Long Island (Nassau/ Suffolk) Continuum of Care Meeting Minutes

June 19th, 2015

Amityville Community Center

**Present:** G. Conn, SAIL; J. Harrington, HALI; K. Garber, NC DSS; L. Mosquera, CC; M. Segura, Brighter Tomorrows; H. Seelig, Bethany House; K. Ritchie, NSLS; K. Raniere, CHI; G. Sikorski, CNG; Z. Green, EOC; K. Bond, Melillo; C. Velia, CFIL; J. Lamberth, RCH; J. Massimo, MHAW/ SUCV; V. McGinn, Suburban; S. Quesida, NANA; J. Hatzis, Huntington Sanctuary; A. Rosen, Federations; S. Goodson, EAC; D. Neilson, LIADV; S. Basilone, Federations; N. Mbaya, INN; W. Conrad, VAMC; T. Gregoretti, TSCLI; T. Campbell, MHANC; P. Fink, CDCLI; L. Russell, SAIL; K. LaSalla, UVBH; G. Luther, MHA; B. Lubarda, LIWEN; D. O’Hearon, Mercy Haven; A. Sotelo, CDLH; D. Stern, Concern; B. Inserro, FREE; A. Rogers, LIWEN; J. Lopez, VOA; V. Chamberlain, FSL; B. Gabellini, SUS; V. McKnight, HELP Suffolk; J. Vanderwater, Federations; G. Guarton, LICH; P. Martin, LICH; D. Sanderson, TSLI-HHB; A. Hope, Mercy Hall; N. Rivera, Mercy Hall, R. Boyce, OMH; S. Crescimanno, Hope House, C. Selario, CHI; K. Trama, HELP USA; C. Smith, BVSJ; M. Alvarez, BVSJ; T. Fredrick FCA; M. Feliciano-Potter, BVSJ; S. Brewster CDLH, D. Shea, Momma’s House; J. Fernandez, LICH.

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Greta Guarton welcomed everyone in attendance. Members present introduced themselves.

**Review of Minutes:**

Minutes from the May 15th, 2015 Nassau/ Suffolk CoC meeting were reviewed by the group. Greta made the correction that there were over 50 volunteers that took part in the community garden (not over 150). Larry Russell made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Samara Basilone and unanimously agreed upon by all members present.

**Agency Presentations:**

Karen Garber presented information on Nassau County DSS Services (APS, CPS and Children’s Services). For more information on these programs contact Karen directly (516) 227-7770 and she will direct your call to the appropriate agency representative.

**2015 CoC Funding Round**

Greta announced that the CoC renewal applications were scored and ranked by CoC Ranking Committee on June 9th, 2015. Greta thanked both the Executive Committee and the Ranking Committee for their efforts during this process. Greta announced that after consideration and a vote by the Executive Committee, that it was decided that agencies that were applying for renewal funding but missed the mandatory training would receive an automatic reduction of 2.5 points from their program ranking score. Greta also explained that upon reviewing the applications for scoring, that several issues were discovered that required further discussion by the Executive Committee and a subsequent vote by the full CoC. The Executive Committee had a conference call on May 29th to discuss how to address incomplete applications and what criteria would be used in order for an agency to receive credit for a “Target” population. The Executive Committee decided that incomplete applications would lose 2.5 points in addition to any points related to the portions of the applications that were missing. The EC also decided that in order for agencies to receive credit for a target population, a program must have either included beds/units set aside exclusively for that population or had a minimum of 20% of the beds/units in that program occupied by that given population. These recommendations were distributed to the full CoC via email for a vote. The vote was 24-1 in favor of the Executive Committee’s recommendations.

Greta announced that applications for reallocated funds were submitted. One application was for a permanent housing program targeting chronically homeless adults and other was for a rapid re-housing program. The RRH program was selected by the COC Ranking committee and then scored and ranked where possible given it is a new program. The selected application was submitted by Family Service League.

The CoC recommendations were reviewed by all members. Greta announced that many agencies requested point breakdowns for how points were determined. Greta sent those breakdowns to agencies and would also create a spread sheet so that agencies can see how they compared against each other. Greta also reminded all members that a renewal project with 150% leveraging does not guarantee a high ranking score because the criterion was based on a 10 point scale, comparing all projects. For example, a project could have 150% leveraging, but if 150% was actually the lowest of what all other projects had reported, the project would be awarded 0 out of 10 points. Greta reminded all members that obtaining 150% for leveraging is a HUD benchmark for this category and that most of these categories are based on HUD benchmarks. Concern was expressed that leveraging requests were not responded to by some agencies. Greta reminded all members that it is important for agencies when sending requests for leveraging, that they specify what services could be used by project participants in order to make it as easy as possible for agencies to quickly respond. Vicki McGinn made a motion to accept the recommendations made by the COC ranking Committee. The motion was seconded by Donna O’Hearon and unanimously agreed upon by all members present.

**HMIS Update/ Data Quality Plan:**

Wayne Scallon stated that a data quality review was distributed on 6/18/2015. Wayne stated that he sent out a separate data quality review for households, titled “Household Data Quality”. Wayne pointed out that this data is specific to what is needed in order to prepare The Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR). Wayne stated that he would continue to send a separate file each month going forward. Wayne announced that there were foothold trainings for SSVF and new general users. Wayne announced that there would be a new user training on July 9th. Wayne announced that he recently conducted a training on running reports for UVBH and offered to host trainings for reporting for other agencies. To set up training, contact Wayne at 631-464-4314 x 115 or wscallon@addressthehomeless.org. Wayne announced that the HMIS newsletter would be combined for June and July.

