



### **HAWNY Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Wednesday, April 20th, 2022

**Time:** 3:03 PM - 3:48 PM

**Location:** GoToMeeting Video Conference

**Attendance (44):** Alissa Venturini, Allison Geddes, Amber Mesita, Carmen Lozada, Chetrece from Friends of the Night People, Christine Slocum, Dan Gordon, Darwin Rosales, Deborah Goldman, Gerrod Bennett, Gigi Grizanti, Jacob Hoffman, Janette Evans, Jarrett Steffen, Jean Bennett, Jenifer Kaminsky, Jeremy Garson, Jessica Starks, Jill Mattson, John McMahon, Josh Curry-Bascome, Joshua Zicarelli, Juliann Kostoff, Karen Rybicki, Kelsey Lignos, Kexin Ma, Kimberly Tolley, Kristen Brenon, Leah Brown, Maggie Hersee, Mary Hanson, Meg Honan, Michelle Laraby, Nadia Pizarro, Nate Pyzikiewicz, Nicholas Calandra, Nicole Agudelo, Patricia Rejewski, Ryan Trubits, Sue Lumadue, Susie Fox, Teddy McDuffie, Tracy Schmidt, Vicky Garcia.

#### **1. Introductions**

#### **2. RAC Waiting List Opening- Guest speaker John McMahon**

- The RAC Section 8 voucher program is now open for applications. The RAC voucher program is available for anyone, but there is a preference for people in Erie County;
- John McMahon gave instructions for how people can help their clients apply right through the RAC website.
- Application period is open until May 6th, 6,600 vouchers applications have been received so far and they are anticipating to get around 8,000.

#### **3. Motivational Interviewing Training Sharing**

- HAWNY provided a brief recap of the Motivational Interviewing Training that was completed, with people who attended the training sharing their experiences.

#### **4. Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) Update**

- There have been 2,269 applications received so far, and 217 applicants selected;
- RAC may make one more selection of 15-20 people, while Belmont may make two more selections of 30-40 people;
- State wide EHV--Niagara and GOW total received 67 vouchers with 13 housed so far;
- Heart Love and soul will be contracting with HAWNY to provide help with applicants that are selected for their documentation period as well as post-move services.

#### **5. ESG CV extension**

- HUD has extended the ESG CV deadline for another year, and it applies to all of the state CV grants

- Any program needs to get to at least 50% of their spending by this June.

#### **6. Advocacy update**

- HAWNY announced a Congressional advocacy push by the National Alliance to End Homelessness that involves supporting the recently proposed increase to the HUD funding that includes an 11% boost to homeless assistance grants and the expansion of rental vouchers to 200,000 more households;
- The National Alliance is encouraging providers to call their Representative and both Senators on that day to support increased funding for homelessness and housing.

#### **7. Covid-19 Update**

- Continued mask mandate in facilities such as public transport in NYS and masks are also still required in health care facilities, homeless shelters, and correctional facilities
- Some metro area case spikes, but hospitalization rates have remained fairly consistent
- Vaccination rates locally in Erie county up from 76.1 to 76.3, and similar rates of changes have been found in the surrounding counties

#### **8. HAWNY Updates**

- Extended deadline for the RFP for May 6th, 2022
- Job posting tab changes to the website, and announcement that open positions are still available for applications.

#### **9. Adjournment**