



HAWNY Monthly Meeting Minutes

Meeting Information

Date: Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Time: 3:03 PM - 3:49 PM

Location: Zoom Video Conference

Attendance (73): Kexin Ma, Abbas Cali, Alicia, Alissa Steele, Alissa Venturini, Agneta Keppel, Bailey Norris, Bianca Logan, Brianna Kirk, Caitlyn Allen, Cassia Gilvin, Christine Slocum, Dan Gordon, Darwin Rosales, Deanna Atkin, Deborah Goldman, Diane Gayles Livingston, Donell Gibson, Gigi Grizanti, Gina Schelemanow, Gordon Williams, Hans Schiffert, Jean Bennett, Jessica Leah Starks, Jody Tassone, Joshua Curry-Bascome, Joshua Ziccarelli, Julia Rozler, Julie Butkowski, Katey Soellers, Katrina Croppo, Kim Baughan, Kim Hubert, Kristin Rivera, Laura Pennington, Ellen Wood, Luanne Firestone, Margaret Varga, Maria Garzon, Nancy Langer, Natalia Lopuchowycz, Nate Pyzikiewicz, Caitlin Bauer, Nicole Jordan, Paul Gavin, Rae Frank, Rebecca Hoak, Rob Williams, Robyn Krueger, Ryan Trubits, Sara Gartland, Sara Pisa, Sasha Ridgers, Shannon Boswell, Stacey Stoll, Susan Muscato, Stephanie Mejia, Susan Santiago, Susie Fox, Teddy McDuffie, Terry King, Thanh Nguyen, Tracy Schimdt, Trudy, Will Marcy, Phone 1, Phone 2, Phone 3, Phone 4, Jarrett Steffen, Jacob Hoffman, Clinton Parker, Ashley Matrassi

1. Introductions

- HAWNY Introduction of new Niagara County Coordinator Bailey Norris

2. CoC Updates

Local Application Update

- HAWNY announces the new NOFO funding guide is now posted on the website at:
<https://wnyhomeless.org/continuum-of-care/coc-funding-competition/>
- May 19th is the deadline for performance data correction for any renewal projects
- HUD NOFO release and HAWNY release local new project application request for proposal (RFP) project for early July

3. 2023 Point-In-Time Count Results and Discussion

- 2023 PIT numbers show that the amount of individuals experiencing homelessness on the night of the PIT count were significantly higher than past years, with 1,426 total the night of the PIT count.
- Chronic homeless totals have been trending upwards for the past 3 years which means people are experiencing homelessness for a longer period of time and aging into the chronic homelessness
- Length of Stay (LOS) in shelters is longer than previously recorded and has been trending up for the past few years
- Large jump in first time homeless clients the last year, from an average of around 3500 to 4512
- PIT data shows a rather large increase of households, up almost 50% from last year
- These PIT numbers and increased homeless numbers seem to correlate with the end of the eviction moratorium that was put in place during COVID that ended in January 2022, affordable housing opportunities and housing stock remaining static
- HAWNY solicited feedback from attendees as to some of the potential causes for the rising numbers and answers included:
 - A decrease in affordable housing options;
 - Turnover of landlords which is causing more landlords to try to recoup their investment quicker, increasing prices of rentals;
 - Lack of PSH for families;
 - Funding not increasing enough to pay staff adequately which is causing too much staff turnover;
 - Local laws being slowed or manipulated by local public officials
 - Lack of advocacy for public policy changes to help combat homelessness

4. Community Announcements

- Margaret Varga from Endeavor announces that they have opened a crisis center on Williams Street that has peer counselors, nurses and other staff to help any individuals that are in crisis. Current hours are Monday 9-5 but they will be looking to add more staff and have more hours available. Will be sending out a flier shortly with more information.
- HAWNY announces that for GOW and Niagara there is additional EHV available, and that so far 52 people have been housed 52 through Heart, Love and Soul and WILNY by use of this voucher
- ECDMH is hosting a Behavioral Health and Human Services career fair on June 7th.

5. Adjournment

