



HAWNY Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, February 16, 2022

Time: 3:02 PM - 3:41 PM

Location: GoToMeeting Video Conference

Attendance (49): Jarrett Steffen, Kexin Ma, Alissa Venturini, Allison Geddes, Ariel Peters, Byron McKinney, Catilin Bauer, Christine Slocum, Dan Gordon, Dannise Elie, Darwin Rosales, Desiree Sullivan, Friends of the Night People, Gigi Grizanti, Gordon Williams, Harvest House, Jacob Hoffman, Jean Bennett, Jenifer Kaminsky, Jeremy Garson, Jessica Wright, Jill Mattson, Jody Tasson, Joshua Ziccarelli, Joyelle Tedeschi, Kathleen Leonard, Kimberly Tolley, Leah Brown, Major Santiago, Marnee Hales, Mary Hanson, Matt Urban PSH staff, Maureen Millane, Meg Honan, Nate Pyzikiewicz, Nicole Agudelo, Pat Gilleck, Patricia Rejewski, Robert Goods, Rachel Straker, Robyn Krueger, Ryan Trubits, Sara Gartland Sue Lumadue, Susan Santiago, Tabitha Williams, Terry King, Trace Gillis, Will Marcy

1. Introductions

2. Point-In-Time (PIT) Count update

- Happened on January 26, 2022
- Thank the volunteers for all of their hard work in orchestrating the PIT count
- In the process of inputting the surveys into HMIS, and putting together a PIT debriefing for feedback moving forward
- Remind providers to input their HMIS data and make sure that it is updated to provide accurate feedback.

4. Emergency Housing Voucher update

- For Erie County EHV:
 - 1267 total applications, 182 Selected. 99 from Belmont, 83 from RAC
 - Portal is still open for online applications, however vouchers are very limited
- State EHV (Niagara, Genesee, Orleans and Wyoming):
 - 157 people referred from COC 508, 39 vouchers granted, 22 waitlist, 66 need verification needed and 19 eligible
 - CoC is 7th place In total, 56 percent of referrals have received a voucher statewide
 - Each tenant is eligible for \$1000 in funds to find housing or assist in moving which can be used for moving costs, furniture, u haul costs, pots and pans, etc.

5. Upcoming Trainings

- HAWNY announced upcoming DV Training: February 24th, 9am-11am;
 - The purpose of the training is to address safety, best practices and planning protocols in serving survivors of domestic violence

- Second training is Motivational Interviewing Training across six dates in March and April;
 - Purpose of this training is to provide participants with the knowledge and skills needed in order to use Motivational Interviewing (MI) techniques with their clients in order to successfully engage clients' own motivations for making important life changes and decisions

6. COVID Update

- Mask mandate lifted on February 9th for businesses across the state due to lower infection rates
- 2.5% infection rate in NYS, WNY 71.6 at least one vaccine, up from 70.6
- State at 80.7 percent vaccination rates for at least one vaccine
- Review of the CDC guidelines for health service providers, close contact quarantine for at least 10 days regardless of vaccine status.

7. Community Announcements

- Sue Lumadue from the Office of Contract Administration for the City of Buffalo announced an upcoming consultation meeting on February 22nd at 12pm. The purpose of the meeting is to find gaps in housing services that the home ARP dollars can be used to fill. Currently there is 12.3 millions dollars that can be used for creating new housing, finding existing housing for individuals or families that are experiencing homelessness and they want to get feedback from providers on how best to use that funding.
- Update on ERAP- Due to a lack of available federal funding, Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) applications submitted after September 21, 2021 are not currently able to be paid for most residents in New York State. Anyone Buffalo resident with an ERAP application can withdraw the application and can apply for STAND UP funding instead.
- Tabitha Williams from Matt Urban announced that Tamika Dillard is their new Rapid Rehousing employee.
- HAWNY asked the members for any feedback about how the meetings should operate moving forward and what the members find valuable.
- Christine Slocum, the Housing coordinator for the Erie County Department of Mental Health discussed what providers can do when coming across mental health issues for individuals that are looking for housing.

8. Adjournment