

Trenton/Mercer Continuum of Care Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

February 27, 2017

2:00 pm

*Attendees: Jay Everett – Monarch, Joanne Locke-MATEH, Vernett Sherrill-COTH&HS, Marygrace Billek- MCHS, Kim McNear - Anchor House, Paulina Goldman – Lifeties Inc., Virgin Velez- MC-One Stop, Mary Gay Abbott-Young-RMOT, Jackie Edwards-Catholic Charities, Joyce Campbell – TASK, Audrey Walker- THA, Leckington, Mark – COTH&ED, Jeff Mascoll - MCBOSS*

Agenda Topics	Discussion/Narrative	Action
<b>Meeting Called to Order</b>		Marygrace Billek called to meeting to order at 2:07 pm.
<b>Review and Approval of October 31, 2016 Minutes</b>		<b>Kim McNear</b> - made motion to approve minutes with amendments; <b>Mary Gay Abbott Young</b> - Seconded; <b>All in favor with the exception of an abstention from Jeff Mascoll.</b>
<b>Welcome of New Executive Committee Members</b>	Marygrace Billek welcomed Jeff Mascoll new Executive Director of MCBOSS.	<b>Jeff. M. introduced himself and shared his background/experience with fellow committee members.</b>
<b>Review of Mission Statement</b>	<b>See Bottom of Agenda</b>	Marygrace recited the mission statement and provided a brief overview of the CoC's purpose.
<b>NAEH Family and Youth Homelessness Conference Highlights</b>	Discussion ensued regarding the workshops offered at the conference. Marygrace B. shared a viewpoint learned at the conference that CoCs are encouraged to change the language used when soliciting membership from formerly homeless people. Instead of referring to people as “formerly homeless” it may be more inviting to garner those who have “lived experience”. NAEH has entire board of people with lived experience that provide insight. Jackie E. shared information from the youth conferences she attended and thought the following highlights were important: - Motto: “Nothing about us without us.” - Not tokens (interested in having their voices heard). - Not rubberstamps (interested in having a true partnership). -Just because questions are answered at a focus group don't think you have all the answers. Vernett S. informed members that TA funding is available to CoCs that were not awarded the YHDP. Vernett attended HUD workshops, it was reported that they are okay and career employees are in place.	

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<p><b>NAEH Family and Youth Homelessness Conference Highlights Continued</b></p>	<p>Vernett further shared that HUD is confident that it is in a stable position and have support on both sides – specifically for the SNAPS, which is the program that funds CoCs. The need for advocacy was emphasized. USIACH sun downs in the fall, so we need to write our legislators to advocate to keep its doors open. HUD looking at coordinated assessments from a system approach (e.g. policies and procedures, feedback from people with lived experience, etc.). The CoC should do some outreach and advocacy in a very bipartisan way.</p>	
<p><b>HUD/CoC Update</b> <b>Vernett Sherrill</b></p>	<p><b>FY16 Consolidations</b> – submitted letters to HUD to consolidate projects under CoC grants with the same or similar program type, grant cycle, etc. Consolidation may help reduce some administrative burden to agency projects when merging a larger program with a smaller program of similar type. Members provided an overview of consolidated programs. There will now be 10 RRH for families with Catholic Charities and 27 HF with Oaks.</p> <p><b>FY 16 CoC Program – Issues &amp; Conditions</b> – Has been released by HUD and the COT received a letter and are working on resolutions (Received four so far). Vernett S. will be reaching out to Catholic Charities and Anchor House to make the necessary revisions.</p> <p><b>FY 17 NOFA proposed timeline – released in May; Due in August; Awards in December.</b></p>	
<p><b>Displacement/Relocation Policy</b></p>	<p>After reviewing proposed policy committee members agreed that the policy should align with and support the City’s policy if one exists.</p>	<p>Vernett S. and Joanne L. will work on the policy and have it sent-out via email requesting an electronic vote.</p>
<p><b>Outreach Policy</b></p>	<p>Marygrace B. gave an overview of how the outreach committee and teams operate. Mary Gay A.Y. suggested that we take out the name of the specific agencies and replace with “CoC designee”. Virgen Velez asked how community agencies know where to send people, etc. A flier is sent out via E-blast to the community about outreach events. Marygrace B. proposed sending resource cards to the One-Stop Career Center and Virgen V. accepted. Members reviewed policy and recommended the correction of typos, etc.</p>	<p>Marygrace B. will have her office send resource cards sent to Virgen at One-Stop. (DuEwa initiated on 3/1/17).</p> <p><b>Mary Gay Abbott Young made a motion to approve the outreach policy with discussed amendments; Seconded by Joyce Campbell; All in Favor.</b></p>

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<b>DCA SRAP – Move On Initiative</b> Vernett Sherrill	The 18 applications will be submitted before the deadline. Acuity scale will be made part of the annual renewal process. Assessment tool to be completed by case managers since they know their participants. Assessing participants identifies people who are eligible and may want the opportunity to move on. Much discussion ensued about the advantages of the “Moving On Initiative”.	
<b>Penn Reach CoC Membership &amp; HMIS Request</b>	Letter has been submitted to request membership, but required information has not been provided to date.	
<b>Data Committee</b>	Next meeting in March. Vernett reported that she will be using a new management system called SAGE instead of ESNAPS.	
<b>CEAS Center</b>	Nothing new to report.	
<b>Youth Homelessness</b>	The priorities of the committee were shared with members – focusing on data that will help our system’s efforts by working with youth organizations. The focus will be youth between 12 and 25, but collecting data on the 18-24 population to prepare ourselves for upcoming grant application. Discussion ensued about McKinney Vento counting homelessness differently than CoCs. It was reported that there are 14 vacancies in the YARH program and 182 youth in shelter last year under age 25.	
<b>Other Business/Announcements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mary Gay Abbott Young shared her concern that there was no Mercer County representation at the DHS Best Practices workshop and would like the CoC to send a letter to the Commissioner. Perhaps the letter should speak to essentiality of best practices; the fact Mercer County is nationally recognized; and, offer information to include in the State’s guide.</li> </ul>	Mercer Alliance to End Homelessness will be asked to draft the letter on behalf of the CoC.
<b>Meeting Adjournment</b>		Meeting adjourned at 3:53pm.