



COUNTY OF HUNTERDON NEW JERSEY

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOLISM & DRUG ABUSE YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION MENTAL HEALTH BOARD



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REFERENCE:

- Council
- Mental Health
- Youth
- Disability Services
- Substance
- Use Disorder
- Transportation

Approved March 21, 2022

COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE SYSTEM (CEAS) COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting

Monday, January 10, 2022 2:00 p.m.
Via Webex

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

J. Gorman	A. Fields
S. Lax	J. Ege
	M. Class-Ramirez

GUESTS

D. Prisco	R. Todd-Marino
R. Walls	M. Moore

EX-OFFICIO

STAFF

L. Piazza Long
S. Nekola
S. Van Doren
M. O'Reilly
K. Burghardt

*Designee

I. CONVENE:

Open Public Meetings Statement:

“This meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 – 10:4-21. Notice of this meeting has been provided in the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Courier News. A public notice announcing this meeting has also been placed in the lobbies of the Hunterdon County Department of Human Services, the first floor of the Main Street County Complex, 71 Main Street Building #1, Flemington, NJ; the first floor of the Route 12 County Complex, Building #3, 314 State Route 12, Flemington, NJ and County Clerk’s Office.”

Due the recent public health crisis, COVID-19, this meeting was a Webex/call in ONLY

II. MINUTES:

J. Gorman made a Motion and both M. Class-Ramirez and R. Todd-Marino seconded to pass the meeting minutes of October 18, 2021. All were in favor. The motion passed.

III. REPORTS:

A. Homeless Prevention Program – Family Promise of Hunterdon County: A. Fields joined the meeting. She reported there are still monies available for the Homeless Prevention Program and the agency has seen since the last two weeks in December, an uptick in arrears payments and/or relocation because of the eviction. The moratorium had ceased, and people

are going to court. The agency had seen families who are up to \$14,000.00 in arrears. She also conveyed some other amounts requested by families. She stated that if anyone needs an arrears payment, contacting Family Promise sooner than later is recommended.

B. HPRP Update – Family Promise: A. Fields announced for HPRP, the agency can pay arrears payment for up to three months, and can pay three months forward, but unfortunately, the grant will be over in March. Meaning, if the family has three months in arrears and are not sustainable, it may depend on what is left in funding totals. Her staff had been greatly affected by COVID. She again, conveyed to please refer families in need of arrears payment sooner than later due to the amount of funding available. A. Fields added the agency submitted for the grant during December for HPRP, therefore, there is hope there will not be a “gap” period and they should be receiving an answer hopefully soon. The agency is trying everything they can to essentially assist the families in need.

C. Tri-County Continuum of Care: M. O’Reilly conveyed that at the last executive committee meeting which was held on December 9, 2021, it was recommended and approved for Angela Fields to join the committee as a representative from Hunterdon County. Additionally, discussion about adding and recruiting more representation to the full Tri-County CoC including some of the sub-committees. The committee is interested in adding some healthcare providers and representatives from either State corrections or from the County corrections. The idea is to have them involved in the homeless systems. M. O’Reilly stated discussion about the LSA which has to do with HMIS and reporting. There were some reported “hiccups” with reporting the information nationwide. She believes it had been resolved thus far.

M. O’Reilly also conveyed discussion about coordination with the public housing authorities. She noted K. Burghardt and herself discussed having him join the Tri-County CoC will be beneficial. Outreach is happening to other public housing authorities located within the Tri-County CoC.

D. EFSP Update – Harvest Family Success Center: L. Piazza Long stated the EFSP monies had been exhausted via the Harvest Family Success Center and asked if there were any updates if any more monies had been awarded. M. O’Reilly replied that funding had been awarded to Family Promise and A. Fields was managing the program now. She further reported there will be a Phases 39, but she does not know what amounts will be awarded. M. O’Reilly conveyed some of the spending time periods, therefore, instead of one month of rent, three months may be allowable, etc. More to come soon.

L. Piazza Long asked A. Fields for an EFSP update. Angela Fields replied the development personnel had completed the required paperwork. She stated this fund is helping put monies into their New Jersey pandemic fund, therefore, they are bundling the programs to help people keep housed. The reporting had been completed and the agency was approved for up to \$15,000.00 which is being recycled into helping families.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Housing Alliance (10 - Year Plan) – J. Gorman raised this topic for discussion. S. Lax confirmed this discussion references the 10-Year Plan revision with Mark, Bonnie, Angela, Jen and herself whom had been meeting and conducting some research, as well as meeting with the Chamber of Commerce that offered some assistance. A. Fields added the committee is exploring various avenues, one being transitional housing and how that could happen in Hunterdon County. She continued that on the next call, Mark will have a guest to help identify

where monies can be extracted to make it this transpire outside of the homelessness trust fund. She further added they are committed to how the team could group organizations and businesses together to make their voices heard, as well as, to make affordable/transitional housing a reality in the coming year or two. J. Gorman feels it would be a good idea from a CEAS agenda standpoint to get an update on this topic for every meeting.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. 2022 Point in Time:** M. O'Reilly conveyed she wanted to ensure everyone had seen the documentation that had been forwarded out regarding the Point in Time. A recommendation needs to be made to the executive committee for Tri-County CoC on the methodology. She is looking for approval of a 7-day count methodology with no additional questions and then there is a mandatory street count this year reportable to HUD. J. Gorman asked about the 7-day count; the count is from the night of the 25th, we have until 7 days to record it or to count it. M. O'Reilly confirmed the count begins the 26th and 7 days are to be counted from that date. The question of where people stayed the night of the 25th must still be asked. There are hopes to capture more people than only capturing data from a one-day count.

