

## **Homeless Alliance Monthly Meeting**

June 21, 2017, 3pm

Introductions

### **Updates to HAWNY By-Laws**

- Back in January a volunteer lawyer from the Volunteer Lawyer's Project reviewed the HAWNY by-laws for compliance with state regulations
- By-laws were sent out by email for review and we have paper copies today as well
- Brief overview of changes:
  - Mostly a cleaning up of language and formatting
  - Clearing up language on committees and subcommittees, the dual mention of president and chairperson
  - Recognizes email as a form of notification
  - Outlines process if employee wishes to serve as chairperson (or similar role) on board
  - Strengthened conflict of interest policies for both the HAWNY board and employees
- Motion to pass by Sister Mary Augusta Kaiser, second by Carolyn Hillman, all in favor, motion passed

### **FY2017 CoC Application and Updates (Dale Zuchlewski)**

- Please ask any and all questions about the local and federal CoC application to better understand the process

System and Program Performance

- HUD is moving towards a more performance based review and ranking locally and federally
- Going forward the monthly HAWNY meetings will be used more as a discussion forum with fewer outside speakers presenting
- There are things we need to discuss, issues with performance, because the things providers do on a daily basis affect system performance, and we have to submit it to HUD
- Alicia presented at the NHSDC conference on quarterly performance reports, where a HUD representative told us we are doing exactly what HUD wants us to do in regards to keeping a close eye on performance. While it may not be fun for providers, it is what we need to do
- We will be judged against ourselves in system performance, and we must show improvement each year against ourselves
- The system performance measures can be found on our website, but here are some highlights:
- The first measure is length of time homeless, measuring how long people are in shelter, how long before they are in permanent housing. Our number went up one day as an average since last year for clients in ES/SH. We want to reduce it.
- Another example is returns to homelessness
  - People coming back into system show a higher need, and another measure shows that our system has seen an increase of 500 sheltered homeless people which is not a good indicator and may be a result of affordable housing crisis, and ultimately may require more long term solutions

- The City of Buffalo through the Emergency Solutions Grant is piloting a diversion program, which will be small and very targeted to start
- The recidivism rate is higher for singles than for families
- Point in time numbers went up. Numbers for unduplicated people went up, veteran count is down
- Overall need to look at your own program's performance and how it compares to other programs, how the frontline staff and things you do every day may affect length of stay, other performance measures, as well as HMIS data errors. Ask how you can better serve clients or what practices other agencies have.

#### Local CoC Application

- The local ranking and review committee will get together at the end of July or early August, the ranking this year is based more on performance measures to parallel the federal application
- Need to realize that the review and reallocation process is not about preserving agency funding but about sending funding to agencies to best help clients
- Part of this is measuring agencies that use coordinated entry, those that don't may rank lower
  - Dale shows charts on coordinated entry and chronic homelessness--there have been big decreases in chronic homelessness and unsheltered counts in the past 7 years and since the adoption of coordinated entry
  - Coordinated entry and housing first work.
  - The number of people with SMI and substance abuse problems have gone down, we are helping those most in need and it is working
- We want to use the CoC money as best of possible, reallocating unspent money (unless due to specific reasons), making it very to measure and rank programs
- Last years rank and review process: reallocated all TH except for one youth TH (HUD sees a need for youth TH), however some agencies got funded last year for first time and just got their contracts, how should they be ranked?
- In this year's NOFA debriefing the director in washington said the lowest scoring project applications should be reallocated to higher scoring programs each year--though this doesn't make sense but our current situation as we eventually have fewer and fewer projects. We apologize for stress it causes for agencies, but realize it also causes stress on review and ranking committee
- We are still taking new project applications, up until one week after the NOFA
- There is a new program type for joint TH and PH/RRH, still waiting on more info on it from HUD as there is very little detail on what it entails so far
- The entire CoC application is 160+ pages, and includes everything, including written standards, policies, etc., which is why we are constantly bugging everyone about written standards, and also why we are at committee and service provider meetings so that we can understand what is going on for the application process
- We're trying to connect what you do on a daily basis with your clients and how it affects system performance and in the local application process, and it all leads to how we rank nationally as a CoC

- Lasts years application is also available online--it brought in 11.8 million dollars, an almost \$900,000 increase over the year before
- We're not trying to punish anyone with quarterly reports, but we want to really keep you aware and on top of your performance and how we are doing as a system--we are competitive in trying to do our best as a CoC and bring more money into the area
- Joy Tedeschi made the point that providers have to reconcile HUD requirements and other local, state, federal funding requirements. Dale notes that if you have other things you want the ranking committee or HAWNY to consider you should bring it to the meeting
  - Dale is also bringing all of these things to NY State Interagency Council--this is a rare opportunity to change state regulations, and we don't know those are issues until we hear them
- Byron McKinney and Nadia Pizarro make the point that programs should be more outcome focused on their level, it's no longer the same for renewals as it was 12 years ago, data matters, and what programs can do is their absolute best to get people jobs and into safe affordable housing by being creative and working collaboratively
  - Can be difficult to hear this when we already feel we're working hard but it helps to know what the goals we are working towards are
- Please send out emails when asked to advocate for the 2018 federal budget, it doesn't take long and it does make an impact on legislators
- There is no July HAWNY meeting

### **Community Announcements**

- HAWNY is doing study for Voice for 20/20, the study originates from the 10 year plan to end homelessness, and ending family homelessness by 2020. They will be doing focus groups with homeless families in shelters, asking them about the reasons for their homelessness, their experiences, their current needs (met and unmet), and suggestions for additional programming. They are also interested in some interviews with people who left the homeless system. Study will include Erie, Niagara, Genesee, Orleans, and Wyoming counties and they will have about a year to complete the project. Please contact Diane Bessel at [dbessel@daemen.edu](mailto:dbessel@daemen.edu)
- This Friday, June 23rd is the Veterans Stand Down event from 10am-3pm at Coca Cola Field
- There will be a Latino Veteran 5k race on August 6th on the West Side. It will start at Hispanics United with a festival after, proceeds will go to the children of veterans for scholarships and will also be used for seed money for Hispanic Veteran museum. Contact Nadia Pizarro at [NPizarro@lake-shore.org](mailto:NPizarro@lake-shore.org)
- Neighborhood Health Center Week is coming up on August 13-19th, there will be a day specially catering to homeless individuals on August 13th at Neighborhood Health Center sites

Motion to adjourn by Sister Mary Augusta Kaiser, second by Byron McKinney, motion passed and meeting adjourned at 4:10pm