**GOW Meeting Minutes  
 Wednesday, April 27, 2016, 10 AM   
Independent Living in Genesee County, 113 Main Street, Suite 5, Batavia, NY 14020**

**In Attendance:** Patricia Kurtz (Salvation Army), Michelle McCoy (LOD), Debra McKnight (ILGR), Jennifer Siano (ILGR), Karen Anderson (VA- Homeless Program), Rae Frank (ILGR), Andrew Dearing (HAWNY), Richard Bennett (Genesee County DSS), David Rumsey (Wyoming DSS), Cheryl Thompson (Pathstone Visions), Connie Sanderson (Pathstone), Michael Weiss (WCCA), Lydia Mosgeller (Fidelis Care),

1. **Welcome & Introductions**

The GOW group was provided with Pocket Guides to community resources in Gesesee, Orleans, and Wyoming Counties. Unfortunately, due to the amount of service, the print was deemed too hard to read. A solution is to provide GOW partners with the electronic .pdf and print in a larger brochure format.

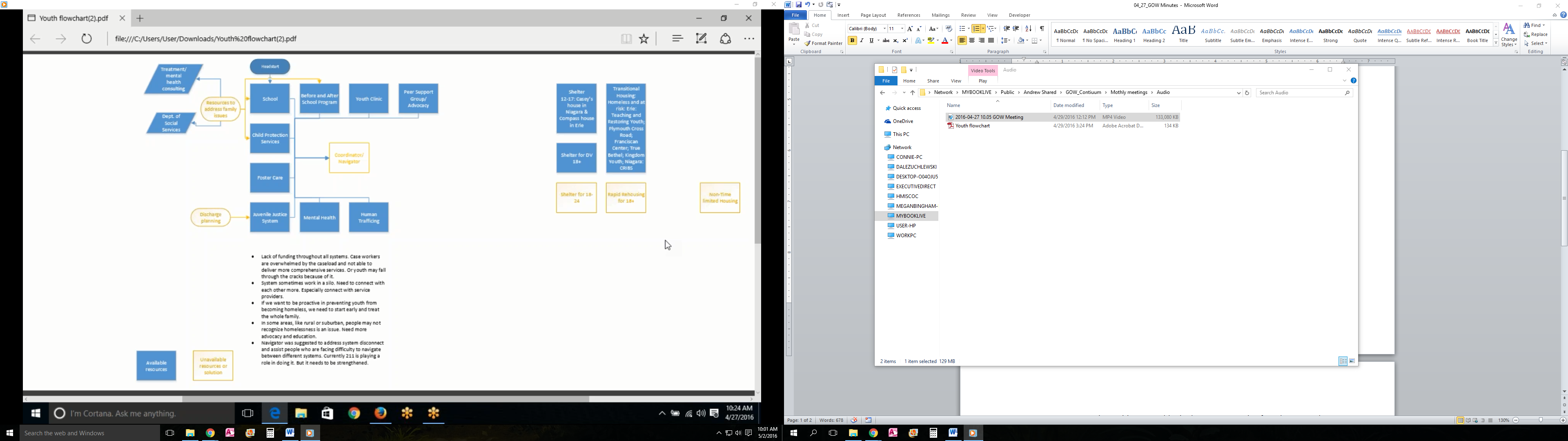
1. **East Hill Foundation Grant**

HAWNY would like to notify partners in the GOW of a funding opportunity in the WNY area. The East Hill Foundation, a local foundation, invites local 501(c)(3) to apply for this grant worth up to $30,000. It is encouraged nonprofits apply with projects that serve basic human needs like food and shelter. In general, Foundation support is not provided for: Ongoing operating expenses, Endowment, Technology, Private education, Scholarships, Salaries, Travel expenses, Security deposits, or rent assistance.

* Ways to make a strong application could involve showing support of HAWNY and the regional CoC. Another option would be to provide a match to the funding award.
* Rae Frank suggests utilizing this grant to support transportation options in the GOW. Andrew suggests looking at Heart and Hands as a good resource for transportation option based on volunteers. https://hnhcares.org/
* Salvation Army in Lockport and Buffalo has accessed this grant for a number of years and Major Patricia expressed interest in the grant to support Salvation Army’s emergency shelter placement to hotel/motels/rooming houses.
* For more information, contact Michele Schmidt 716-204-0204 ext.201 [mschmidt@easthillfdn.org](mailto:mschmidt@easthillfdn.org)
* A Letter of intent is due May 31st and agencies can apply on the Foundation website.

