**GOW Meeting Minutes**

**In Attendance:** Patricia Kuttz (Salvation Army), Michelle McCoy (LOD), Debra McKnight (ILGR), Jennifer Siano (ILGR), Karen Anderson (VA- Homeless Program), Rae Frank (ILGR), Andrew Dearing (HAWNY), Kexin Ma (HAWNY), Richard Bennett (Genesee County DSS)

1. **Welcome & Introductions**
2. **Legislative Briefing- MARCH 10th 5:30PM-6:30PM**

Last meeting showed an interest in setting up another Legislative Briefing for local elected officials in the GOW region. ILGR will host the briefing on **March 10th from 5:30PM to 6:30PM**. It will focus on Rapid Rehousing, CoC Process, and recent State Policy Regarding homelessness. CoC Partners are encouraged to attend with a guest and to reach out to local elected officials.

Andrew will work with ILGR to make calls to elected officials to invite.

* 1. **Data Brief**

HAWNY will compile known data on homelessness in the GOW as a handout to be presented at the briefing.

* 1. **March GOW Meeting**

The March GOW Training will be replaced by an HMIS Training on March 23 from 10AM-11AM at ILGR.

1. **Point- in Time (update)**

PIT data is still being analyzed and cleaned. Below are some initial findings.

* 1. **Upward Trend:** Past PIT Show an upward trend in homeless reporting. This could be due to increased ability to identify homeless clients.  
     January 2015: 78 people  
     September: 86 people  
     January 2016: 127 people
  2. **County Representation:** 48% in Orleans County; 43% in Genesee County; 9% in Wyoming County.
  3. **24% homeless in the GOW are Veterans**

Discussion and concern about weather this population is actually GOW residents or transient from Buffalo/Rochester for services. Client origin will be considered for future counts.

* 1. **Age**
     1. **Families**  
        58% under 18 years old  
        6% 18-24 years old  
        36% 24+ year old
     2. **Individuals**  
        100% over 24 years old
  2. **Race**
     1. Cases of individual homelessness were mostly white
     2. Cases of family homelessness were equally black and white
  3. **Gender**
     1. Cases of individual homelessness were mostly male
     2. Cases of family homelessness was equally male and female

1. **CoC/ Community Announcements**
   1. **ESG & CoC Roundtables**
      1. Homeless Alliance of WNY is organizing a series of Roundtable Discussions. Kexin Ma from HAWNY gave a summary. The first discussion covered “Performance” addressing barriers to permanent housing, like employment and youth.
      2. It will be important to have representation from the GOW Continuum at the next Roundtable discussing community priorities and funding distribution. Discussion followed about priorities in the GOW, like homeless prevention, transportation, and parole re-entry.
   2. **HMIS – Retraining**
      1. Identified need for refresher training on HMIS, user agreements, and general use of HMIS. Discussion continued about using HMIS to collect at-risk data, which is possible but could be beyond staff abilities for some agencies. Members of the CoC interest in HMIS are encouraged to come or have a staff member who could input data into HMIS attend.
      2. Kexin reviewed policy regarding user agreements and data sharing possibilities with the continuum. [**HMIS documents can be found on the HAWNY website**](http://wnyhomeless.org/hmis/documents/)
      3. **HMIS Training @ ILGR  
         March 23, 10am-11am**
   3. **HAWNY Meeting 3/16 (3PM-4PM)**
2. **Adjournment**

**Upcoming Meetings:**

* **3/10 - Legislative Briefing**  
  ILGR March 10th 5:30pm-6:30pm
* **3/16 - HAWNY Meeting**  
   960 Main Street, Buffalo 3pm-4pm
  + GoToMeeting Option  
    Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/862272365>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States +1 (312) 757-3121

Access Code: 862-272-365

* **3/23 - HMIS Training** ILGR March 23 10am-11am
* (TBD) - Roundtable Discussion- Community Priority and Funding Distribution