

Introductions

Board Member Elections (Dale Zuchlewski)

- The HAWNY board recommends the following slate for election to the board:
 1. Peter Warn: Community Activist
 2. Carolyn Hillman: Director of Emergency Shelter, Salvation Army
 3. Janet Meiselman: Consultant with Oxford Consulting
 4. Glenda Washington: Community Member, retired Former Executive Administrator for Alcohol and Drug Dependency Services
 5. Michael Henry: Community Member, retired
- No Nominations from the floor, motion to accept the board recommendations is presented
- Chris Kennedy motions to approve, Sister Mary Augusta seconds the motion to approve, all in favor, motion passed

Guest Speaker-Gretchen Gonzalez, Volunteer Lawyers Project - unable to attend, per Dale:

- Has funding for non-profit organizations to ensure by-laws are in compliance with state regulations

CoC Report (Dale Zuchlewski)

- HUD CoC awards announced, our CoC was awarded over \$11 million, about \$900,000 more than last year
- Largest increase in NY State, thank you for all of your cooperation in performance reports and HMIS data!
- Staff puts a lot of work into application and deciding what to put in application as there are limited characters (1000 or less) for answers
- Rochester received an additional \$700,000 over last year, Albany \$100,000, Syracuse \$350,000 more, NYC amount declined by \$14 million though that may have been due to multi-year project not being renewed
- Reaching functional zero on veterans may have played a part in increased performance and funding, and is a testimony to us working together. We are one of three communities selected to receive technical assistance to end chronic homelessness
- For next year's CoC application: Congress passed continuing resolution for the budget through April, we will be watching the incoming administration's budget closely. When programs were sequestered a few years ago homeless programs were exempt--they did not receive all increases but cuts weren't as deep so we are hopeful.
- Actively recruiting for new projects this year
- Local application process may start around the same time, but don't know what the HUD application process timeline is
- We are one of three community chosen to receive technical assistance to write a grant for SOAR. Dale and Andrew Dearing will receive training on grant writing to apply for national grant funding to create positions for SOAR. We are looking for community

partners to help us apply to funders, they would hire someone to complete the SOAR SSI/SSD applications and that person would be responsible for doing 30-40 SOAR client applications a year. Looking for 2-3 partners in the 5 counties

- SOAR process is almost like putting a mortgage application together for SSI/SSD, the SOAR process teaches you how to put a good application together so it can go through an expedited process
- Barrier for agencies doing SSI/SSD applications is lack of time for case managers to put these together and see them through--they can take up to 40 hours each

PiT (Alicia Clark filling in for Christine Slocum)

- Christine Slocum is the contact person for anything Point in Time related, cslocum@wnyhomeless.org
- PiT enumerator training was held yesterday, most outreach locations in Erie Co. are covered but could use more to fill the teams out and also seeking volunteers to go to Niagara County
- Another PiT enumerator training will be held next week, January 23 at 2pm at Niagara University

Written Standards (Kexin Ma)

- Please review and send any comments to kexinma@wnyhomeless.org Click for [CoC Written Standards](#), will be voted on at the next CoC meeting
- We updated the CoC Written standards: in October 2016 HUD released the Final Rule on Equal Access, following that they have put out some webinars and will continue to do so, we encourage everyone to watch and we (HAWNY) will also offer training
- On Rule: in 2012 HUD released a rule non discrimination on marital status, gender, etc.
 - Later on they released definition of what a family is (see Written Standards)
- October 2016 rule: after 4 years of research and study, HUD clarifies what it means to not discriminate by gender identity: cannot require ID, ask about client genitals, etc., must go by what client identifies as
 - HUD study found only 20% of LGBTQ population is appropriately placed into shelter, meaning 80% are turned away or inappropriately placed
 - Kexin talked to Karen Rybicki from DSS and Sue Lumadue from ESG, all will go forward with this
 - We recognize this might not be something you can do overnight, but HUD studies show this works if you believe it works
 - HIGHLY RECOMMEND that everyone read HUD's training materials on the Equal Access Rule, they are very helpful!
 - Kexin spoke with Marek from LGBTQ committee, Pride Center and GLYS, they will hold in person case manager trainings based on role play scenarios--will be able to discuss concerns and how can we address them
 - Free LGBTQ cultural competency training through the WNY Coalition for the Homeless coming up, email will be sent out (Nadia)

- For those that receive HUD/ESG funds: there is no regulation right now but as a continuum it will be highly recommended and will be monitored
- Samples for educating clients in the rule are online
- Changes to Standards on Permanent Supportive Housing:
 - We have a flowchart on our website on how to determine a person's eligibility for the various housing solutions using coordinated entry
 - One substantial change: for people who score over 8 but lack 6+ months of history, we can send them to PSH; for those that score 8+ but are towards the bottom of list priority wise, they might not get helped by PSH for a long while but now those people will be referred to RRH (Coordinated Entry through Thanh at RSI)
 - Also clarified recording requirements for PSH, Dan from Matt Urban will put together a document for this
- OrgCode (Iain DeJong) will host training on Coordinated Entry in Hamilton, ON on March 6-7, discount code AWESOME (and CAD exchange rate is in our favor!)
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/coordinated-entry-burlington-on-tickets-28231545312>

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Grant (Kexin Ma)

- HUD announced YHDP grants, there were 10 awarded nationwide, 6 urban, 4 rural, we were not successful in that application process
- What's next: Compass House will start a RRH for youth program for 24 and under, will use TAY-SPDAT (Transition Age Youth)--will try it and see if it works well
- CoC may be able to fund more youth RRH, then may be able to use ESG money to serve at-risk youth--plan to change all ESG programs to CoC to open up ESG to serve at risk populations
- Working with NLS and DSS to create prevention program for families
- Compass House program may start in another month
- Also have new criteria on ending youth homelessness
 - Homeless experience should be rare, brief, and non-recurring
 - HUD wants community to know who is doubled up and couch surfing, wants the whole community to work together
 - HUD will measure us by length of time youth are homeless to either reunification or go to permanent or transitional housing

Community Announcements

- [Buffalo Blues fundraiser](#) concert for WNY Veterans Coalition for homeless veterans at Mohawk Place 7pm this Saturday January 21st, \$10 presale, \$13 at door (will be a series of these events)
- Community Missions is having a fundraiser on Friday, February 10th, the [Sweetheart Dinner](#) will be at the Niagara Falls Conference and Event Center
- St. Luke's [Code Blue Bash](#) will be on Friday, Feb 10th 7pm at the Grapevine Banquets in Depew

Motion to adjourn Sister Mary August, Seconded by Chris Kennedy
Meeting Adjourned