

Homeless Alliance Meeting

June 18, 2014

- 1) Introductions
- 2) Peter Lane, Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority
- 3) Mike Smith, Mission Sweet Program
- 4) CoC Local Application Announcement
- 5) Community Announcements
- 6) Adjournment

Peter Lane, Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority

- Mr. Lane brought a letter sent to all applicants on the BMHA wait list describing a new preference structure. There is also an information sheet which details the documentation requirements.
- He shared that there are 3500 people on the waitlist. They make 40-60 new placements a month.
- The wait list is sorted by preferences. Preferences refer to a preference for a particular client and a preference by the client for a particular size unit and particular location.
 - See attached information sheet
 - Only one categorical preference can apply to each client. This is to keep the preference system from becoming overly burdensome to the BMHA staff, given documentation requirements
 - Several people asked about the time to go through the waitlist, and how do clients find out how long it would take. Mr. Lane did not answer these questions directly; instead, he said that it depends on the composition of the waitlist, and where one falls on it. If a new person applies to the waitlist with a higher preference than someone already on it, the person already on it is bumped down.
- Mr. Lane came explicitly to discuss the transitional housing preference, which he said was “erroneously called the homeless preference”
 - This is a 1 point preference for homeless individuals who are coming out of a transitional housing program and receiving follow-up case management.
 - [This is in contrast to housing via a Housing First or Rapid Rehousing model, where one goes from street or shelter directly into housing]
 - Mr. Lane said that they have found greater housing stability outcomes for homeless individuals who have graduated from transitional housing and continue to receive services.
 - He said that the BMHA used to be required to provide housing to the homeless by HUD; however they were unable to meet the demand and he felt that the arrangement did not set clients up “for success”
 - Permanent Supportive Housing recipients are eligible for this preference as long as they continue to receive case management
 - Graduation from transitional housing is determined by the agency providing transitional housing (in response to a question from a domestic violence shelter provider, who noted that some families stabilize prior to the end of their tenure in the program)

- Two preferences are seldom used: the families displaced by government action, such property condemnation or eminent domain seizure (2 points) and BMHA employees (1 point).
- Described the working family preference as a concession to HUD housing priorities
 - Said that HUD wants BMHA to operate like a business, yet solve social problems
- Elderly is defined as 62 years and older, though if elderly housing runs through their waitlist, BMHA keeps a list of “near-elderly” to ensure that vacancies are filled.
- Discussion about blocks of housing that go offline
 - Mr. Lane said that the housing going offline was outside of the purview of his role at BMHA
 - He said that generally, if a unit is pulled offline, it is because it is in need of rehabilitation
- AD Price housing should be available in October 2014

Mike Smith, Buffalo City Mission, on the Mission Sweep Program

- <http://www.missionsweep.com>
- This is a pilot, for-profit service, although the pricing is set to essentially break even (this is done as a service to the WNY community)
 - Purpose is to get City Mission program participants active in the community, income, and to teach them some of the logistics of reporting taxes, etc.
 - Also to assist the community by providing low-cost services
- \$100 an hour, \$200 minimum
 - All jobs include two workers (City Mission program participants), a supervisor, and a truck
 - Most frequent jobs include:
 - Assist cleaning out residential estates
 - Moving the elderly into retirement homes
 - Light packing and moving
 - Basic Yard and Landscape Cleanup
 - Small household repairs
 - They are most frequently an inexpensive moving service
 - They have done jobs from Hamburg to Lockport
- They are insured
- They will clean out residential estates, and take unwanted items as in-kind donations (will provide receipt) to the Mission
- The residents who are doing the work are going to be graduates of the Mission’s program, or they are people who have been affiliated with the Mission for a long period of time.

Kexin Ma, Homeless Alliance Staff, on the Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Local Applications

- Application was released on the HAWNY website Friday, June 13, 2014
- Applications are due at 4:30PM on July 18, 2014
- We need more rapid rehousing project applications
- City of Buffalo will also have a request for proposals for rapid rehousing, but the timeline they had to follow made collaboration impossible

- As Connie Sanderson is no longer part of the Homeless Alliance (having pursued a great opportunity in Rochester), Kexin is now your CoC contact person.

Community Announcements

- HAWNY is happy to post Alliance member's events on our calendar and social media accounts. Please send them to slocum@wnyhomeless.org (Christine Slocum is managing the HAWNY website)
- Theresa DeLuca will be leaving the Homeless Alliance at the end of the month, as Hands Across Buffalo, which was a great success, is completed
 - She is a highly organized multi-tasker. We wish we could keep her. If you could use an efficient person with media experience, you'd be well-served to bring her on your team.
- Vacant Board position at HAWNY. Please submit a letter of interest to Dale Zuchlewski.
- [Saving Grace Ministries](#) finished construction on eight new one bedroom units
 - \$499 per month plus utilities
 - 1 is already filled, 7 are available
 - 4 are reserved for veterans
 - On Bailey Avenue between Walden Avenue and Rohe Avenue
- [Friends of the Night People](#) is having their [Party for the People](#) fundraiser
 - July 15, 2014 at 5:30
 - [Buffalo Ironworks](#)
 - \$20 per ticket
- [Project Homeless Connect](#)
 - October 21, 2014 from 10AM to 4PM
 - Have 90 tables, only 20 people signed up. Please sign up with Megan mbingham@friendsofnightpeople.com
 - Might be able to put all of the medical services upstairs this year
 - All clients receive personal care items
 - Needed: donations of "everything," in particular shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrush
 - Please bring these items to Friends of Night People
 - FONP wants to buy underwear and socks for everyone, given that winter is approaching in October
 - Only 10 tickets left in the raffle for the week at Sherston, Ontario, \$10 each
- [Friends of the Night People](#) opened a food pantry serving the West Side of Buffalo
 - 394 Hudson Street
 - Serving 14201, 14213, 14222 zip codes
 - It is client choice, so akin to grocery shopping
 - Affiliated with the Western New York Food Bank
 - Clients need a photo ID, proof of residency, proof of income, and ID for all family members
 - First-time clients do not need all of these documents on their first visit
 - There is a caseworker available for folks who need help acquiring these documents