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

April 24th, 2015

Amityville Resource Center

**Present:** W. Scallon, LICH; R. McCue, Retreat; D. Shea, MOMMAS; D. O’Hearon, Mercy Haven; S. Goodson, EAC; V. McGinn, Suburban; J. Massimo, MHAW/SCUV; C. Velia, Concern; M. Mereday, VEDI; D. O’Neill, LICH; J. Lopez, SSVF/VOA; J. Pagan, SSVF/VOA; J. Martir, VOA; K. Bond, Melillo; A. Rosen, Federations; E. Basham, Options; L. Plouff, SC CD; K. Livingston, CHI; G. Sikorski, CNG; R. O’Donnell, EOC; V. Chamberlain, FSL; B. Gabellini, SUS; D. Weilson, SCCADV; L. Americo, CC; L. Mullahy-Smith, Concern; K. Ritchie, NSLS; S. Brazeau, HHM; T. Lamberta, The INN; M. Larode, HALI; J. Nacht, FCA; D. Hayes, PVH; A. Karppi, Town of Islip CDA; A. Rogers, LIWEN; H. Seelig, Bethany House; P. Martin, LICH; W. Conrad, VAMC; K. Trama, HELP USA; M. Segura, Brighter Tomorrows; A. Sotelo, CDLH; M. Charles, New Ground; C. Martin, UVBH; J. Pollina, TSLI/HHB; P. Fink, CDCLI; J. DeLeonardis, UVBH; C. Longo, CNG; G. Luther, MHA-Supported; T. Campbell, MHANC; F. Pierre, HELP USA; T. Gregoretti, TSCLI; B. Lubarda, LIWEN; G. Guarton, LICH.

**Welcome and Introductions:**

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

**Review of Minutes:**

Minutes from the March 20th, 2015 Nassau/Suffolk CoC Meeting and the March 26th, 2015 Team Long Island minutes were reviewed by the group. Greta announced that it was requested for organizations to reexamine budgets for existing programs and if they were consistently under spending to consider reduced funding. This option was completely voluntary. The reallocation funding amount available was $327,000. As an incentive, one criteria for renewal includes the percentage of funding that was spent on previous years round, agencies and programs can lose points depending on the amount not spent because that funding would be lost to the COC. Deirdre Shea made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Donna O’Hearon and unanimously agreed upon by all members present.

**2015 CoC Funding Round:**

Greta announced that number of organizations have received their issues and conditions from HUD and those who have been able to satisfy have received renewal contracts. Something new that a number of organizations have been included in issues and conditions is the Environmental Review. Every five years, HUD is making sure PH programs are complying with Environmental review and updating their policy. Two primary concerns were addressed: Why is the environmental review required and it can be paid for through the administrative funds for the programs. Some HUD representatives were saying it wasn’t an eligible expense, but we have verified that it is and if anyone should need documentation, LICH has this information available and can be emailed.

COC listserv- received an email released internal regional, local applications for ranking committee was sent out 4/23/2015. Will be available on the LICH website. Renewal portion is similar to last year. The portion that agencies have to do for renewals is essentially the budget, answering basic questions about existing programs and almost everything else (exception of DV programs), all other information can be received from HMIS or directly from HUD and participation and to attendance to meetings, which can be verified through meetings and attendance sheets.

Leveraging is a large component that has not been included. Greta suggested that agencies begin working on new leveraging letters and commitments. The desired standard is a minimum of 150% from what agencies are requesting from HUD, do not let that number limit you. Criteria are all included in the information packets, many criteria are scored based on a comparison in where a particular program stands in comparison to where all of the other applicant program stand. Example, if an agency is showing 150% of leveraging (worth 10 points), but if 150% is actually the lowest of what all other programs have been able to collect, the score goes from 0-10 and the lowest receiving program will get 0 and the highest is going to get 10. All the rest of the points are distributed in between. Just because you achieve the 150% minimum, you are not guaranteed the 10 points (logic is applicable to many of the other criteria.

**Reallocation Funding:**

With respect to what HUD is allowing for proposals for reallocated funds; eligible programs are permanent housing through rapid rehousing for families and chronically homeless individuals. Those two programs are programs in which agencies can apply for up to $327,000. Currently have up to $327,000 to be awarded to any given program, but the distribution can vary it doesn’t necessarily mean it will all go to one program.

