

Youth Homelessness Subcommittee
April 11, 2016
Meeting Minutes

I. Meeting Called to Order

This meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lori Morris at 9:35 am.

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the meeting minutes from March 14, 2016 as presented. Cacace/Dorocki. The motion passed unanimously.

III. COUNT on YOUTH Status of 2015 Report

Lori reported that Marygrace gave her information to share with the group: Diane Bates, a professor from TCNJ reported that her students/staff have entered in 1800 surveys so far and they have 500 more to go. The class is focusing on this survey from April 11th - May 5th; they meet on Mondays and Thursdays from 11:30-2:00. It is exciting to get their results of the data entry and feedback.

Lori also reported that Beth gave her information to share with the group: Beth did speak with Dan Delveccio ,who is a contact for the Homeless Liaisons in Mercer County.

Vernett shared that she has been in contact with Mr. Delveccio as well.

Jim volunteered to call the list of Liaisons to find out if they have a meeting for Mercer County that we can attend.

IV. HUD Youth Homeless Listening Webinar

Lori and Vernett both listened in on the session. Here are the highlights:

- 33 million dollars will be allocated to a youth demonstration project.
- Usually these projects are defined by HUD but it sounds like HUD wants to hear about what organizations/groups are doing nation-wide.
- Federal goal to end youth homelessness by 2020.
- Will be in both rural and urban areas.
- Goal will include working with the CoC's to get an accurate #of youth who are homeless.
- Questions that still remain- will the HUD link this demonstration project to the CoC, in which case then you will be required to use HMIS? Will the funding be put out through the CoC's? Will it be announced with the next Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)?

All are encouraged to listen in on future sessions.

V. Potential Projects for a new CoC Project

Lori gave an overview of her recent research into best practices around the country. She informed the group that she looked at how some of the other communities address youth homelessness and organize their services in a consumer friendly way. One idea that she came across was "drop in" centers. She informed the group about this program/model called 412 Youth Zone where an individual can immediately meet their needs.

VI. Drop-in Center for Homeless Youth

Ben from Anchor House informed the group about “Anchor Link”. Anchor Link is located at 899 South Broad Street in Trenton for individuals between 14-21 years of age who are experiencing homelessness or are at-risk. The main focus is career oriented/education/job placement. On average they see about 11 youth a day which is their core group, eventually individuals will either move on because they found housing and/or a job. They offer bus tickets if needed, hygiene products and linkages to job placements and offer therapeutic support as well. The hours are 9-6 PM. They utilize a trauma screening, a substance abuse screening and the Search Institute’s 40 Developmental Assets survey.

Vernett discussed if they could possibly strategize and coordinate with the CEASe and use them as a resource if needed. For example, Ben identified transportation as a barrier and challenge sometimes and Vernett informed the group that the CEASe center may be able to help with regard to that.

The group discussed expanding on this drop in center and building upon it. What resources are available?

VII. DCF Request for Information

Denise informed the group that the Request for Information regarding the provision of Supportive Housing and Services for Homeless Youth are due by April 27, 2016.

VIII. Other Business

Please see attached flyer that Richard distributed for Free Prom Attire.

IX. Meeting Adjournment

This meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM by Chairperson Lori Morris. Our next subcommittee meeting will be on May 9th at the Trenton Health Building at 9:30am.

Attendance

Andrea Jardine
Lori Morris
Ann Dorocki
Jim Cacace
Richard Ferreira
Denise Massey
Shannon Presha
Ben Thorton II
Robert Taylor
Tricia Mayers
Vernett Sherrill