

Allegheny County Homeless Advisory Board

HAB Quarterly Meeting

October 28, 2014 10:00 AM to 11:50 AM

Human Services Building, Liberty Room

One Smithfield Street, Pittsburgh.

Purpose: The Homeless Advisory Board (HAB) is a public/private partnership formed to assist and recommend Allegheny County, the City of Pittsburgh, the City of McKeesport and the Municipality of Penn Hills on public policy, programs, activities, data and all other efforts that will eliminate homelessness and improve the wellbeing of homeless persons and families.

HAB Members Attendees:

Jerry Cafardi, City PGH

Julie DeSeyn, UWAC

Frank Hammond, BNY Mellon

Mary Parks, Sisters Place

Laurel Randi, McCune Fdn

Adrienne Walnoha, CHS

Reggie Young, DHS

Laverne Wagner on behalf of Caster Binion, HACP

Mary Jo Dickson on behalf of Don Clark, OBH

Pat Fenton on behalf of Larry Swanson, ACTION Housing

Jim Brown on behalf of A.J. Tedesco, City of McKeesport

Charles Christen, PATF

Jane Downing, PGH Fdn

Linda Kilderry, SVdP

Mary Francis Pilarski, VA

Barb Smith, HEARTH

Rod Willaman, Chartiers

Betty Cruz, Office of Mayor PGH

Nancy Dunkis, ACDEC

Jack McGraw, ACHP

Lenny Prewitt, Family Links

Tracy Soska, Pitt

Dr. Jim Withers, OSN

Guest Attendees:

Jackie Stavropoulos, Goodwill

Ryan Burger, DHS

Steve Forrester, WPIC

Josh Inklovich, Total Housing Solutions

Mac McMahan, CHS

Charles Tressler, Goodwill

Jeffrey Williams, St. Joe HoH

Teanna Ross, TSS

Peter Harvey, DHS

Judy Eakin, HEARTH

Heidi Allison, Beth Haven

Autumn Stevens, CHS

Pat Valetine, DHS

Rob Eamigh, DHS

Traci Arnold, HOPE Center

Dezrea D'Alessandro, DHS

Cindy Haines, HUD

Lois Martin, Beth Haven

Jess Netto, CHS

Lisa Trunick, Beth Haven

Jeremy Murtin, CHS

Keith Giles, First Step

Steve Rorison, Light of Life

Karen Snair, AVAOC

Joe Elliott, Allegheny Link

Renee Aldrich, PHH

Chuck Keenan, DHS

Liz Hersh, Housing Alliance

Daphne Beers, CHS

Christina Farmartino, Open Door

Abigail Horn, DHS

Nicole Molinaro, WC&S

Diana Reichenbach, Goodwill

Kellie Wild, EECM

Emyl Pypstek, OBH

Stephanie Chiapinni, PMHS

Maggie McFalls, Library

Sheila Bell, DHS

Rosanne Majcher, AAA

Mike Glenn, PHH

Terri Laver, DHS

Gale Schwartz, Housing Alliance

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Notes:

- 1. Welcome & Introductions—Frank Hammond, Chair**
 - a. Vote to Approve last quarter's minutes
 - i. Jane Downing motioned, Adrienne Walnoha second
 - ii. Passed with unanimous approval
- 2. Homeless System Map- Ryan Berger (please refer to System Map Attachment)**
 - a. The homeless systems map is a breakdown of step by step and looks at trends showing where people come from and exit. The map does not show longitudinal type (time) information
 - b. The map does not capture
 - i. Tracking exits to shelter if person leaves system completely first
 - ii. If person is returning to same doubled up situation.
 - c. Data is self-reported from consumers and input into HMIS
 - d. Other high performing CoCs have been mapping system to identify trends
 - e. There was discussion on longer times for families to find housing and how longer shelter stays diminishes the capacity of the system
 - f. Ryan noted People typically access only one service on the map
 - g. Laurel Randi asked how recidivism is shown
 - i. Terri Laver discussed the HUD definition of recidivism where a person/family has to exit permanent/transitional housing program and returns to shelter in less than two years
- 3. CoC Application- Chuck Keenan (please refer to summary of projects attachment)**
 - a. The renewal application is due Thursday. It seeks continuation of funding at \$16.1 million for 78 projects including 1 new project at western psych and a new rapid rehousing project for families with OSN. Chuck believes Allegheny Co will receive its entire request for Tier 1 and is optimistic that Tier 2 projects will not be cut as it was last year. The new rapid rehousing project is competing nationally for funds.
 - b. Laurel Randi started discussion on programs ranking. Rankings are based on an annual report card based on benchmarks and HUD priorities such as permanent housing and serving chronic homeless, with opportunity for input from providers and HAB members through the evaluation and CoC committee
 - c. Vote for Endorsement
 - i. Mary Parks moved to vote, Nancy Dunkis second
 - ii. Unanimous approval
 - d. Laurel started discussion on returned and reallocated funds
 - i. One program returned funds
 - ii. there was allowance to apply for the bonus
 - iii. All but one program submitted for renewal
- 4. Discussion: Moving forward with Housing First in Allegheny County (please refer to Housing First 101 attachment) —Frank Hammond, Chair (10:25)**

