



HAWNY Monthly Meeting Minutes

Meeting Information

Date: Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Time: 3:02 PM - 3:58 PM

Location: Zoom Video Conference

Attendance (63): Kexin Ma, Katrina Cropo, Daniella Gallego, Dan Gordon, Alissa Venturini, Ashley Matrassi, Bridget Lutz, Christine Slocum, Darwin Rosales, Deanna Allen, Dinoshka Ortiz, Drew Friedfertig, Ebony James, E Davis, Felicia C, Haley Diagostino, Evan Coyle, Heart Love and Soul, Janita Everhart, Jarett LoCicero, Jean Bennett, John Banas, Joshua Zicarelli, Kashmir Bowser, Katey Soellers, K Lignos, Kristen Lazarony, Kristin Tanner, L Bloomingdale, Lisa Freeman, Liz Wierbinski, Luanne Firestone, Luna Vasquez, Matthew Roehmholdt, Mia Clark, Michael Devine, Michelle Laraby, Morgan Ashton, Nadia Pizarro, Nate Pyzikiewicz, Nick Arlain, Nicole Juzdowski, Paul Martell, Paul from Sylvia's House, Rachel Straker, Rae Frank, Rebecca Piazza, Reno Tabone, Robyn Krueger, Rosetta Threet, Sara Carlson, Sara Gartland, Sara Pisa, Sarah Sue Wood, Sasha Rodgers, Shannon Boswell, Stephanie Meijia, Stephanie Sanders, Sue Lumadue, Thanh Nguyen, Tom Grinnell, Tracy Schmidt, Yulissa Pena,

1. Introductions

- Kexin Ma of Homeless Alliance reminds participants that HAWNY has moved from Main street to 625 Delaware Avenue suite 410 14202 Buffalo NY.

2.) Pit Count

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf665AMj0HHNc5b1t3VX0xe8P7pYaxjtSxeFT-W0MjQ-rwQVA/viewform>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hmRN0F37EZB87hcMxFmr9i1d6JRn1Gpn/view>

- Sara Carlson announces the planning of the Pit Count on January.
- Pit Count is a point in time count of Homeless individuals on given night
- We are currently soliciting Lead volunteers (leads must have participated before)

- Deadline to sign up as a lead volunteer is oct 21st
- Sign up for desired route on Hawnys Point in Time Count
- Must be at least 18 years old
- Bring map and be familiar with the area you are assigned
- Mandatory Training on the 28th
- https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf665AMj0HHNc5b1t3VX0xe8P7pYa_xjtSxeFT-W0MjQ-rwQVA/viewform?usp=sf_link
- Kexin Ma discusses the importance of the Pit Count in capturing trends in Homeless numbers and the need for volunteers to cover the area

3.. Voices from Lived Experience:

- **Key Findings from Focus Group**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FAqPXQr4osemqpUDJ-DN1Bc1f2xLSP1j/view?usp=sharing>

Collaborative Understandings with Daniella Gallego

Daniella is the Community Engagement Coordinator. Daniella facilitates the Youth action Board (YAB) and the Program Advisory Committee (PAC). She works closely with the lived experience population to make sure their voices are heard.

Objective and Importance:

- Centering client voices in system improvement
- Ensuring Lived experience informs and shapes homeless services
- Improve the experience of our clients

Focus Groups

- **58 participants across 5 focus groups**

Challenges faced by Shelter Clients

- Rising rental caused make finding stable housing difficult

- The need for support: many clients feel alone during their search and feel a desire to be guided through the process
- Shared Housing: Clients were unaware of this option but excited to explore
- Facing Unexpected costs: made harder by insurance and deposits
- Transportation difficulties: Make it challenging to access jobs and resources

Challenges experienced by Clients (RRH/PSH)

- Need for continued support: Feeling of loneliness and fear of instability after housing
- Housing qualities: unsafe areas and poor maintenance
- Transportation struggles limited access to public transit to get to jobs and services
- Financial Barriers: credit issues, discrimination, eviction history, create obstacles. Need for Financial education on budgeting