R. Todd-Marino made a motion and J. Gorman seconded the motion to approve a 7-day count methodology to be utilized for the Point in Time from the Tri-County CoC. All are in favor. The motion carrier.

M. O'Reilly conveyed a lot of documents were emailed out including a PDF listing the training dates. She stated that instead of having Monarch attend the CEAS meetings throughout the State, they established several dates of training and they also recording these trainings. If someone is unable to make a session, the trainings will be able to watch and participate. The survey will be covered; what it looks like and then, how each question should be completed. What questions are mandatory. If the need to force to guess on a question, what would be the best way to complete. It is very comprehensive, and Monarch does provide ample time to answer questions. She definitely recommends for anyone who will be participating from their agencies that will be managing the surveys to partake in the training. It is always good to participate in the training as a re-fresher for many. It is always good to be well informed with the process.

The surveys are the same used as last year. There is one in English and one in Spanish. M. O'Reilly conveyed she forwarded via email the agency codes list to participating agencies. These are to be used in Survey Monkey when entering in the paper survey. Also, if an agency has a HMIS program, she exclaimed she had been in contact to discuss the program and pulling the data. If anyone has any questions, to please reach out to her. Working with Monarch can help answer those questions.

M. O'Reilly exclaimed she wanted to have a conversation about street outreach and was unsure if anyone from the Bridgeway PATH team is available via this meeting, but she noted they did have a conversation with their supervisor last week and the supervisor indicated that her team will be able to assist with the street count for Point in Time. She conveyed last year there were not a lot of people available to help and the way COVID is going now it is not looking to promising, but she did ask if anyone was interested in going out the morning of January 26 to please send M. O'Reilly an email. She also conveyed if anyone who is interested in participating and has reservations about having the need for additional PPE, she will inquire with the County if the PPE can be acquired. J. Gorman inquired about obtaining the count, as the prior year, she worked with S. Lax. M. O'Reilly highlighted the importance of being on

the same page as to where participants will be going where and when to eliminate the risk of duplication. A separate meeting may be required to discuss further details about locations and covering certain people. M. O'Reilly asked if there were any questions. It is basically the same process as prior years.

S. Nekola stated the Regional Integrated Services Sub-Committee of the Tri-County CoC is trying to put together some focus groups to engage folks who had lived experience with homelessness. Tentatively, the CoC is trying to put the Hunterdon County group together for February and all three counties will have their own group but will be asking the same questions through this focus group. S. Nekola conveyed is seeking to identify 3-5 people who are either currently homeless or had former homelessness lived experience so the group can be formed in February. She asked if anyone participating in this meeting had any references for people to be a part of this focus group or may have any choice questions that would be important to ask or information that might be helpful. Please advise S. Nekola. She has one candidate identified. A flyer for the PIT Count will be distributed to attach any other interests.

J. Gorman stated she is aware the Legal Services is looking for a client/consumer who had participated with their services to participate on their committee. She asked for ideas or suggestions as well.

R. Todd-Marino questioned the housing vouchers. She stated she understood more were to be acquired for the homeless prioritization and is unaware what had been approved for 2022. K. Burghardt replied there had not been any alternations to the administration plan which would have to be presented to the Hunterdon County Board of Commissioners. Discussions are taking place between M. O'Reilly and himself, as well as the idea of seeking a new sort of voucher. This would require an alternation of the administrative plan as well that is awaiting an award from the State. R. Todd-Marino requested for this topic to be placed on the next CEAS agenda as a follow-up item. J. Gorman asked if it is true that people benefitting from the Section 8 Voucher Program are conveying there is a storage of housing. K. Burkhart replied there are people who are failing to less up and there are people who are succeeding to lease-up. He confirmed there is not a lot of housing available; people had not been moving. Discussion ensued. K. Burkhart conveyed Readington Township is having difficulty in renting some units.

A. Fields stated The Willows apartment complex reached out to Family Promise and indicate they will have set aside apartments and will be in contact with the agency. The Willows explained they do not know at this point if there will be one, two or three bedrooms available. There are only five units to be available as set aside apartments.

VI. AGENCY NEWS:

Safe In Hunterdon – D. Prisco provided an update. As many other agencies, they are taking all precautions due to COVID. He noted there were a few cases over the last two months which had been isolated and monitored to detect any contractions among staff members. The agency utilizes masks and social distancing inside at all times.

In terms of their shelter, D. Prisco conveyed a few rooms are available and they are trying to keep the house with families sharing bathrooms due to COVID.

Safe In Hunterdon has the following employment vacancies and are looking to hire a grants manager position, an officer manager position and a full-time counselor.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:32 p.m. R. Todd-Marino made a Motion and J. Gorman seconded. The Motion passed. The next meeting will be Monday, March 21, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. via a virtual meeting.