.

Allison will work on revisions and might send for an early vote next month.

b. Family Separation Policy:

Strategic Plan asked for us to write a Family Separation Policy. We found the one we already have, it is very brief. Dan McGuire from Homeless Solutions sent a detailed email with his comments. Allison went over those comments with the group.

- Questions
 - Where did policy come from? Allison doesn't know. Ashni: it was required by previous NOFO applications. CoC approved around 2018 or 2019. Amy: Fair Housing and Equal opportunity references
 - CoC creating policies for shelters they don't fund: Ashni, CoC is a funding source, but it also the Planning Body for ESG-funded shelters as per HUD.
 - Transitional Housing program aren't mentioned: as we update the policy we can include other project types
- Other Comments:
 - Diane Williams: Shelters should be included in the editing / creating this policy. If we would have been included we would not have approved this existing policy. This current policy allows for DV perpetrators would be able to be part of the shelter. Words that should be added: "Excluding family members that are causing harm."
 - Allison: Regarding Process: We try to include the whole CoC to get good feedback. Shelter Plan is needed and shelters should be included. Group needs to be created.
 - Allison: Regarding Content: the current policy is not sufficient. Maybe Allison can send out and members can give suggestions. Point of the policy is to protect families.
 - Kasey: are there existing policies in other CoC's that we can use as a template?
 - Ashni: will look for an existing Family Separation policy
 - Jennifer Combs: court system does make it difficult for DV victims. Wording should say perpetrator or perceived perpetrator.
 - Allison: we need to make sure to include wording to protect all family types

4. DCA Funding Update:

- a. Amy: County did submit an application for RFP Data Track 2 – develop strategic plan

5. Committee Reports: (from March meeting)

- a. CAS: support needed. These meeting are now quarterly and in-person.
- b. Coordinated Entry: Prevention Committee is seeing a large number of clients not eligible for existing assistance programs but who are being evicted. Once evicted, these cases will place a burden on the Assessment Committee. Need for buy-in of housing first.
- c. Data Governance: asked for more timely support from HMIS. Allison and Candy will follow up with DG chairs
- d. Permanent Housing: asked for recidivism data. Allison will ask what specific data the committee is asking for.
- e. Strategic Planning: added *creation of a shelter plan and integration of people with lived expertise into the CoC* to the Executive Committee's leadership.

6. Strategic Plan Objectives

- a. To Increase Coordination / Reduce Duplication
 - i. Funding Recommendations (outside of CoC)
 - ii. CoC training recommendations

1. Funding Needs: Administrative Capacity, Analyzing and collecting data.
2. Implementation of findings of data
3. Connection with MH and Homelessness: were there any other suggestions for system improvements outside of what CoC can fund? Dom: more education / information as to how to incorporate Housing First and Harm Reduction. Allison: one of the administrative functions needs to be training.

7. Project Homeless Connect Event

- a. For many years MHA and Family Promise organized
- b. 2020 was last time event happened
- c. Allison asked the group on thoughts of having another one in January 2024. Allison asked Rose to comment on reviving this event: Rose, she thinks it should be done next year. We have to look at a space to hold it. A committee will be formed to plan the event. Allison suggest using Everyday Connect group. Alicia: Advisory Board would love to be part of the planning process.

8. Public Testimony

- a. None.

All guests who are not members of Executive Committee were excused.