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

April 15, 2016

Amityville Community Resource Center

Present: P. Martin, LICH; M. DeLucca, Penates; V. McGinn, Suburban; N. Campo, PSEG; T. Goodhue, LICC; J. Massimo, MHAW; T. O’Hanlon, Federation; J. Dean, INN; M. Cruz, SCSO; K. MacKay, SCSO; N. Magee, Federation; D. Sanderson, TSLI/HHB; A. Sotelo, CDLH; K. Cascio, LICH; R. Bannerman-Martin, LICH; F. Pierre, HELP USA; D. Neilson, LIADV; M. Chassner, LIADV; A. Rubinstein, Northport VA; J. Hatzis, HS; S. Quesada, NANA’s; B. Inserro, FREE; A. Kerr, FCA; T. Joyner, CNG; S. Osmani, CNG; N. Campbell, GRO; J. Gibbons, GRO; A. Wasserman, GRO; R. Rizzo, Mercy Haven; S. Swaby, CC; F. Amalfitano, UVBH; B. Wickey, NSLS; R. O’Donnell, EOC; R. Clairborne, Room of Compassion; R. McCue, Retreat; R. Seiler, CDCLI; F. Richard, HALO; G. Fasano, LICH; K. Bocchino, MAOG; B. Ellis, SAIL; L. Russell, SAIL; K. Ohrtman, HELP Suffolk; H. Seelig, Bethany House; K. Trama, HELP USA; S. Brazeau, HHM; L. Scumaci, Options; H. Kang, CC; F. Schanback, MHANC; A. D’Amico, MHANC; J. Greaves, EAC; S. Boyle, NG; D. Stern, CFIL; T. Gregoretti, TSCLI; J. Hicks, Melillo; C. Hammonds, WHPDC; K. Vatalaro, BT; O. Ayala, SCDSS; A. Miller, SCDSS; D. Trumpy, MOMMA’s; A. Rosen, Federation; V. Chamberlain, FSL; A. Covino, Options; S. Brewster, CDLH; G. Guarton, LICH; M. Giuffrida, LICH; B. Gabellini, SUS; C. Webster, SUS; K. Raniere, CHI.

Review of Minutes:

All members present reviewed minutes from the March 18, 2016 CoC meeting. Joanne Massimo made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Donna O’Hearon seconded the motion and all other members present agreed.

Agency Presentations:

Jamie Rapfogel presented on the Birthday Wishes program.

1-866-388-9477, [www.birthdaywishes.org](http://www.birthdaywishes.org)

Tom Goodhue presented material on the Long Island Council of Churches Financial Literacy Workshops.

1-516-565-0290, [www.licc-ny.org](http://www.licc-ny.org)

Church Shelter Collaborative:

There were representatives from three different faith-based organizations that were currently managing seasonal or year-round emergency shelter beds for street homeless individuals. Mike Giuffrida expressed gratitude for each church program, offered additional support and had each church leader share some of their reflections/ experiences with providing emergency beds to homeless in the community. There would be a church shelter meeting on April 18 to bring more churches on board and begin planning for next year.

CoC Subcommittees/ Initiatives:

Ending Veteran Homelessness/ USICH application- Mike stated that since August 2013, 899 homeless veterans have moved into permanent housing on Long Island. The CoC continued to permanently house 30 or more veterans each month. The Priority One Veterans Committee was focused on capturing the number of veterans housed compared to the number of veterans entering homelessness (Inflow v. Outflow) in order to more specifically document and understand community progress towards the initiative to end veteran homelessness. The USICH application to declare a functional end to veteran homelessness was submitted by the P1 group on February 19, 2016. The USICH review team have had several follow up phone conferences discussing the application, data driven measures and updated progress. The CoC has not yet been informed of a final decision from the federal partners.

