HAWNY Member Meeting

March 22, 2018

Salvation Army building, 960 Main st

Community Room downstairs

Meeting called to order 3:07pm

**Introductions**

Dale Z was absent (in Florida)

Chris Syracuse led the meeting. His final as board chair. Next board chair will be Ken Gholston.

**HAWNY: New Policy for Letters of Support**

Kexin spoke

A new policy was approved by board so doesn’t need to be voted on by membership. New policy is attached below.

Dale wanted to create requirements for letters of support because HAWNY was receiving so many of them we needed a process so that we can respond in a timely manner.

New requirements include 21 days needed, and a meeting with Dale to explain projects. Also, Housing First and projects that embrace Coordinated Entry are preferred.

**CoC Updates on NOFA**

Kexin spoke

Hoping the NOFA comes out in May, which will hopefully mean registration comes about before March. We need the registration to see what kinds of projects we can fund (RRH, TH, PSH, CE…)

Contact us to talk about what you are thinking of applying for so we can start thinking about it and working with you

**Coordinated Entry**

Kexin spoke on this

We have a CE Oversight Committee. We are thinking about a possible sub-committee for tough cases to be discussed -- referrals, transfers, and discharge.

The board approved a revision in priority last month. Not discussed in detail because only applies to some providers.

Also, for transfers and discharge, the CE Oversight Committee will be drafting a form people can use to explain why clients are transferred or discharged so that our CoC can coordinate our resources to best help that client.

**Update on HeadStart CAO**

**Guest speaker -- Ceric Cooper from CAO Head Start program**

Ariel spoke first, and explained that HAWNY is working with Head Start to draft an MOU (memorandum of understanding) so HAWNY case managers can refer clients to HeadStart directly.

Because HeadStart is supposed to prioritize families in need and homeless kids, our clients will automatically be accepted into the program and there is no cost to the family.

HS provides care for kids from perinatal (pregnancy) through age 5.

Day care and services for homeless parents include in-home care when needed.

Cedric answered questions from CoC members.

Is there transportation provided? No, but they will work with the families to make sure day care is accessible.

HeadStart is a big program. 2700 families in Erie/Niagara county are served. There are about 10 openings right now.

The program runs M-F, 8:30am-4pm. They can open a half hour earlier and later for working parents.

More details can be found by asking HAWNY for materials. Contact Ariel at peters@wnyhomeless.org

Head Start program’s goal is a.) kindergarten readiness and b.) family self-sufficiency -- families should be more able to be self-sufficient at the end of the program.

**Announcements**

Nadia Pizarro: The Coalition has a new board chair, Jean from RSI. Nadia won’t be the chair of the board for the Coalition anymore.

Chris Syracuse: LOD McKinley Square is looking for a new building to house up to 80 clients. (PSH) They have a 3 year plan to look for more affordable home divided into 2 locations.

Ariel Peters: Please get your SOAR applications input into OAT before the end of May if you have applications.

Sierra Johnston: Compass House is having a volunteer appreciation party on April 28 1-4pm at their resource center.

Adjournment at approximately 3:45

Next meeting is 4/11/18 at 3pm at the Salvation Army building, 960 Main St.