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

**October 14th, 2016**

**Amityville Community Resource Center**

**Present:** N. Magee, Federation; D. O’Hearon, Mercy Haven; P. Fink, CDCLI; V. McGinn, Suburban; D. Russell, NCDSS; J. Essig, NCDSS; P. Broderick, NCDSS; C. Webster, LICH; C. Greenfield, LICH; R. Bannerman-Martin, LICH; J. Justh, EOC Suffolk; K. Vaiana, EOC Suffolk; K. Raniere, CHI; J. Nacht, FCA; L. Tloczkowski, LICH; P. Martin, LICH; C. Papke, FREE; K. Trama, HELP Equity Homes; D. Zaphrine, CC; J. Hatzis, HYB Sanctuary; L. Andreoli, CC; S. Osmani, CNG; T. Joyner, CNG; J. Taylor, TSLI/HHB; N. Keller, Retreat; S. Quesada, Nana’s House; K. Vatalaro, Brighter Tomorrows; H. Kang, CC; J. Deleonardis, UVBH; L. Hollander, SUS; B. Gabellini, SUS; A. Rubinstein, VA; P. Hurley, LICH; D. Stern, Concern; C. Hammonds, WHPDC; D. Hayes, Peace Valley Haven; L. Russell, SAIL; A. Maddux, EOC Suffolk; T. Gregoretti, TSCLI; F. Pierre, HELP USA; S. Brewster, CDLH; D. Trumpy, Momma’s House; A. Covino, Options; A. Sotelo, CDLH; J. Massimo, SCUV/MHAW; L. Felder, Sunshine Residence; K. Ohrtman, HELP Suffolk; D. James, Bethany House; S. Tam, Suffolk Care Collaborative; D. Saunders, Retreat; V. Chamberlain, FSL; V. Rothar, SCDSS; S. Brazeau, HHM; J. Kidean, The INN; A. D’Amico, MHANC; L. Scumaci, Options.

Mike Giuffrida welcomed all members to the meeting and all those present introduced themselves.  
  
**Review of Minutes:**   
All members present reviewed the minutes. Deidre Trumpy made a motion to accept the minutes, which Joanne Massimo seconded. Paul Fink abstained. All other members present agreed to accept the minutes as written.

**Announcements/Upcoming Events:**   
Nassau County Job Fair-October 28th at the Nassau County Community College Gym.  
9AM-10AM for veterans, 10AM-2PM for general public. Over 300 employers expected

The Keys for the Homeless Conference-October 28th at Tuoro Law Center. The theme is “In the Trenches of Homelessness: Many Faces, Hopeful Solutions.” The conference will be partnering with Stony Brook University to offer CEU’s. The keynote speaker will be Regina Calcaterra, author of the NYT bestseller “Etched in Sand.”

Circulo da la Hispanidad-Walk to End Domestic Violence  
October 15th starting at 9:30AM on Long Beach Boardwalk  
  
Suffolk County Commemoration Day for Victims of Domestic Violence  
October 20th at 4:30 PM--Dennison Building in Hauppauge

Agency Distribution Day at LICH Boutique   
November 14th from 10AM-3PM, no registration needed, open to paid and non-paying CoC member agencies—**MUST bring a box of tall kitchen bags or 13 tote bags.**

**HMIS Updates:**  
HMIS Data Quality

Roxelle Bannerman-Martin stated that September data quality review files were expected to be distributed by Monday, October 17—but there have been a few issues with Foothold, so they may be delayed.

AWARDS has scheduled downtime for October 18th at 9PM, during which users will not be able to access the system.

There is a new user training scheduled for October 27th, a few spots are still available

**Agency Presentations:**  
Nassau County DSS   
***NCDSS Deputy Commissioner Paul Broderick*** spoke about eligibility for temporary housing. The regulations DSS must follow are consistent across NYS and issued by OTDA.   
NCDSS is utilizing technology to expand its efforts and services, including emergency night service. NCDSS is also beginning training for apartment searches and interviews, which will address what prospective tenants should wear, how to determine rent that is realistically within their budget, how to engage a potential landlord, and how much assistance DSS can offer. NCDSS has recently partnered with human service agencies to offer training on completing DSS forms in order to more effectively and efficiently serve people in need.   
  
***Director of Quality Management, Research and Planning for NC Health and Human Services—Doug Russell*** spoke about trends in the clients served through NCDSS. From 08’-11’ there was a yearly increase of 20% in applications and need for assistance. In 2011, the surge in applications leveled off. As of 2016, applications for assistance are down 25% from their peak during the recession. However, there has been an almost doubling in the number of people housed by NCDSS emergency shelter on a given night, from roughly 650 to 1100, over the last two years. There is a significantly greater need to move families out of emergency shelter and into permanent housing.   
  
***Supervisor of Emergency Housing at NCDSS, Jamie Essig****,* spoke about the eligibility process for temporary housing assistance through DSS. Clients must first be deemed eligible for temporary housing assistance before they are placed into an emergency shelter. Jamie stated that she will often get calls from agencies asking to place someone in need “just for one night,” but she is unable to do so if they have not gone through the eligibility process. Jamie also spoke about the need to have a release from clients to discuss DSS cases with staff at case management agencies. DSS cannot share any information if they don’t have a release from the client. Every time a person is denied assistance from DSS, they are given legal notice and have the right to a fair hearing if they’d like to appeal that decision.   
Contact Jamie at 516-227-8458 for more information about emergency housing  
Contact Kathy Simco at 516-227-7579 for more information about eligibility for housing

Providers asked about the possibility of holding DSS housing-related trainings after CoC meetings. The CoC can explore this option for future meetings.   
  
Vinny Rothar from SCDSS stated that they hold quarterly “advocate trainings” about temporary housing assistance, HEAP, SNAP, etc. The next training is on October 27th. Vinny will communicate when upcoming quarterly trainings are and LICH staff will blast the email to providers.   
  
**CoC Priorities**  
Mike Giuffrida spoke about the key issues that the CoC will focus on: Coordinated Entry, Regional Performance, and Housing Capacity. In order to effectively further these priorities, the CoC will look to strengthen partnerships in the community. HUD has placed a strong emphasis on collaboration with diverse stakeholders to form a community-wide response to homelessness. The goal of our CoC is to continue to secure as much funding as possible in order to best serve our region’s homeless folks.

**CoC Committees**Mike reviewed the list of CoC committees and their functions. LICH staff have identified the strain placed on certain staff and agencies with regard to participation in multiple meetings and committees. In an effort to respect everyone’s time, LICH staff will be reaching out to agencies individually to discuss which types of staff/leadership should be on each committee.

**Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project**Mike spoke about the grant he is working on to potentially bring HUD funding for youth housing into the region. This Demonstration Project is a 2-part grant, open only to COC leads. The first part of the submission is due on November 30th. If our region is selected for an award, we must then complete the second part which involves project proposals. The initial grants are awarded for 2 years, after which the youth housing programs are expected to enter in to the normal CoC funding process.   
  
**Provider Feedback Committee**  
Gabrielle Fasano spoke about the current efforts of the committee, which include systems mapping and the creation of an orientation packet about the functions/roles/responsibilities of the CoC. \*\*This committee is the most direct way providers can impact CoC functioning, as they offer feedback and brainstorm solutions to key issues\*\*