



HAWNY Monthly Meeting Minutes

Meeting Information

Date: Wednesday October 19th, 2023

Time: 2:30 PM - 3:54 PM

Location: Julia Boyer Reinstein Library

Attendance (53): Sarita Sanders, Sarah Poczwiński, Christine Slocum, John Banas Jr, Gaya Amirthavasari, Charon L Toliver, Tracy Schmidt, Stacy Arlain, Morgan Ashton, Kristin Tanner, Sasha Rodgers, Rob William, Jill Mattson, Caitlin Bauer, Mary Ieraci, Kristen Rivera, Susan Santiago, Anna Michotek, Ebony James, Stephanie Mejia, Dan Stegeman, Joe Heary, Carolyn Brunlee, Holly Rutkowski, Nick Arlain, Rene Tabone, Kaylie Kress, Christine Waters, Rachel Teber, Tyler Morgan, Maria Garzon, Donnell Gibson, Gigi Grizani Cooke, Marek Parker, Sara Gartland, Julie Butkowski, Stephanie Saunders, Sara Pisa, Celina Bryan, Karina Treleaven, Kexin Ma, Ashley Matrassi, Dan Gordon, Nate Pyzikiewicz, Ryan Trubits, Bailey Norris, Cassiah Gilvin, Alissa Steele, Katey Soellers, Katrina Cropo, Hailey Diagostino, Sara Carlson, Jarrett Steffen

1. Ice Breaker

2. Introduction

- Everyone in attendance stood up and introduced themselves by what type of program or organization they were representing.

3. Get to know HAWNY Staff

- HAWNY staff introduced themselves individually and shared what their current role within the organization and what projects they are currently working on.

4. CoC Updates

- GOW
 - Rae Frank of Independent living discussed the history and current situation in the GOW counties.
 - In 2017 the GOW joined the CoC, and Independent Living has worked closely with Western New York Independent Living, which is a team of around 200.

- Independent living currently has 2 housing specialist along with 2 independent living specialists which help with filling out applications and getting public benefits.
 - The United way is opening a warming center in the GOW, in Orleans county with support of the Department of Social Services (DSS) which asked for increased allotment that will help pay to staff the warming center.
 - Current challenge that the GOW are facing is that there is little to no affordable housing options and there is a great push back for increased affordable housing to be built within the GOW communities.
- Niagara
 - HAWNY's Niagara County CoC Coordinator Bailey Norris announced the following items as the current focus in Niagara County:
 - Making NFTA transportation more accessible to the homeless and individuals in rural settings who need access to shelter countywide.
 - Raising awareness about Access Points scattered across Niagara County, including churches, food pantries, and outreach teams in areas where ESG and CoC funding is not available.
 - Developing relationships with community health centers who can apply for funding with HCH, Healthcare for Homeless.
 - Strengthening connections with the police department to support agencies in their work.
 - Expanding PSH and DV bonus programming.
- Veteran
 - HAWNY announced that the contract with Veterans One-stop that has been in existence for 5 years has ended. HAWNY will coordinate with Veterans Affairs and other veterans services to make the by name list. Any providers with clients that are Veterans are encouraged to link them with those veteran services for resources.
- Point In Time (Please see a PIT FAQ at the bottom of this document)
 - HAWNY reminds everyone about the upcoming Point in Time Count (PIT) on the night of January 24th, and day of January 25th, 2024.
 - HAWNY is seeking volunteers to participate in the PIT along with members of the community that would like to be PIT team leads. Sign up sheet for PIT lead roles is available in the back or individuals can contact HAWNY staff.
- Upcoming Focus group and Renewal scoring incentive for 2024 NOFO

- 2024 CoC application will include 5 points for participating in training and 5 points for recruiting participants to participate in HAWNY hosted focus groups/committees and sub-committee meetings.
- HAWNY announces an upcoming focus group for people with lived experience in November, with the topic being safety in the housing search process. More information will be coming soon. These types of focus groups will be quarterly moving forward with potentially even more based on interest and topics that need to be discussed.

