

ALLEGHENY COUNTY HOMELESS ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
January 29, 2013, 10:00 AM
Liberty Room

Members

Mary Frances Pilarski, VA; Adrienne Walnoha, CHS; Jack McGraw, ACHA; George Moses, Housing Alliance; Reggie Young, ACDHS-OCS

Guests

Rob Eamigh, ACDHS; Chuck Keenan, ACDHS; Kevin Hanley, United Way/211; Mac McMahon, CHS; Kellie Wild, EECM; Jen Bosack, Goodwill; ; Jackie Abel-Stavropoulos, Goodwill; Denetta Benjamin, Beth Haven; Anne Kainaroi, CHS; Autumn Stevens, CHS; Lisa Zimmerman, Adagio; Ray Firth, OCD; Cyndi Haines, HUD; Judy Barricella, ACDHS Kate Holko, ACDHS; Ryan Burger, ACDHS

Welcome

Reggie Young welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of Previous Meeting Notes

The minutes from the October 2012 meeting were approved as presented.

Continuum of Care Application Update

Rob Eamigh gave an update to the Continuum of Care funding application. He explained that this year's CoC application has 69 projects up for renewal, with a total demand for 12.9 million dollars. The *pro rata* need for the county is 18 million dollars, so the county has about 4.7 million dollars available for new projects in this year's application. As a result, DHS will be applying for 10 new projects with over 180 units of new housing under the 2012 CoC application. The county is also applying for a Planning Grant in the amount of \$204,694.

Terri Laver added that the current CoC application contained over 18 million dollars in leveraging that came directly from the matching of clients between HMIS and the DHS data warehouse. In total, Allegheny County was able to show a total match of 300% to the HUD allocated CoC funding. In order to be eligible for CoC funding, a continuum must demonstrate at least 125% match, so our continuum should score very well on this portion of the application.

Point-in-Time Announcement

Mr. Eamigh announced that the annual point-in-time count of homeless individuals and families is scheduled to take place on January 30. He noted that DHS held a training for all programs on January 23, 2013. Final counts from providers are due to the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Homeless Services February 6, 2013. He expects to have the results documented and released by the end of February.

CoC Committee Update

Ms. Laver provided the notes and an update from the last Continuum of Care Committee meeting held on November 20, 2012. She noted that the committee developed five priorities for the coming year:

1. Re-evaluate Homeless Advisory Board (HAB) membership and its duties
2. Review the CoC responsibilities and educate CoC membership on them
3. Develop a coordinated intake/assessment process that complies with HUD requirements
4. Increase performance outcomes among funded programs
5. Improve the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

It was also noted that the Continuum of Care now has the ability to recapture funds from low performing programs.

ESG Program Update

Mr. Young gave a small update on the Emergency Solutions Grant program. He reported that DHS, Allegheny County Economic Development, and City Planning have been meeting to ensure that HMIS is up to date and that the organizations are working together. Mac McMahan explained the Rapid Re-housing and Homeless Prevention portions of the program, noting that the ESG funded providers have been reaching out to the HUD funded transitional housing and state funded HAP bridge housing programs to see if they have clients who would be appropriate for the Rapid Re-housing program. He added that HUD has set a standard of 1:2 Prevention versus Rapid Re-housing funding and that the program has already exhausted the prevention portion of this funding.

Severe Weather Emergency Shelter (SWES) Update

Mr. Young provided an update of the census at the Severe Weather Emergency Shelter so far this season. The SWES has been open 21 days so far this season, which began November 15, 2012. The occupancy at the shelter has been steadily increasing from about 40 to a high of 92 recently. About 75% of residents are men and 25% are women.

Mr. Young also discussed a recent meeting between him, Homeless Service staff, and street outreach providers, which will recur quarterly. At this meeting, the group discussed ways to better reach the unsheltered populations in McKeesport, McKees Rocks, and other places outside of the city core. The group also discussed the need to enter clients seen on the street in the HMIS system. Adrienne Walnoha suggested a good way to reach the unsheltered population in these outlying areas of the county is through the community development corporations, since many of these individuals are living in abandoned buildings known to such groups. George Moses also suggested working with local churches since they have knowledge of what is happening in the community and who is suffering.

HAB Membership

Mr. Young announced that the Department of Human Services is currently recruiting new members to the HAB. Based on the new HEARTH regulations, the group needs to

ensure membership from the recently homeless. Ms. Laver added that attendance may be required by the new HEARTH regulations and that providers may be required to cycle on and off of the board. Ms. Walnoha asked that DHS solicit a call for membership to the entire community. Ray Firth added that foundations often provide small grants to convene families so that they can come prepared to participate in meetings like the HAB. Ms. Laver noted that HUD has advised continuums across the country to go to providers and solicit input from clients living within the homeless programs.

Announcements

Mr. Firth did a small presentation on opportunities available to homeless providers through the Human Services Block Grant. He offered two recommendations for the HAB to consider—encourage homeless providers to submit concept papers aimed at serving homeless families with young children to improve their developmental needs and to ask the Coordinated Intake work group to include service planning recommendations for these young children as well.

Mary Frances Pilarski announced the VA Summit that is scheduled for February 26 at 9:00 AM at the VA Aspinwall.

Mr. Moses passed out information on the Housing Alliance’s Policy Agenda. He also announced a session that they are sponsoring at BNY Mellon on February 6 about the impacts of Sequestration in housing programs locally.

Open Discussion

None.

Next Meeting

The next Homeless Advisory Board meeting will be on April 30, 2013 at 10:00 AM Liberty Room, Lower Level, Human Services Building, One Smithfield Street, Pittsburgh.