Wayne reminded all members that on June 25th there would be a Foothold Expo held in NYC. Wayne offered to discuss the different workshops that would be at the conference after the meeting for interested parties.

Greta announced that LICH is covering the cost of the tickets for the Foothold Expo and that there are currently extra tickets. Greta explained that if an agency signs up to attend and does not, that agency would then be responsible to pay the ticket price.

**Keys for the Homeless Conference:**

Val Chamberlain announced that the Keys for the Homeless Conference would take place on November 13, 2015. Theme for this year is “Building Community Roots to End Youth and Family Homelessness.” This year LICH will be partnering with Stony Brook School of Social Welfare. The keynote speaker for the conference will be Dr. Joel Blau, The Director of the Phd program at Stony Brook. CEU credits would be offered for some of the workshops. The Committee has selected the Key of Excellence awardee, Legislator Steve Stern- who implemented the Housing our Homeless Heroes Act. The Committee has also selected 2 Unsung Hero recipients; Angela Miller from SCDSS and Susan Cook, a volunteer at The Retreat. Helen Martin Scholarship recipients will be selected at the next planning committee meeting which will be on Wednesday July 1 at 9:30am at the Amityville Resource Center.

**Back Pack Pirates/ SOS:**

Greta reminded all members that the Backpack Pirates event will take place on August 25th.

Greta announced that on August 27th LICH will be distributing back pack/ school supplies collected form the annual Supply or Students drive. The goal this year is to distribute to over 5,000 kids. Greta asked if any members would like boxes so that they can collect for the drive.

Greta announced that there was donated funding for 12 one week scholarships for camp through the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau county. Greta stated 6 kids from Nassau County and 6 kids from Suffolk County would be selected. An email was sent specifying specific criteria along with the application that needs to be completed. Applications need to be faxed to Greta by Monday June 22. Selections will be made on a first come first serve basis for the most part.

**Vacancies:**

*CHI:*

Currently has a single vacancy available in Freeport.  Eligibility:  Single male HUD homeless and SPMI.  Priority given to chronically homeless individuals.

2 male vacancies in Hempstead. HUD Homeless, Substance Abuse

 Contact Janice Davidson: 516-280-3243 x222.

2 upcoming vacancies: Female HUD Homeless in Farmingdale and Hempstead

Contact Jessica Raniere (631) 475-6390 x 223

*MHA:*

Currently has a single vacancy in West Hempstead. Eligibility: Single male Chronically Homeless.

Contact: Gloria Ann Luther 516 385 3637

*TSLI:*

HHAP HIV Vacancy in Huntington Station (single)- Homeless. No SPA required.

HHAP HIV Vacancy in Huntington Station (family- 2 bedroom). Must be homeless. No SPA required.

Contact: Crystal Otano 631 231-4705

*New Ground:*

Catherine Martin INN Program for Veterans has two single male vacancies, veterans in recovery from substance abuse, minimum 6 months clean.SRO type housing located in Hempstead – rent $288/month all included.

Contact Mohanne Charles at 516-564-4764 x 131.

Veterans Program- HUD Homeless Male Veterans in recovery from Substance Abuse for a minimum of 6 months. Housing SRO with shared common spaces located in Hempstead. Must be able to afford rent plus utilities of $315 month. Program requires weekly Social Work meetings and focus to achieve goals in employment, education and finances within 3-5 years to obtain independent living upon discharge.

Contact Mohanne Charles at 516-564-4764 x 131.

Family Program- HUD Homeless family for 2 locations:

2 Bedroom apartment in Huntington, $750 month.

4 bedroom housing Uniondale, $1,000 month.

Program requires weekly Social Work meetings and focus to achieve goals in employment, education and finance within 3-5 years to obtain independent living upon discharge.

Contact Evol Sweeny 516 564-4764 x 130

*Concern:*

Project Homestart (Nassau)- One vacancy, disabling condition , HUD homeless, single adult male or female.

HHAP 1 - One vacancy, SPMI/ SPA, HUD homeless, single female adult.

OHM Consolidated (Central Islip)- One vacancy, SPMI/ SPA, HUD homeless, single male.

Concern Riverhead- One vacancy, SPMI/ SPA, HUD homeless, single male or female.

Contact: Contact Lucille (631) 758-0474.

**Amityville Center:**

Greta announced that there were no new updates.

**Announcements:**

Kristine Raniere of CHI announced that their shelter in Commack is now considered Tier II status. Kristine also announced that CHI is looking to lease a 6 bedroom home for a transitional youth program as they were recently received notice of qualification from SCDSS.

Jason Vandewater of Federation of Organizations announced that starting in July, The Wyandanch Mental Health Clinic will have open access Mondays and Fridays with the ability to accommodate same day appointments. The clinic is located on 240 Long Island Ave in Wyandanch. Contact number: (631) 782-6200

Joanne Massimo of MHAW/SCUV announced the 3rd annual Kick Stand Up to benefit homeless veterans to be held on June 25th from 11am-4pm at the VFW post 4927 31 Horseblock Rd. Centereach.

\*The next CoC meeting will take place on Friday, July 17th at 9:30am at the Amityville Resource Center. This will be a joint CoC and Veteran Subcommittee meeting.