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One of the goals set by the HAB leadership team this year is greater alignment between the requirements of HEARTH, the experience of providers, the community and the discussion at HAB meetings. Today we focus on Housing First.

- a.** Frank reviewed the training series and discussed the goal to bring the alignment through the discussion through the HAB
- b.** Based on the training, what are the opportunities and challenges we as a Continuum face?
 - i.** Josh Inklovich discussed his organization Total Housing Solutions & Focused Industrial Training work with folks dealing with barriers on employment and had to re-evaluate practices once the organization realized that efforts to address employment were diminished if a person did not have housing. As a result his organization has partnered with a developer to build a 60 unit apartment building of affordable housing. He is working to develop a trade program suited for folks who may not be suited for regular employment. He has a current team of investors, interested parties and is looking to expand out to provider network.
 - ii.** Adrienne Walnoha started discussion on best way coordinate and Chuck Keenan suggested he attend the Local Housing Options Team meeting to incubate the project
 - 1.** LHOT meets 1st Tuesday of the month at 9 at DHS in Rachel Carson
- c.** What are possible next steps to move forward?
 - i.** Frank Hammond started discussion with talking about opportunities such as tossed furniture from hotels as a means for starting a furniture bank
 - 1.** Keith Giles noted First Step was contracted to have a furniture bank for families but closed years ago and still has bank for Vets. Keith reported the warehouse is underutilized and is open for use.
 - 2.** Keith and Frank discussed current collaborations for furniture banks
- d.** Should we create a Housing First Task Force to further explore and propose solutions?
 - i.** Adrienne Walnoha discussed the service committee of the past with a purpose to identified gaps in services such as a furniture bank and suggested rebooting that committee instead
 - ii.** Judy Eakin expressed the need to clarify the difference between Housing First and Rapid Re-Housing
 - 1.** Housing First is a philosophy based in harm reduction, philosophy that housing is the base for supports to be built on. With Housing First people are allowed to fail in housing without termination and Housing First does not have time limits. It is a promising practice for folks with multiple barriers.
 - 2.** RRH is a time limited program, with housing provided first before wrap around services are added. lease held by tenant

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iii. Judy started discussion on accessing permanent supportive housing for homeless families without a household having a Mental Health disability diagnosed.

1. This is example of HUD rules not matching the needs of folks traveling the system

5. Presentation & Discussion on DHS Strategic initiative- Suzy Chase (please refer to DHS Plan Feedback attachment)

a. Review of DHS survey and the 3 strategic initiatives. This is preliminary information with action steps to come from results of the survey.

i. Suzy Chase discussed the need for feedback and discussion on the best way to integrate the DHS initiative to others in the community.

ii. Abby Horn is to lead the action team for Strategic Initiative 1. Chuck Keenan is to lead the action team for Strategic Initiative 2. and Joe Elliott is to lead the action team for Strategic Initiative 3.

iii. Action teams are charged with creating the plan, determine the measures, outcomes and budgetary needs.

iv. Jane Downing started discussion with applauding efforts to address the other populations in the DHS system but expressed concerns the plan ignores the external systems such as vets, domestic violence, and unaccompanied youth. She also expressed concerns for geographical alignment of the other resources and how those are to be identified. She expressed concern that the HAB is not as far along to answer the integration question.