Few new criteria: the Executive Committee discussed whether or not to only allow RRH programs to be considered for the new program. HUD allows PH for Chronically Homeless or RRH. The Executive Committee determined both would be considered, but strong emphasis that organizations consider RRH programs if they are able to operate them. Basis for the decision is that a lot of PH programs for chronically individuals and families exist, but very often have vacancies because agencies are unable to find persons that meet the definition of chronically homeless to fill them PH for Chronically homeless can be considered, but agencies would have to make a strong case as to why they would want that particular model.

Training for the process is going to be May 4th, 9:30-11:30 at the Amityville Community Center.

Deadline to submit applications for ranking committee is May 26th.

June 12th, will release recommendation from the ranking committee. Will include the following: ranking for the renewal programs and the recommendations for which program or programs are recommended for the reallocated funds.

Final vote will take place on June 19th at the CoC Meeting.

Still no update on when HUD will publish NOFA, they have sent out a lot of documents to the CoC’s Deadline for PIT and HIC count is next week, very shortly after that HUD will open up ESNAPS for COC registration, two weeks after it will open up regular registration. A portion of ESNAPS will take place at the same time we are doing the local process. Some of the information will ultimately overlap. Agencies can start the renewal funding applications at that time. You don’t need to find out where you are ranked to complete the application.

**Agency Presentations:**

Alisson Karppi from the Town of Islip CDA 2015 ESG grant. Upcoming request for proposal for ESG little over 140,000 provided through HUD. Only available for newly eligible programs which will include Rapid Rehousing and Early Prevention. Expects RFP will be released in early June. Please contact Alisson Karppi with any questions or concerns.

Dawn Neilson presented for the Suffolk County Coalition Against Domestic Violence (SCCADV). Empowering men and women who have suffered from domestic violence. Wide range of services available including 24hr Hotline, outreach, Legal services, Counseling, Vocational Training, Individual and Group sessions for adults and youth as well as advocacy services within the courts and police department. Operating shelter.

**HMIS Updates/ Data Quality Plan:**

Wayne Scallon announced the data quality will be sent out today. Moving forward data from October 1st 2014 will be included in quality review file, that being start of new data standards. Any missing data, it may need to be filled out on intake for or face sheet.

Data quality review file only includes universal elements, but now with the new data standards there are required program specific data elements that certain program types need to make sure they are inputting and updating.

Wayne will create program specific data quality review files, still in the works if anyone has a particular requirement for inputting data, please contact.

Trainings for Foothold intermediate training will take place on Tuesday, May 12th Wayne will email notification and request for registration next week.

Newsletter: combined March/April. Next edition will be dedicated to explaining how to run the data quality review file so users can run it at any time. Wayne can arrange a group training to show agency’s how to go through the process once the newsletter comes out.

National Human Services Data Consortium in Denver- workshops and sessions that cover data standards and data quality for HMIS. Discussions on thing such as using HMIS and COC to plan and respond to community emergencies, using HMIS data effectively for grant writing proposals

Annual Foothold Conference June 26th devoted to awards and focused on HMIS. Opportunity to learn about the function of HMIS. Greta shared that LICH has discussed with Foothold to offer 1 free ticket per user organization through the COC. The Coalition has agreed to pay for the ticket. However, the agreement is that if the organization accepts the ticket and doesn’t show up, that organization will have to reimburse the Coalition. Coalition has to submit a list of those who attended to HUD, if someone is missing the Coalition cannot be reimbursed. They will need verification from Foothold you have attended.

For HMIS questions or concerns, contact Wayne Scallon at 631-464-4314 x 115 or [wscallon@addressthehomeless.org](mailto:wscallon@addressthehomeless.org)

**PIT/HIC 2015:**

Greta announced the PIT and HIC are due into HUD Exchange by April 30th 2015. Mike is working on the process.