1. **CoC Activity Updates**
   1. **Youth Task Force (next meeting 5/20)**

HAWNY formed this task force as a responseHUD maybe issuing a RFP for a youth demonstration project, which is a $33 million grant and it is intend to fund 10 communities nationwide. It is a great chance for our community to develop a comprehensive plan. We will use this plan to possibly issue RFP to respond to this $33 million grant and to explore other funding in the future. More information about the upcoming HUD Youth Demonstration Grants: https://www.hudexchange.info/news/join-hud-in-a-discussion-of-how-to-shape-33-million-in-youth-demonstration-grants/



* Major Patricia suggested having larger representation from the GOW and suggested Hillside Foster Care or the Foster Care system
* Rae suggested reaching out to Sue Gagne from Department of Mental Health because ILGR has referred homeless youth to her in the past.
* Getting School Social Workers involved with the conversation is also a good idea.
* Host Homes models were introduced as a popular housing model for homerless and runaway youth in rural areas. It runs much like a Foster Home with an emphasis on family reunification. Volunteering families receive a weekly stipend. For more information on Host Homes, check out this webinar hosted by NAEHCY: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=meXh9FtLvjM>
* The next Youth Task Force meeting will be Friday May 20th at the HAWNY office (960 main, Buffalo) from 1pm-2pm
  1. **CoC Roundtables**
     1. HAWNY has been hosting Community Roundtable discussion to improve performance. The most recent roundtable features “Community Priority and Geographic Funding Distribution”.
     2. There was a great turnout throughout the CoC with representatives from ILGR, Salvation Army, and Pathstone from the GOW.
     3. Takeaways from this meeting revealed that the entire CoC wants to prioritize funding in the GOW in order to protect participation. Pathstone is currently the only CoC funded program in the GOW.
     4. A summary of this meeting can be found Here: <http://wnyhomeless.org/wp-content/uploads/3.31communitypriorities.docx>
     5. HAWNY is now releasing quarterly reports of CoC funded program performance.
     6. We are also in the process of setting up a Coordinated Entry System with Pathstone, as part of a HUD requirement. It is a tool to prioritize clients for specific housing programs based on need and vulnerability. The tool been utilized include the VI-SPDAT, and single assessment. More information about coordinated entry and tools can be found here: <http://wnyhomeless.org/continuum-of-care/coordinated-assessment/>
     7. Connie brought up HUD priority moving away from Transitional Housing and to consider transforming this program into a HUD priority, such are Rapid Rehousing or Permanent Supportive Housing. The only issue with becoming a PSS is that it would have to serve strictly chronically homeless.
     8. Andrew will research project that have made a shift from transitional to a HUD favored project.
     9. The next roundtable will be on May 18th 1:30PM-3PM at the HAWNY office 960 Main St. Buffalo, NY and will focus on employment. David Rumsey is on GLOW workforce development board in Wyoming and is asked to spread the work once there is a formal invitation.
  2. **Healthcare & Housing (H2) Conference Recap**
     1. Dale and Andrew recently attended a HUD sponsored conference in Syracuse, NY about the benefits of collaborating with healthcare and housing providers. There will be a NYS plan outlining many of the strategies to increase participation across the state resulting from this conference.
     2. Many common collaborations examined include; hospital discharge planning, prison/parole discharge planning, Medicaid Redesign Team Reform, DSRIP
     3. Rae said that the representative in this area is Trish Williams from Finger Lakes Performing Provider System (FLPPS). Rae will reach out to FLPPS to get a speaker at our next meeting.
     4. FLPPS has a transitional housing element reform that could align with the CoC mission to serve homeless clients.

1. **10 Year Plan Discussion**

Partners in the GOW were emailed a DRAFT copy of the update to the 10 year Plan to end Homelessness. A main focus of the update is to profile and describe the merged communities to the CoC (Niagara, Orleans, Genesee, and Wyoming).

* Partners in the GOW should review sections of the plan relevant to their community and respond to Andrew [dearing@wnyhomeless.org](mailto:dearing@wnyhomeless.org) with comments, questions, edits, and concerns by **Friday May 13th.**

1. **Adjournment**
   1. **HAWNY meeting May 18th 3PM to 4PM**
   2. **Next GOW Meeting May 25th 10AM-11AM**