

## **Homeless Alliance Monthly Meeting**

4/19/17, 3pm

Introductions

### **Guest Speaker: Judith Christian, Lupus Alliance of Upstate New York**

- Lupus is a disease that mirrors many other diseases, there is not much understood about the disease
- Lupus ranks 3rd in county for morbidity and mortality
- The Lupus Alliance of WNY has been partnering with food banks, children's agencies, and now at HAWNY meeting
- Symptoms come and go, everyone experiences it differently, everyone will have a different treatment plan
- 16 symptoms of Lupus all over the body--it's an autoimmune disease that attacks our own immune system
- Patients at support groups often don't want to go to their doctors for fear of judgement, it's predominantly women that are diagnosed, and is 2-3 times more prevalent in Black, Latino, Native American and Asian populations than white ones
- All free services from the Lupus Alliance of WNY, support groups and new patient orientations
- There is a test for Lupus, it's 99% accurate for those that do have it but it has 30% false positive rate for those that don't, so many doctors are hesitant to test. Patients have to be their own advocates
- Rheumatology appointments can take a year to get and the only pediatric one is in Rochester
- One barrier to treatment are bureaucratic requirements to have symptoms at the same time to prove for insurance
- No one knows the causes of Lupus
- The Lupus Alliance of WNY is in 33 counties in NY now, and been around for 40 years
- They have fundraising events throughout the year, a walk in the Fall and dinner in May
- Visit <http://www.lupusupstateny.org/>, or feel free to call their office anytime with questions

### **CoC Coordinated Entry - Kexin Ma**

- Kexin and Dale went to a leadership conference in Canada put on by OrgCode this month
- We have heard a lot of negative feedback recently about the coordinated entry process, Kexin did street outreach last week to get a better idea of the process from the outreach perspective
- It's important to look at where we came from--before, many clients had only one entry in HMIS, no prior shelter or outreach entries just straight to PSH, end of story
- But now many people have 10s of entries--people with lots of barriers and long histories are being housed

- Important to look at the past and how far we have come, we've been more successful in closing side doors to RRH and housing more people with higher VI-SPDAT scores
- Our unsheltered Point-in-Time was 18. Has never been that low before.
- # of people experiencing homelessness with mental illness or substance abuse also dropped to the lowest it's been, we've housed the sickest
- Kexin showed two charts detailing VI scores for the past year for clients entering PSH and RRH. Most clients entering have an eligible score but some didn't. For PSH more clients were missing a score. However, since January 2017 we have housed 78 people in PSH and 73/78 had a VI score (!!). Also, the average length of time from referral to move in was only 37 days (!!).
- As a whole last year, the average time from referral to move in for PSH was 47 days and for RRH 44 days. Everyone is doing a really great job getting people quickly into housing.
- Questions/Comments:
  - Nadia Pizarro: Next we need to focus on affordable housing
  - Jessica Micha: Need to show up to Councilman Pridgen's committee for affordable housing
  - Sarah Gorry: Also need to focus on keeping people housed.
  - Chris Syracuse: We also need a wet house, controversial but it works. Stops panhandling, stops people being out on the streets, and there's a similar issue with the opiate problem. Would need to be a group effort
  - Dale: We are involved with groups on affordable housing. Christine represented us at Common Council meeting. The city is open to doing something but not sure yet.
  - Sarah: How to delicately lobby?
  - Dale: Send emails from a private email address, don't attach your workplace.
  - Chris: Need to frame it as a win-win for politicians.
- Dale, conclusion: We recently helped host a statewide forum in Syracuse. We don't just want to seem like what we're doing what HUD says. But we're doing what works and we have data to prove it. Incredible collaboration is happening at our outreach meetings

### **CoC Project RFP - Dale Zuchlewski**

- HUD application process is in its beginning stages
- CoC Registration is open along with Grant Inventory Worksheet
- Anticipate application in 4-6 weeks, possibly until end of October to finish it
- Our portion is 100 pages. Big emphasis on performance and data.
- Congress hasn't passed Proposed funding, though it wouldn't necessarily directly cut homeless funds but cuts to other parts of HUD (like CDBG) could lead to more homeless
- Program types for new projects include Permanent Supportive Housing for Chronically Homeless, Rapid Rehousing (large programs, they are more cost effective), Coordinated Entry, and a new category with no details--Joint Transitional Housing (TH) and Permanent Housing-Rapid Rehousing(PH-RRH) (requires housing first approach and housing people as quickly as possible, working on housing plans from program entry)

- The RFP is on the website now, along with the budget sheet:  
<https://wnyhomeless.org/continuum-of-care/coc-funding-competition/>
- Please contact HAWNY for assistance if you are applying for a new project, 853-1101
- Looking for people for the Project Selection Committee--cannot be someone from a HUD funded program but looking for people with grant evaluation experience

### **CoC Written Standards - Kexin Ma**

- Briefed everyone 2 months ago on changes, we were supposed to vote last month but the meeting was snowed out, but to summarize:
  1. Added TAY-SPDAT for everyone under 25
  2. Added requirement for Equal Access Rule
  3. Clarify coordinated entry process
  4. Changed RRH policy to say take everyone 4+
- Please visit  
<http://wnyhomeless.org/app/uploads/CoCWrittenStandardsforNY508-V.04.17.pdf> to review the changes
- All changes are done with the input of the subcommittees
- Approval granted, motion passed

### **Announcements**

- Christine Slocum and Alicia Clark of HAWNY are representing us as a CoC at the National Human Services Data Consortium conference next week in Utah
- We've been asked to apply to be one of 10 communities to do a 100 day challenge to end youth homelessness
  - We didn't get the YHDP grant but we met the threshold metrics. We're working on the 100 Days challenge application now, may be contacting some of you
  - Challenge is to see how many youth 18-24 you can house in 100 days with technical assistance and community collaboration
- Neighborhood Health Center has a new location 4233 Lake Ave in Blasdell, by Stadium View Inn. Will eventually be full service including women's health and dental. Already open for primary care.

Adjournment 4pm