**Veteran Reports:**

By the end of March total Veterans that were housed was 498. Of those 258 were chronically homeless. In addition, 314 family members were housed. Our original goal was 748, we would be a little short by December 2015 based on progress, but there is improvement. Functional zero, not an actual zero number. We know that Even if we were able to house every Veteran today, tomorrow there will be someone else on the street. The idea of functional zero is to identify what is the number at which we can completely address 100% the needs of homeless Veteran population. Currently trying to figure out that number, that includes some of the transitional housing programs for formerly homeless (still technically considered Homeless by HUD but they are on their way toward permanent housing). With this being considered, we know we will be able to reach the functional zero, of 64 by December 2015

**Housing Developments:**

**26 more Vouchers, as of May 1st CDC will be able to house more Veterans. Singles and Family units.**

**United Veteran’s Beacon House: May 1st 5 Unit apartment building in Hempstead 2 are filled and 3 left can take HUD/VASH and Section 8 1200 plus utility can be subsidized with programs. Units are 2 bedrooms. Income can’t be more than 50% AMI, they don’t have to be street homeless. Located on Henry Street. Contact person Jackie DeLeonardis Contact: 631-665-1571 email jackie@uvbh.com**

**Housing Our Homeless Heroes Act:**

One act that included four bills. One of those bills included the possibility for Suffolk County to bypass the normal track for giving houses back to the community. Previously, foreclosed homes due to taxes were returned to the county and turned over to localities and they would make decisions. Some cases they would go to nonprofits in other cases they would go to first time homeowner programs. Sometimes directly to low income or moderate income families. Very long process. One of the four bills allowed for the county to work with Veteran organizations to turn those homes directly from the county to those agency’s to fast track the ability to use those houses as veterans housing. Right now Suffolk County has that identified 3 organizations and a combination of 12 houses and some property that will be used to create homes (still in the works): Association for Mental health and Wellness/Suffolk County United Vets, Concerned for Independent Living and United Veterans Beacon House.

**Vacancies:**

**>*United Veterans Beacon House***

Will have two-2 bedrom apartments available May 1 at their new Hempstead location. The rent will be $1200.00 plus utilities (heat/gas/national grid and electric/PSNEG) – client income up to 50% AMI- contact person: Jackie DeLeonardis 631-665-1571 or email [jackie@uvbh.com](mailto:jackie@uvbh.com) for more information.

**>*TSLI/HHB***

Currently have a single male vacancy for someone who is homeless on the street or in a shelter. Crystal Otano can be reached at 631-231-4705 for an HIV housing application.

**>*CHI***

One- 2 bedroom vacancy Broad spectrum program upstairs unit, person has to be mobile

Family unit HUD homelessness

Contact:

Kim Livingston 631-475-6390 ext 228

Brittni Traina 516-280-3243 x 226

1 single male vacancy SPA/SPMI in Freeport

Contact Janice Davidson: 516-280-3243 ext. 222

**>*Catholic Charities***

3 vacancies in Islip Terrace HOPWA Housing. Must be homeless males with HIV. Contact Christopher Ferraiolo at 631-210-0080

***>Mercy Haven***

Patchogue and Ronkonkoma locations

2 Bedroom family unit (children have to be same sex). Preference given to Vet families

3 Bedroom and 4 bedroom Units, Accepts HUD VASH, funded by HHAP, non-smoking unit within the house, service pets allowed

Income guidelines are based on DSS guidelines.

Contact person Rebecca at 631-277-8300

***>New Ground***

Male Veteran, must be in recovery from Substance Abuse with a minimum of 6 months clean time.

SRO type housing located in Hempstead.

Contact Mohanne Charles at 516 564 4764 x131

It’s not permanent Housing, but it is long term- 3-5 year program.

mcharles@newground.org

***>Brighter Tomorrows***

*3 vacancies- female and kids*

*Contact: 631-395-1800*

***>Retreat***

*2 Beds- female with kids*

*Contact: 631-329-2200*

***>Federations***

*23 singles vacancies, must need additional support (RTS Team available), must be SPMI, must currently be in SPA Housing, all shared units throughout Suffolk County*

*Contact: 1-877-INTAKES*

**Announcements:**

*Keys for the Homeless Conference:*

Greta 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 Family Homelessness.” The Committee has selected one Key of Excellence award recipient and one Unsung Hero. Nominations for Unsung Hero available to the community on the Coalition website. Also released call for presenters workshops, preferably with focus on families and youth. Currently looking into CEU and CASAC credits. Next planning committee meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 13 at 9:30am at the Amityville Resource Center.

*Backpack Pirates:*

*Greta announced that information has been sent out for the annual Supply Our Students Drive. Backpack Pirates event will take place on August 25th*

The next CoC meeting will take place on Friday, May 15th at 9:30am at the Amityville Resource Center. This will be a joint CoC and Veteran Subcommittee meeting.