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

**February 17th, 2017**

**Amityville Community Resource Center**

**Present:**

M. Saperstein, Federation; L. Szadoh, Federation; D. Sanderson, TSLI/HHB; J. Adelberg; E. Mahoney, SPA; G. Conn, SAIL; L. Russell, SAIL; V. McGinn, Suburban; J. Duckham, LICH; R. Bannerman-Martin, LICH; P. Martin, LICH; K. Trama, HELP USA; A. Sotelo, CDLH; B. DeJong, SCUV/MHAW; L. Rinde, SCMH PAIMI; D. Zaphrine, Catholic Charities; K. Skoblicki, CNG; J. Trotta, CNG; K. Cascio, LICH; A. Rubenstein, Northport VA; V. Chamberlain, FSL; A. Rodgers, HALI; E. Nieves, Nassau Suffolk Law Services; C. Hammonds, WHPDC; C. Webster, LICH; C. Headley, RCH; P. Acevedo, RCH; E. Rock, EOC SSVF; S. Quesada, Nana’s House; K. Ohrtman, HELP Suffolk; D. Stern, Concern; B. Gabellini, SUS; D. James, Bethany House; N. Keller, Retreat; M. Raub, Nassau County; K. Ferrari, FCA; B. Inserro, FREE; D. Trumpy, Momma’s House; B. Lubarda, Beacon House; G. Guarton, LICH; C. Velia, Concern; T. Joyner, CNG; L. Andreoli, Catholic Charities; K. Vatalaro, Brighter Tomorrows; T. Gregoretti, TSCLI; R. Derry, Mercy Haven; S. Brewster, CDLH; R. Seiler, CDCLI; A. D’Amico, MHANC; S. Brazeau, HHM; L. Tloczkowski, LICH

Greta Guarton welcomed all members to the meeting and all those present introduced themselves.

**Announcements/Upcoming Events:**

Greta Guarton informed members that the governance board has open seats. Greta will be sending our nomination forms, with the expectation that representatives will be voted on at March’s meeting.

Greta reminded members that the Candlelight Vigil will be held on April 4th at Farmingdale State College, and the Keys for the Homeless Conference will take place on October 20th at Tuoro Law School.

Greta informed members that there will be a needs assessment public hearing for the town of Islip on February 23rd, 5PM, at Islip Town Hall Rm 223.

**2017 Funding Round Update:**

Greta explained that four programs from two organizations were not renewed. LICH reached out to HUD for technical assistance to work with those organizations re: how to obtain resources to keep programs open, or move participants into other programs. There will be a call with a HUD technical assistance provider next week. Greta asked that representatives from these organizations voice any concerns so that they may be broached during the call.

Greta stated that there have been zero nominations for the ranking committee. As a result, the deadline for submission has been extended. There will be an additional week for submitting voting nominations. There is an expectation that the committee be in place before March’s meeting. Nominees should have a thorough understanding of the CoC and homeless issues. Nominees may be on the governance board. Nominees may not be affiliated with an organization seeking funding this round.

Greta informed members of a webinar that HUD will issue in the coming weeks which will detail current priorities and address regional CoC scoring in FY2016. Greta added that the NOFA is expected to be published in May with an August deadline for submissions. Greta feels that this longer window may be beneficial for planning purposes.

Mike reviewed a handout with members which summarized highlights from the debriefing webinar. Mike stated that the webinar reinforced the importance of aligning with HUD priorities, including adopting a Housing First orientation. Mike explained that there is an emphasis on program performance- no region is safe from funding cuts; all regions should anticipate some loss. HUD is especially concerned with how an agency affects overall regional performance. Mike explained that HUD is also interested in proof of successful implementation of programs. As a result, LICH will be monitoring programs more closely moving forward. HUD is also focused on cost-effectiveness, reallocation, and a greater emphasis on the use of RRH.

**HMIS Updates:**

Wayne Scallon explained that client phone and email contact in HMIS is in the demographic section of the Face Sheet, not on the intake form.

Wayne shared there will be changes coming to AWARDS April 1st. HUD has given vendors specifications for HMIS data quality. This report focuses on components of HMIS which are of great importance. This report will include other realms of system performance measures. Wayne will release more information when available. Wayne urged all those reporting in HMIS to please make contact should there be any questions, especially those related to data quality. Wayne intends to put out a tutorial outlining steps taken during intake, and all scenarios possible in determining chronic homeless status.

As of April 1st those who submit APRs will be reporting to Sage HMIS reporting repository. E-snaps will still be used for project renewal.

Wayne asked all in attendance to please make sure HMIS data agreements are submitted.

**Housing First Updates:**

Greta Guarton explained that Gabrielle Fasano is accepting lease agreements for review, along with other related agency documents. Greta shared that Gabby is an available resource for ensuring that agencies are in compliance with Housing First.

Greta stated that there will be a low barrier training series, at no cost for CoC-funded programs. Agencies are strongly encouraged to register and attend these workshops.

**HIC/PIT Updates:**

Mike Giuffrida explained that data are still being reviewed for accuracy.

**Coordinated Entry Updates:**

Mike shared that there was a meeting in February to discuss how Coordinated Entry will work for PSH providers. There will be meetings March 8th and 22nd to focus on policy and procedures. LICH will provide a draft of the policy created as a starting point, welcoming feedback to make the system more transparent and effective. Mike encouraged attendance at these meetings, and invited intake staff to represent a different perspective. The Coordinated Entry Pilot launches May 1st.

Greta Guarton shared that LICH is getting funds from Nassau County to aid in the process of housing those who are housing ready. LICH will be hiring a Housing Coordinator and a PT Housing Locator with these additional funds.

Greta encouraged programs to expand populations served. Greta explained that in instances where funding does not require restrictions, agencies should consider broadening their population. This will offer more opportunities for referrals, and will expedite the housing process.