



### **HAWNY Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Wednesday, November 18, 2021

**Time:** 3:00 PM - 3:40 PM

**Location:** GoToMeeting Video Conference

**Attendance (30):** Kexin Ma, Ryan Trubits, Friends of the Night People, Major Jose Santiago, Chetrece Huff, Marie Kaiser, Gordon Williams, Jill Mattson, Jamie Dolan, Kimberly Baughan, Alan Huntington, Nadia Pizarro, Erin Corcoran, Sara Grady, Sarah Erick, Kathy Zunner, Christine Slocum, Jeremy Garson, Robyn Krueger, Leah Brown, Nate Pyzikiewicz, Gigi Grizani, Eric Weigel, Reno Tabone (Depaul), Thanh Nguyen, Vicky Garcia, Janette Evans, Ken Gholston, Michelle Laraby, Byron Mckinney, Gordon from HELP Buffalo

#### **1. Introductions**

#### **2. CoC Updates**

- Introduced Ryan Trubits (new HAWNY employee)

#### **COVID-19 Updates:**

Ryan presented on his findings-

- 68.8% of people have had at least one vaccine dose in the Western New York Region (Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, and Niagara). Compared to the state which is at 72.7% of people having at least one vaccine dose.
- The Finger Lakes and Western New York regions have the highest seven-day average in New York State. Both are around 8% compared to the state average, which is 3.21%. With colder weather and the holiday season approaching higher rates of transmission are likely to occur.
- Businesses are authorized to require masks and six feet of social distancing for employees and/or patrons within their establishments OR adhere to CDC guidance, which advises that fully vaccinated individuals do not need to wear masks or be socially distanced unvaccinated individuals must continue to wear masks and be socially distanced in most settings.
- The Department of Health strongly recommends masks and six feet of social distancing in indoor settings where the vaccination status of individuals is unknown. Any mask requirements that businesses choose to implement must adhere to all applicable federal and state laws and regulations (e.g., Americans with Disabilities Act)
- This provision applies across most commercial settings, including but not limited to retail, food services, offices, gyms and fitness centers, amusement and family entertainment, hair salons, barbershops, and other personal care services, among other settings.
- However, PreK to 12 schools, public transit, homeless shelters, correctional facilities, nursing homes, and healthcare settings are exempt and must continue to follow the

State's existing COVID. are 19 health guidelines until more New Yorkers are fully vaccinated.

- Free rides to vaccination sites are accessible by calling Uber at (855) 921-0033 or using the Lyft app.
- The CDC has a vaccine finder, which will show you vaccine availability and if walk-ins are accepted. source: (<https://www.vaccines.gov/search/>)
- Vaccine Site Locations:
- Rite Aid, Walmart, Walgreens, CVS, UB South Campus- site for 5 to 11-year-olds.

**Annual HAWNY Awards Luncheon is cancelled for this year.**

### **3. NOFA Updates & Summary:**

- Submitted Consolidated Application on Nov. 16th.

#### **96 points on CoC coordination and engagement**

- We have been open and engaging with many different agencies, especially with ESG recipients(2+pts) , PHA (15pts), implemented Covid safety protocols based on CDC and NYS (20pts)
- Utilizing Housing first (10pts)
- continue getting buy-in on prioritizing the homeless population to access subsidized housing/other affordable housing.
- Improve coverage of street outreach
- Will lost points on RRH have not been increased(10 pts) Resources have increased, but people who are housed on Jan have reduced.
- Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) are included in the CoC this year. We will need to start engaging with these communities.
- Continue emphasizing on racial equity and involve people with lived experience in the planning and decision making process. CoC needs to identify and take steps to improve racial equity. Continue to look at data and analyze our own data on racial equity. Recruit more people with lived experience in the decision making process especially those who came from unsheltered situations.

#### **30 points on CoC project capacity, review and ranking:**

- We have been utilizing objective scoring tool and transparent process
- There are new suggestions from HUD to incorporate racial equity in scoring as well as the need of adjusting the current scoring tool to incorporate DV projects and promote system performance improvement.

#### **11 points on HMIS participation and 3 points on PIT participation:**

- Newly added expectation for all DV providers to use comparable databases and collecting HUD data elements.

#### **23 points on coc system wide performance:**

- Reduce homelessness --due to Covid, we did see a reduction. But we need to keep working on it under normal circumstances.
- Reduction in the number of first time homeless
- Increase Employment and non-cash benefit --Although it has been improving, much more work could be done to help clients gain employment and benefits.

- Reduce length of time homeless
- Increased exit to permanent housing
- Reduce recidivism

**10 bonus points on partnering with housing and healthcare:**

- Belmont is willing to dedicate 7 vouchers for the new Spectrum PSH in order to meet the requirement.
- New Spectrum PSH will provide in kind health care match that meet the requirement

**Update on Upcoming Point In Time (PIT):**

- Wednesday, January 27, 2022
- Shelter count will remain the same
- HUD expects to have an unsheltered count this year since it was canceled last year.

**4. Community Announcements:**

Robyn L. Krueger shared that shelters are required to be certified and will not allow to take both singles and families in the same shelter. This will restrict shelter capacity and post potential problems especially in communities with few resources.

**5. Adjournment**

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021