5. Community Announcements

- HAWNY Luncheon - Fri, Dec 8, 2023 at Classics V
 - Tickets Available at <https://2023hawnyluncheon.eventbrite.com/>
 - Award Nominations Form:
 - People's Choice Award Nomination Form:
 - Domestic Violence Prevention Trainings presented by Pinnacle Community Services:
 - Domestic Violence 101, Friday, October 27, 2023, 1:00 PM - 2:15 PM
 - Safety Planning 101, November 15, 2023, 10:00 AM - 11:15 AM
- Plymouth Crossroads announced their fundraising comedy show at The Saturn Club from 7-9pm this Sunday, October 22, 2023. Tickets are \$40 dollars which includes appetizers and non-alcoholic beverages. Purchase tickets at www.plymouthcrossroads.org.
- HAWNY announces the submission of a proposal in partnership with Partnership for the Public Good (PPG) for a landlord mitigation fund for the state, to help combat the increase in rental prices.
- Haven House announces that on Wednesday October 25th, to commemorate October being Domestic Violence awareness month, they are having their Shine the Light event. Details at: <https://cfsbny.org/dvam/>
- Stephanie Mejia from Evergreen announces that Lead prevention week is coming up, and people can get more details and information on the website: <https://www.getaheadoflead.org/>
- Stephanie also announced that there is a meeting tomorrow for leaders of color to discuss fundraising and putting together winter kits for the upcoming cold season. They are looking for supplies or donations to help put these together. Reach out to her for any more information or if you are willing to help in any way.
- Pinnacle 3d staff announces that on Friday, October 27th they are having a trunk or treat event at 21 Church Street, Lockport NY from 3-6 pm. If you want to be involved or need any more information, please call pinnacle at 716-285-6984.
- WNY Veterans Housing Coalition Inc. announces the grand opening on their new building, which is happening on November 9th, 2023.

- Outreach announced that in partnership with UB heals, they are looking for another shelter or organization that would want the UB heals team to visit from 8-10pm to do basic medical care and screenings.

6. Adjournment

Point In Time (PIT) Count FAQ

GENERAL

1. What is the Point In Time count?

The Point-in-Time (PIT) count is a count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. HUD requires that Continuums of Care conduct an annual count of people experiencing homelessness who are sheltered in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and Safe Havens on a single night. Continuums of Care also must conduct a count of unsheltered people experiencing homelessness. Each count is planned, coordinated, and carried out locally.

2. What is the purpose of the Point In Time count?

At the federal level, Point-in-time counts are important because they establish the dimensions of the problem of homelessness and help policymakers and program administrators track progress toward the goal of ending homelessness. The first of these counts was conducted in January 2005 meaning that we have data for every CoC for the last ten years. Collecting data on homelessness and tracking progress can inform public opinion, increase public awareness, and attract resources that will lead to the eradication of the problem. If homeless youth are not included in local point-in-time counts, their needs could be under-represented as governments, nonprofits, and key stakeholders at the federal, state, and local level plan to respond to the problem.

HUD uses information from the local point-in-time counts, among other data sources, in the congressionally-mandated Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress (AHAR). This report is meant to inform Congress about the number of people experiencing homelessness in the U.S. and the effectiveness of HUD's programs and policies in decreasing those numbers.

On the local level, point-in-time counts help communities plan services and programs to appropriately address local needs, measure progress in decreasing homelessness, and identify strengths and gaps in a community's current homelessness assistance system.

3. What happens during the Point In Time count?

During the PIT Count, street outreach workers, agency staff, and volunteers survey those experiencing homelessness in unsheltered and doubled-up situations. The majority of the PIT Count data, however, comes from the data entered into the Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS) by the Emergency Shelters, Transitional Housing programs, and Safe Haven programs that participate in

HMIS. Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing programs that do not participate in HMIS (such as domestic violence shelters) also contribute data to the PIT Count.

4. What is the Point In Time Count data measuring?

The point-in-time count allows communities to employ different methodologies to provide an aggregate, anonymized snapshot of homelessness on a single night. Studies have suggested that the results of the count can miss large segments of the homeless population, fluctuate year over year, and be unreliable for making comparisons across communities or time.

Since homelessness is a dynamic problem that changes every day, communities working to reduce homelessness also rely on comprehensive, person-centered, real-time insights that are more akin to a video, compared to the snapshot view provided by the point-in-time count.

Communities across the country are developing data systems that can offer a clear picture of who is experiencing it at any given time, including details on who each of those individuals are and what supports they need to exit homelessness. In order to solve homelessness, communities need both person-centered data and a dynamic view of the problem at a population level, and how it is changing.

5. How is that Point In Time data used?

HUD refers to the data from the counts to inform Congress about the rates of homelessness in the U.S. and to measure the effectiveness of its programs and policies aimed at decreasing homelessness, and legislators frequently rely on the results of the counts to determine whether public policies are reducing homelessness. Rather than understanding that the PIT count represents only a portion of the homeless population, many interpret the count as a comprehensive depiction of the crisis and rely on it to inform policy design and implementation decisions. This can lead to policies that fail to address the homelessness crisis or may even exacerbate it.

