

Homeless Alliance Meeting
August 17, 2016

Introductions

CoC By-law amendments

- To be consistent with HUD expectations on the application propose the following amendments:
 - Clarifying HAWNY role as HMIS lead, in appointing committees, sub committees, and task forces, and HAWNY role in CoC Consolidated Application—all things HAWNY is currently doing
 - Listing of committees and subcommittees that aren't necessarily part of HAWNY but that are in Erie County
- Sister Mary Augusta motions to approve, Karen Rybicki seconds the motion to approve, all are in favor

Guest Speaker, Mike Guildford from Evergreen Health Services, 716-847-7315

- Connect + program through Evergreen Health Services
- Target audience: men and women who are HIV positive and not engaged in counseling for mental health issues and/or drug treatment counseling, 18+
- Targeting those who are resistant to accessing services or gaining support
- Program is addressing stigma and helping people understand what counseling is about using peer and harm reduction model, includes outreach and a behavioral health educator
- Takes people as they are—homeless, substance use issues, no barriers but some criteria: HIV positive, must be NYS resident, and they don't have to have insurance—Evergreen can work with them

CoC Funding

- Final ranking of CoC programs on website - <http://wnyhomeless.org/>
 - Tier 1 programs are relatively safe, Tier 2 projects will need to compete nationally, programs outside of ARD at more risk
- HUD guidelines have led us to ensure all providers are housing first, reallocate TH except for youth
- Will show application to be submitted next month, may ask providers for guidance on narrative
- Providers need to look at individual performance numbers and the system performance measures, they are directly related
 - HUD funding competition will only get more difficult as time goes on, becoming increasingly reliant on performance and we must remain competitive to keep funds
- Homeless Alliance HUD Planning funds
 - Contracting with Belmont Housing to support RRH and PSH and landlord relationships, to help identify more landlords and engage those housing opportunities already existing
 - Contracting with Veterans One Stop to coordinate Veterans Services
 - Hired Mary Fran Kosinski to coordinate services in Niagara County; Andrew Dearing hired last year to coordinate Genesee, Orleans and Wyoming

Approval of Ten Year Plan to End homeless by HAWNY

- Sukie and Andrew driving force behind the report: updated previous TYP after talking with providers, report draft has been on HAWNY website for a few months soliciting comments

- TYP has been on website for a few months soliciting comments but it is still a living document, changes can be made later on as well
- Motion to approve from Leslie Bennett, Marc Burns seconds the motion, all are in favor

Coordinated Entry

- Looking at Point in Time count numbers for all homeless persons and those who are chronically homeless—numbers for chronically homeless are decreasing and cut in half in the past year
- We are targeting people who are most in need and it's working, chronic homelessness is in ending phases, outreach meeting every 2 weeks and coordinating with Erie Co. Dept. of Mental Health
- Changes to priority in coordinated entry in written standards, approval to follow presentation
- Things learned at NAEH conference in Washington, D.C.:
 - Communities are finishing the job ending veteran and chronically homelessness
 - Coordinated entry and housing first are key to ending homelessness
 - HAWNY will monitor programs going forward to make sure programs are in compliance or can make corrections in time
 - Key idea from NAEH: "Homelessness should be rare, brief, and non-recurring"
- Reduce first time homeless population and overall homeless population
 - Change system perspective towards shelter—put people into housing
 - Focus on prevention and diversion, serving the hardest to serve
 - Homeward D.C. plan: cut shelter bed from 900-200 beds in 10 years, in the meantime gaining commitment from community to increase housing
- System performance available on website
- CoC Inclusive structure: will continue to have roundtable discussions, will create subcommittees and workgroups to address issues

Approval of revised written standard

- Order of priority for PSH changing to align with community process and HUD standards, dedicating Matt Urban as coordinated entry for PSH lead
 - First priority to chronically homeless individuals or families, when there are no CH left on the list: those that have been homeless at least 12 months with high vulnerability index (VI), then those who have been homeless more than 6 months with highest VI, then those coming from places not meant for human habitation, safe haven, or emergency shelters or have a high vulnerability score, and lastly, those with a disability coming from transitional housing
- Change in performance outcome benchmarks:
 - RRH measurements from HUD changed: less than 30 days from program entry to move, 15% or less recidivism
 - PSH: less than 90 days to house clients, 95% occupancy rate
- Motion to approve from Sister Mary Augusta, Leslie Bennett seconds the motion to approve, all are in favor

Community Announcements

- Party for the People fundraiser for Friends of Night People, Tuesday September 20th 6pm at Riverworks
- UB EOC Open House next Wednesday, August 24 from 10am-4pm

Ended at 4:05PM