



HAWNY Monthly Meeting Minutes

Meeting Information

Date: Wednesday, April 17th, 2024

Time: 3:08 PM - 3:53 PM

Location: Buffalo & Erie County Central Public Library Central Meeting Room (2nd Floor) 1 Lafayette Square, Buffalo, NY 14203

Attendance (55): Holly Rutkowski, Rodney Harris, Brandon White, Trudy Decker, Seham Haj, Rae Frank, Christine Slocum, John Banas, Caitlin Bauer, Carolyn Brunnette, Jean Bennett, Jarrett Locicero, Celina Bryan, Darwin Rosales, Julianna Stella, Joseph Raverta, Sasha Rodgers, Kim Bayham, Ebony James, Kaitlyn Dickey, John Runng, Tailor Simpson, Tina Lamont, Maria Pedro, Kelly Hernandez, Jarrett Steffen, Kristin Tamer, Nick Arlain, Peggy Nowakski, Shannon Boswell, Gigi Grizanti, Sara Pisa, Samatha Crance, Joe Heary, Maria Garzon, Samantha Dunkle, Marek Parker, Susan Santiago, Stephanie Saunders, Jennifer Arroyo, Michael Sauter, Jill Mattson, Reno Tabone, Danilla Gallego, Kexin Ma, Nate Pyzikiewicz, Ashley Matrassi, Dan Gordon, Tracy Schmidt, Alissa Steele, Katey Soellers, Evan Coyle, Sara Carlson, Haley Diagostino, Katrina Cropo

1. Introductions

2. Guest Speaker- Health Equity Presentation (Sara Carlson and Haley Diagostino, UB School of Social Work)

- HAWNY worked with the Primary Care Research Institute (PCRI) at the University at Buffalo to administer a health assessment survey.
- Data was collected between June and November 2023, and was focused on day-to-day activities, healthcare, mental health, and substance use. Participants in the survey included clients from RRH, PSH, outreach and shelters across the CoC.
- Respondents reported a significant improvement in mental health symptoms and substance use impact after moving into their current living situation while 47% of participants reported having a lack of transportation that has prevented them from getting things needed for daily living.
- Outreach and Shelter (OS) respondents much more frequently reported being unable to pay medical bills in the last 12 months, while 32% of OS respondents report that substance use currently impacts their life compared to 6% of RRH respondents.

- All of OS respondents reported experiencing mental health symptoms in the 12 months prior to their current living situation.
- Main takeaways from the survey are that Housing is Healthcare and that Transportation and Accessibility is also Healthcare. Additionally, significant gaps that were identified include:
 - Transportation
 - Needle exchanges/Safe injection resources
 - Mental health and substance use
 - Accessibility of resources within system
- HAWNY opened up the meeting to a discussion about what community resources currently exist to address these barriers and what additional resources or actions are needed to enhance support in these areas?
 - Neighborhood health center has been going to Harbor House to try to connect clients with primary care, but have noticed that “no-shows” are still a problem. Mobile health units were identified as a potential solution for this issue.
 - Getting to appointments for clients can be an issue and having additional support for clients is very important such as bringing the care to clients which can eliminate that barrier.
 - Hispanics United has coordinated with HealthHome and can link clients with a navigator that can help them with all health related services and can help take the burden of this off the case managers who can use their time in other ways.
 - One barrier that was identified is that medicaid transportation requires previous care from doctors and can be a hurdle to get the client to access that transportation.
 - Another barrier that was identified was the lack of language access, along with services for clients with developmental disabilities that could be very useful for those that are dealing with those issues.

Full report can be read at:

https://wnyhomeless.org/wp-content/uploads/HAWNY_Health-Survey-Study.pdf.

3. NOFO Renewals

- Renewal application emails have gone out from HAWNY’s HMIS team
- HAWNY is hosting a HMIS CoC Performance Data Workshop on April 18th at 1:30pm 4/18. COC funded organizations are required to send at least one staff member.
- Final HMIS data will be due by May 8th
- On May 13th will be the release of the Renewal application and final HMIS performance based rankings.
- HAWNY will be hosting a Renewal application Q&A workshop for providers on May 17th
- During the months of May-June, HAWNY will be hosting Renewal Application office hours (exact dates TBD) for providers to have an opportunity to ask any questions or receive guidance on Renewal application topics.
- The Renewal application will be due on June 14th.

4. Community Announcements

- HAWNY reminds attendees that HAWNY meetings are intended for all members of the continuum including outreach, community partners and all staff of agencies. Go to the HAWNY website to sign up: <https://wnyhomeless.org/>
- Soldier On announces that they are opening their apartments on Georgia street in May, which contain 21 units total. The apartments are designed for low income singles and families with some units still available.
- Community Services for Every1, announces that they are opening their apartments on Broadway with some units still available but DV units are full. More apartments in Niagara are opening soon as well.
 - They also announced that they do have services available for any DV survivors along with developmental disabilities services. They also provide various language services for any clients that require that.
- WNY Coalition for the Homeless announces they are hosting a Tenant Rights Workshop on Wednesday, April 24th from 10am-11:30am at the United Way of Buffalo & Erie County, located on 742 Delaware Ave in Buffalo. People can register online at <https://forms.gle/1hgjtFpxaM7FjEXh9>.
- Harvest House announces that the Justice Bus is coming to their organization on May 11th at 10am for any members of the public that need help with various legal services.
- CAZ announces that they are looking for volunteers for Project Homeless Connect, that is on October 8th. If anyone is interested, please reach out to Stacy Arlain at sarlain@cazenoviarecovery.org.
- RSI announces that the Code Blue shelters will be ending on April 30th. Also, RSI reminds the community that currently, Harbor House is dealing with overcrowding, stating that they can reasonably accommodate around 30-40 people but currently have had 80+ people a night.
- Veterans One-stop is doing a Renew, Refresh, & Rebalance event on May 24th from 10am-3pm at the Cohesion Health & Fitness Center on 100 Gelston Street, Buffalo. The event is free and people can register at www.vocwny.org.
- The Northland Workforce Training Center announced their five year strategic plan which includes an increase in their budget to expand their programs and the amount of students they want to enroll on a yearly basis. If anybody who has clients interested in the trade career path they should contact them by phone at 716-436-3229 or go to their website at: <https://northlandwrtc.org/>.

5. Adjournment