1. Suzy stated DHS needs to “fix its own house” and suggested the HAB take the regional look and to ultimately lead to a Collective Impact approach. DHS is seeking alignment with the HAB

v. Adrienne Walnoha suggested looking at who is funding, what their expectations are related to the homeless system because as of right now those funding streams are not coordinated. DHS and HAB should look at what the system does, can do, and should do.

vi. Laurel Randi discussed the Jail Collaborative charged to reduce recidivism, stating the heart of issue is the strengthening interrelation between all partners with the system as the focus. Folks in our system seem to experience the breakdowns of other systems. There was discussion on leveraging the broader players, reduce redundancy and overlap, and engaging other systems as partners leading to a housing collaborative

vii. Tracy Soska led discussion on looking at collective impact, the differences between strategic and comprehensive initiatives, how do we bring the right people to the table. Collective impact can lead to a more broader focus

6. Committee Reports

a. Advocacy Committee- Adrienne Walnoha (please refer to HAB Style Guide attachment)

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- i. Adrienne Walnoha presented a Style Guide to the HAB to a common way of talking about homeless. The advocacy committee wants to take the style guide and use it to educate the public about what homelessness with a message that is collective and consistent. The message is about normalizing the housing crisis, stating anyone is “one day away” because housing is expensive for everyone, crisis can happen to anyone and it’s an economic issue
 - ii. Vote to approve items/actions outlined on page 6 of document—
 - 1. Linda Kilderry moved to vote, Mary Francis Pilarski second
 - 2. Unanimous approval
 - iii. Chuck Christen discussed wanting to create a website and use media to assist programs. The committee is now wrestling with the question of who is going to pay for and manage with the request that entity be community based
 - 1. HAB Guest Suggested a group out of Carnegie Mellon who has done similar project with non-profit start-ups
- b. Homeless Outreach Coordinating Committee- Mac McMahon (11:25)**
- i. Outreach is the front door to the CoC. HOCC currently has three efforts
 - 1. Emergency responders is very successful, with half city police zones represented but need more folks,
 - 2. Had two meetings in McKeesport because they are still missing a voice and there is concerns of folks staying in vacant properties
 - 3. There have been meetings with the magistrates to address the breakdown in process for folks not getting evaluated for jail based interventions as a means of breaking the cycle of serial inebriates bouncing around both systems.

7. Announcements

- a. SWES (Severe Weather Emergency Shelter) - Stephanie Chiappini (11:30)**
- i. Open November 15th through March 15th on nights 25 degrees below or in extreme weather. Serves street homeless and those living homes without utilities. Men are at Smithfield Church and Women at Shepard’s Heart
 - ii. There is a new intake process for women. Women will be directed to Shepard’s Heart for intake (before intake was completed at Smithfield Church). Services provided are meal, shower, laundry and med clinic.
 - iii. To get on the email notification list or to learn how to volunteer please contact Stephanie Chiapinni at SChiappini@pmhs.org
 - 1. Dr. Withers gave credit to DHS for starting and is looking at ways to better coordinate with other shelters
- b. Openings on the Board- Frank Hammond**
- i. There are openings on the board to represent the following constituencies
 - 1. Health Rep
 - 2. Consumer Rep
 - 3. Business Rep

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8. Public Comments

- a. Liz Hersh discussed the first ever Statewide CoC summit November 18th as part of Housing Alliance of PA Homes within Reach Conference to include lunch with Ann Oliva from HUD in Washington and sessions with experts from the National Alliance to End Homelessness. To register go to www.homeswithinreachconference.org
- b. Nicole Molinaro discussed Women's Center and Shelter launch of app Are You Safe. The app is to help user assess if in unsafe relationship and connect with the right resources
- c. Barb Smith asked about Coordinated Assessment and if a decision tool to inform how people are matched to program type. Chuck Keenan stated that right now it will be driven by choice and eligibility but DHS is looking at assessment tools

The 2015 Quarterly HAB Meeting Schedule

Location: DHS (1 Smithfield, Pittsburgh PA 15219)

Time: 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Dates:

- **Tuesday, January 27th**
- **Tuesday, April 28th**
- **Tuesday, July 28th**
- **Tuesday, October 27th**