

Trenton/Mercer Continuum of Care (CoC)
Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2016
Lawrence Library

Meeting Called to Order

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Marygrace Billek at 1:36pm.

I. Approval of Minutes

- Approval of Minutes - Motion: to approve CoC meeting minutes from the January 12, 2016 meeting – Connie Mercer; Seconded by Jim Dorsey. The motion passed unanimously.
- Connie Mercer raised a question about the letter to the Commissioner regarding the loss of EA. Marygrace explained that she thought a face-to-face meeting was a better approach. Connie requested the scheduling of the meeting sooner than later as it is becoming difficult for programs to operate.

II. HUD CoC Program – Vernett Sherrill

- **Tier 1 Funding** – conditional award received. Planning grant and renewals received a little over 3 million dollars – awaiting Tier 2 announcement. Vernett thanked the team/partners for all of their assistance and efforts.
 - Marygrace referred members to page 2 of the minutes, which reflects Tier 2 projects.
- **New Application Process** – Vernett is putting together a scope of services that will be disseminated on May 1st. The RFP will be released sooner and the application will be presented the way it is in ESNAPS.
 - Formatted differently, which may cause overlap, but the process will be streamlined.
 - As a continuum prepare to look at leverage and match. In the process of developing a standardized form that will be emailed to everyone.
 - Hot Topics coming-up in June regarding leverage. We are shooting for a threshold of 150% which will increase points earned.
 - A MOU will be entered with the City specifically for CoC funded clients. The MOU will be standardized for CoC members.
 - The needs of the community are being scrutinized by the Executive Committee to ensure they are met, particularly related to RRH and youth homelessness.

- **CoC & ESG Monitoring/Evaluation** – Site visits will begin on April 20th and are conducted to review program budgets to ensure the success of the project.
 - Desk monitoring is basically completed.
 - In reference to budget monitoring, partners encouraged to take advantage of eligible costs to support the work of the organization.
 - Agencies encouraged to review files and handle concerns before the scheduled site visit (i.e. run APRs: due 10 calendar days after contracts expire; required documents in file; completion of provided score sheet; check accuracy/quality of HMIS data)

III. System Performance – Jay Everett

- Reviewed measures in context document – 7 system level performance measures (#6 does not apply to any continuum in the State).
- **Chronically Homeless Individuals:**
These individuals are homeless individuals with disabilities who have either been continuously homeless for a year or more or have experience at least four episodes of homelessness in the last three years.

HUD is no longer looking at us project by project – our system is looked at as a true continuum. Members advised that system performance in HMIS was discussed at the Data Committee Meeting.

IV. Youth Homelessness Update – Marygrace Billek

Youth Homelessness Committee meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month at 218 N. Broad Street.

- The surveys are being analyzed by Lori Bates of TCNJ.
- DCF announced that it is looking for feedback/comments from agencies regarding vouchers for parenting youth – due 4/27.
- Upcoming HUD webinar for youth demonstration projects. Collecting information for RFP.
- Discussion ensued about a drop-in center for youth. Anchor House currently operates a center for youth up to age 21.
 - Seeking to expand the age to 25 to identify couch surfers.

V. Veteran Homelessness Update – Frank Cirillo

- Currently in Phase II of the process. A total of 36 individuals have been identified; 11 have been housed, leaving 25 in need of housing.
- VET partners making great strides
- Jeff Robbins shared that every veteran is entitled to free counseling services through Family Guidance due to a grant from Wells Fargo. For more information call 609-586-0668. Veteran does not have to reside in Mercer County.
- HUD VASH – seven years in program and want to begin to look at housing those veterans who can move over to a regular Section 8 voucher. This will open approximately 20-30 vouchers across the community for VASH providers.

VI. Outreach Committee Update – Frank Cirillo

Meetings held the last Thursday of the month on the 2nd floor of the Trenton Transit Center.

- This is an essential component to our system that streamlines communication across organizations, so we are working in a coordinated effort.
- Successfully identifying people on the street and what organizations are providing them with services.
- Vivienne Stewart shared story of housing a person in need of a shallow subsidy rather quickly due to outreach efforts.

VII. Other Business

- **DCA Chronically Homeless Vouchers** – RFP out; email sent to CoC members. Funding will serve 400 chronically homeless individuals and 100 veterans. Supportive Service funds will be provided one time at \$500 per person. A LOS is needed from the CoC for agencies applying.
- **Dunham Hall** – Closing by the end of summer due to financial constraints of YWCA. Most of the women will be housed. Three women placed at the THA. 51 beds converted to Housing Choice Vouchers for up to a 1 bedroom apartment.
- **Annual Meeting Calendar** – Created by Vernett’s office and disseminated to CoC members.

Meeting Adjournment - This meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Marygrace Billek at 3:03pm.