Youth Committee- Mike announced that the first CoC Youth Committee meeting would be held on Thursday, April 21 at 3:00pm at the ACRC, in Conference Room 203. The CoC has been working with various youth providers throughout both counties to create more collaboration and open communication. At the first meeting, the Youth Committee would be identifying stakeholders, current challenges, resources and objectives. The Committee was invested in gaining insight from not only stakeholders, but also youth. Greta added that within the CoC, there needed to be a collective effort to provide more housing resources for youth, both with bonus project opportunities in the future and dedicated beds for youth at existing programs. Mike also added that LICH has been partnering with Youth Court in an effort to bring more providers on board to manage youth housing programs.

Chronic Homeless Initiative:

LICH would initiate an off-shout of the Street Outreach Committee that would work to identify barriers to housing for chronic homeless individuals and conduct case management to find housing opportunities for all chronic homeless. Agencies within the CoC that stated on the CoC ranking that their programs had dedicated beds for chronic homeless should also be at the table as part of the chronic homeless initiative. LICH has been connecting with hospitals and medical professionals to find more effective ways to identify chronically homeless in the community and also provide medical diagnoses as part of street outreach.

Elderly Homeless Focus Group:

The CoC has received a TA grant to work towards increasing housing capacity for elderly homeless individuals within the community. The TA would provide guidance and documentation on how to effectively engage landlords and have housing set asides for elderly homeless. LICH has partnered with Federation of Organizations Nursing Home Diversion Program on this effort.

Homeless Solutions Think Tank:

Mike expressed a concern for the continued increase in homelessness in the region. The CoC would now facilitate another working group that would discuss homeless challenges and solutions that could be implemented into practice within the scope of homeless care of Long Island. At each CoC meeting, a glass think tank would be available for any member to write down ideas and add it to the tank. The focus was to be solutions-focused and have an open and honest conversation about what people are seeing in their communities. The first HSTT meeting would be held on May 17 at 10:00am at the ACRC, Conference Room 203.

Mike Giuffrida at mgiuffrida@addressthehomeless.org or 631-464-4314 x 111

CoC Funding Round:

For the 2015 funding round, Greta stated that all Tier 1 programs had been approved for funding. There was no publication of issues and conditions. There has not been word from HUD about Tier 2 programs being funded, that was expected to be announced in the spring. The Executive Committee would meet directly after the CoC meeting to discuss how to appropriately rank rapid re-housing programs on the CoC ranking.

Greta Guarton at gguarton@addressthehomeless.org or 631-464-4314 x 113

CoC Monitoring:

LICH would participate in the OTDA inspection process for HHAP programs in Suffolk and Nassau.

HMIS Updates/ DQR:

Roxzelle Bannerman-Martin announced that there would be an intermediate HMIS training held on April 22. A new user training would be held May 6. NYS OTDA Data Warehouse Upload Agreements are on hold, as LICH was still waiting on OTDA guidance on the issue involving client opt-outs. No data would be transferred to the NY State Data Warehouse until that was resolved. Foothold had recently completed making changes to the way AWARDS calculates chronically homeless families in HMIS. Under the new definition, if any adult or head of household was chronically homeless then everyone in the family (household) should be considered chronically homeless.

A Data Quality Review file targeting at the misuse of “Other” as a response to the “Destination” question at discharge was sent to agencies on April 7. The full DQR file for March would go out between April 20 and April 22. The next HMIS Newsletter would be distributed during the last week of April and would be focused on the latest changes to chronic homeless.

Wayne Scallon at wscallon@addressthehomeless.org or 631-464-4314 x 115

Rozxelle Bannerman-Martin at rbannerman@addressthehomeless.org or 631- 464-4314 x 112

Candlelight Vigil:

The Vigil was held on April 5 at Farmingdale State College. Greta thanked all sponsors, supporters and those that had attended.

Keys for the Homeless Conference:

Valerie Chamberlain stated that the date of the 2016 Keys Conference would be October 28 at Touro Law Center. The theme would be “In the Trenches of Homelessness: Many Faces, Hopeful Solutions.” Unsung Hero nomination forms have been sent out. Workshop Proposal forms and Helen Martin Scholarship applications would be sent out soon.

Announcements:

The VA will host a Veteran Stand Down on May 20.

\*The next CoC meeting will be held on May 13 at 9:30am, at the ACRC, Conference Room 203.