It is important to have an accurate estimate of the number of people experiencing homelessness in this country in order to have an understanding of the scope and nature of the problem and, especially, the policy responses and funds needed to address it. These numbers are also used to determine funding allocations, dividing up total funds among communities depending on population size. The size of the homeless population also contributes to the overall populations of states and local jurisdictions, affecting their political representation.

LEADS AND VOLUNTEERS

1. What supplies will be given to Point In Time leads and volunteers?

- Nametags
- Gift Cards
- Clipboards
- Hand sanitizer
- writing utensils
- surveys
- Narcan

2. What supplies are given to leads and volunteers for the individuals facing homelessness?

- Socks
- Granola Bar
- Water
- Hand / Feet Warmers
- Blankets
- Code Blue Flier
- Erie Pocket Guide
- Brown Grocery Bags/Reusable Bags
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Drawstring Backpacks (For Youth)
- Hats
- Gloves
- Condoms
- Tarps
- Ponchos
- Sweatshirts / Heavy Sweaters
- Jeans
- Thermal Underwear
- Scarves

3. What would the time commitment for the entire process entail?

Roughly 15 hours over the course of the next three months. The PIT timeline is as follows:

	What will you bring?	What will you do?
Before	You are experienced with... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Running meetings • Coordinating group efforts • Facilitating email and phone-based communication • Assisting unsheltered individuals and families 	October <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend mandatory planning session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Leads 10/30 • Collaborate with HAWNY on the creation of routes that will be used to locate unsheltered individuals and families.
		November <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select a route and recruit at least two (2) volunteers to help distribute supplies and conduct surveys. • Coordinate with your volunteer team to keep them informed and answer questions throughout the process.
		December <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend optional training session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Leads 12/15 • Walk your designed route with volunteers to post flyers, review your maps, and identify important safety concerns before the night-of.

		<p>January</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend mandatory training session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Volunteer - 1/10 or 1/17 Coordinate the pick up of PIT supplies after January 15, 2024. Coordinate with the volunteer team before to identify a meeting location, and fill them in on any personal supplies they may need to bring on the route.
During	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your mobile phone Winter-appropriate attire and supplies for personal use. PIT Supplies Bag (supplied by HAWNY) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact information for all volunteers/HAWNY team A route map Clipboard & Pens PIT Surveys Safety procedures Basic needs supplies 	<p>January 24-25, 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct the PIT survey and distribute supplies to unsheltered individuals and families. Maintain open lines of communication with HAWNY members and volunteers. Contact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Point-In-Time Count Chair if shelter is needed/wanted. 911 for injuries/incidents.
After	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed PIT Surveys and ensure all location information is filled out. Unused PIT supplies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate the return collected surveys and supplies to HAWNY. Share feedback, concerns, and/or suggestions with the HAWNY team.

4. Do I have to be associated with an organization to be a lead? Who can be my volunteers?

No, you do not need to be associated with an organization to be a lead. Lead volunteers need to have outreach experience and/or previous PIT planning and implementation experience. Anyone can be a volunteer as long as they complete the safety training, volunteers are usually from a variety of organizations including, but not limited to:

- Homeless service providers such as emergency shelter, Safe Haven and transitional housing providers, homeless and runaway youth service providers, and providers focused on specific subpopulations (i.e., youth, veterans, Native Americans)
- Community service providers such as food and clothing banks, soup kitchens, day shelters or drop-in centers, community centers, halfway houses, community action agencies, detox programs, 211 operators, mental health providers, and mainstream social service agencies • Homeless coalitions and advocacy groups

- Homeless and formerly homeless individuals • Outreach teams such as Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH), Health Care for the Homeless, Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV), and other local homeless outreach programs and teams
- Federal partners such as HUD, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Education, the Department of Health and Human Services
- Local government partners such as county and city governments, especially those that must complete Con Plans
- Faith-based community partners
- Health service providers such as Federally Qualified Health Centers and hospitals
- Law enforcement such as local sheriff, police, and corrections departments
- Philanthropic foundations
- McKinney-Vento school liaisons
- Local colleges or universities
- Public housing agencies
- Public libraries
- Local businesses and chambers of commerce such as those where people who are homeless might go for food, amenities, or respite
- Community volunteer and civic groups