

**Trenton/Mercer Continuum of Care (CoC)
Meeting Minutes, October 13, 2015
Lawrence Library**

Meeting Called to Order

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Marygrace Billek at 1:42pm.

I. Welcome and Introductions

- Approval of Minutes - Motion: to approve CoC meeting minutes from the July 28, 2015 meeting by Celia Bernstein: Seconded by Frank Cirillo. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Executive Committee Report:

- **FY15 CoC Project Recommendation** – Applying for \$3.9 million; \$500,00 for permanent housing, which is in Tier 2; Tier 1 has an 85% annual renewal demand and Tier 2 has a 15% ARD in addition to bonus dollars.
 - Exhibit 1 is worth 60 points and it is vital that we do really well. It is a possibility that some renewals may not be refunded this year. All partners encouraged to review the application, which will be available online (HUD). A waiver has been requested for the on-time submission of the GWI. Also, system performance is a key factor this year related to the data captured in HMIS (impacts our funding). Points are associated with planning for and meeting areas defined by HUD.
- **Data Sub-committee Update** – Working on the AHAR. Meeting held in September and members were asked to review their data quality.
- **Youth Homelessness Update** – A conference call will be held on Thursday. TBOE is not on board this year as it relates to participating in the Youth Count. Jim Cacase met with Hamilton and Ewing Boards of Education and Ewing has agreed to participate. Youth Count will continue to focus on housing instability as a follow-up on last year's efforts. Decision will be made this week to determine if we will move forward on Youth Count or move it to the spring. The next priority of focus for HUD is homeless youth.
- **Veteran Homelessness Update** – National initiative to end by 2015. Mayor Jackson signed to take on the challenge- Functional Zero. Collectively homeless veterans in our community have been identified. Prior initiatives were already underway to support these efforts through Solider On, the Rescue Mission, and the CEAS Center.. We are broadening our scope beyond HUDs definition. November 10th is the

-Chronic Homelessness.

kick-off that will speak to our community's efforts to end veterans' homelessness. Invitations will be sent out to community partners soon.

III. CEAS Center Update:

- Vernett Sherrill apprised members that the center is making great progress.
 - The challenges of the participants are being realized and worked on at the weekly case conference meetings.
 - Partners are being encouraged to use the facility to provide services.
 - Nurse is on board 1 day per week to conduct evaluations and ensure that paperwork is processed.
 - The van has been obtained, the driver was hired, and participants are being taken to appointments
 - Working with the Mercer Alliance to obtain birth certificates and County identification for participants on the priority list. Formerly homeless residents are helping with the initiative. As the Mercer Alliance routinizes the ID project the DMV ID will be a standard agenda item.

- Vernett commended community partners for all of their help as the CoC continues to make progress.

IV. HUD CoC Update:

- **FY2014 Contracts** – Resolution passed by City Council and is awaiting the Mayor's signature. The process has changed and improved with HUD, over half of the organizations have contracts.

- **HUD Site Visit** – There were 11 findings from HUD – 4 to 5 of them were related to Civil Rights/Fair Housing. A federal register was released in July that speaks to Fair Housing and ensuring there are no barriers. An internal control was one of the findings, which has been addressed. There is \$12,000 allocated for administrative cost and draw-down documentation was reviewed. It was found that information was not available to support the amount. Organizations may have to re-pay the COT if supporting documentation is not in the file. November 6th is our NOFA deadline and we gain extra points, if it is submitted early. HUD is scrutinizing communities for everything covered in the federal register and enacted by legislation.

- **AHAR** – HUD is holding \$500,000 of our larger funding request in Tier 2. \$500,000 has been reallocated in the bonus section and there are three applicants in this category. The Review Committee recommended that Dunham Hall receive 15 units, Helping Arms receive 19 units and the

Rescue Mission receive 0. Once the information goes public it will be available on the City and County websites.

V. Other Business

- Dennis Micai informed members that the Medina Community Clinic is visiting TASK. Doctors are donating their time and have use of hospital. There is an open house for Medina Community Clinic from 5:30 to 7:30pm

VI. Meeting Adjournment

- This meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Marygrace Billek at 3:15pm.

Next meeting is January 12, 2016