Data on Housing Challenges in WNY

- 55% of Buffalo households are renters
- Nearly half of renters pay 30% or more of income to rent
- Quarter of renters pay more than half of their income on rent
- 61% of housing supply was built before 193
- Shelter Client Perspective
- Shared Housing initiative to reduce financial burden

- Employer Housing initiatives
- Transportation issues
- Training programs: Libraries facilitating free tech training workshops
- Resource Guide: Providing information on available resources

Client- Driven ideas improving access and stability in Housing

- Advocacy support: Clients need caseworkers to advocate for them and landlord negotiations
- Tenant Rights workshops: educational sessions
- Financial Literacy
- Language Access: Bilingual resources and workshops

Client Centered Initiatives

A path to affordability and Community Building

- Shared Housing: Share living spaces to reduce costs and create stability
- Benefits: Reduces Financial Burden, Builds sense of community, Encourages Partnerships, helps address affordability

Amplifying Voices: The Program Advisory Committee

- 25+ individuals with lived experience within last 7 years
- Purpose: to involve individuals in decision making for homeless service providers
- Lived expertise: Members use their experiences to create meaningful impact

Empowering Clients through the 8 dimensions of Wellness

- Hollistic approach
- Building Confidence
- Community Connections
- Life skills

Moving Forward Together: Empowering Clients Enhancing Services

- Implement client driven solutions
- Advocate for better housing policies and tenant protections
- Continue including lived experience in future planning
- Encourage providers to host focus groups and support groups
- QR code below to engage in policy advocacy and conversations with HAWNY



3.) Kexin Ma Discusses Local Applications

- Due to number of applications we are unable to fund all of applications

4.) Annual Luncheon: Katrina Cropo announces Annual Luncheon will take place on Friday December 13th, 2024 at The Classic V.

Katrina Announces Follow up email is forthcoming with ticket information

5.) Community Announcements

Celina Bryan, Turkey and Coat Giveaway (see flyer below) Nov. 23, 11-3pm

Felicia C Sylvia: Event for individuals Exiting Prison released Oct 1st 6-8

PHC October 8th 8-4, register to volunteer, donate, etc. There is a need for more volunteers to run tables <https://www.phcbuffalo.org/>

5. Adjournment

Important Links

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf665AMj0HHNc5b1t3VX0xe8P7pYaxjtSxeFT-W0MjQ-rwQVA/viewform>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hmRN0F37EZB87hcMxFmr9i1d6JRn1Gpn/view>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FAqPXQr4osemqpUDJ-DN1Bc1f2xLSPlj/view?usp=sharing>



The flyer is framed by a decorative border of autumn leaves, berries, and a blue jacket. At the top, it lists the location: **Johnnie B Wiley Center**, 1100 Jefferson Ave., Buffalo, NY 14208. The central focus is a roasted turkey in a yellow circle, with the text **TURKEY & COAT HOLIDAY GIVEAWAY** in large orange letters. Below this, it says *Free Event* and **NOVEMBER 23RD** in orange, with the time **11:00am-3:00pm**. A logo with the text **ONE GOAL** is centered below the time. The text **PRE-REGISTER FOR YOUR TURKEY AT 716-388-5084** is prominently displayed. At the bottom, it states **FLU-SHOTS, COVID SHOTS, VACCINATIONS, AND SCREENINGS PROVIDED BY NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH**. The footer contains logos for **Colvin Cleaners**, **HIGHMARK WESTERN NEW YORK**, **Johnnie B Wiley Center**, **Coat's Kids**, **TOPS Friendly Markets**, **Harvest House Buffalo**, **meals 2GO**, and **NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH CENTER**.

Johnnie B Wiley Center
1100 Jefferson Ave., Buffalo, NY 14208

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HOLIDAY GIVEAWAY**
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11:00am-3:00pm

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AT 716-388-5084**

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