

Allegheny County Homeless Advisory Board

CoC Bi-Monthly Meeting

March 27, 2018 10:00AM to 12:00PM

1 Smithfield St

Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Purpose: The Homeless Advisory Board (HAB) is a public/private partnership formed to assist and recommend to 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 persons and families who are homeless.

HAB Members

Frank Aggazio (P)
Meg Balsamico (P)
Caster Binion
Jerry Cafardi (P)
Cassa Collinge (P)
Tom Cummings
Sean DeYoung

Jane Downing (P)
Laura Drogowski
Amber Farr
Marlon Ferguson
Pete Giacalone (P)
Abigail Horn (P)
Anna Kudrov (P)

Joe Lagana (P)
John Lovelace (P)
Lenny Prewitt
Richard Rapp (P)
Chris Roach (P)
Bethany Wingerson (P)

Guest Attendees

Emily Adler, DHS
Andrea Bustos, DHS
Jeremy Carter, CHS
Rob Eamigh, DHS
Joe Elliott, DHS
Kathi Elliot, Gwen's Girls
George Fickenworth, Mercyhurst
Garletta Germany, DHS
Kate Holko, DHS
Diane Johnson, DHS
Chuck Keenan, DHS
Lisa Kessler, DHS
Terri Laver, DHS

Jessica McKown, DHS
Ross Neary, City of Pgh
Kristen Ornato, KidsVoice
Janice Palucis, DHS
Christy Pietryga, VLP
Gretchen Rectenwald, YWCA
Carries Richardson, Catholic Charities
Megan Rose, United Way
Kelly Russell, City of Pgh
Sally Stadelman, City of Pgh
Lisa Trunick, Familylinks
Emma Wallis Jones, DHS
Kellie Wild, EECM

Minutes

1. Welcome & Review of Meeting Minutes—John Lovelace

- January Meeting Minutes were approved.

2. Committee Updates

CoC Analysis and Planning Committee—Pete Giacalone

As part of the annual HUD CoC Program NOFA application, a ranking of projects is required. To facilitate the ranking, recommendations and a renewal project scoring tool were developed. The recommendations and ranking tool have been thoroughly discussed by the CoC Analysis and Planning Committee and utilize the processes and tools from 2017, with updates to continue to improve the quality and meaningfulness of the scoring and ranking process. Examples of changes from the 2017 tool include: modifying the metric around increasing income to also include maintaining income, streamlining the measure of cost effectiveness into a single metric on cost per successful outcome, and increasing the point value of the housing performance metric for PSH.

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The 2018 Ranking and Review Recommendations and Evaluation Tool were approved unanimously.

HOCC—Chris Roach

Chris Roach presented the HOCC's proposed policy on Outreach and Law Enforcement Collaboration. Building from the successful collaboration with the City of Pittsburgh Police, the HOCC has developed an Outreach-Police Collaboration document to support effective partnerships with other police departments. The policy details how homeless providers and police can assist each other, including practical process steps for coordination and support between police and outreach staff. In reviewing the policy, Mr. Roach noted that BigBurgh has been the most effective communication resource with current collaborations, and rather than establishing new processes with each new collaboration, BigBurgh will be utilized, providing a direct link the full scope of street outreach staff.

The Policy of Law Enforcement Collaboration was approved unanimously.

Provider Committee—Kellie Wild

The group has been establishing recommended guidelines and rules for operations. The next step will be to share the draft with Mr. Lovelace for review and comment, followed by a review and consideration by the full HAB.

3. Infrastructure Organization Update—Abby Horn

Ms. Horn provided the following updates from DHS:

- The Winter Shelter recently closed, after having extended its operations several days beyond the originally planned March 15th closure due to cold weather. Northside Homeless Alliance helped with the transition, including planning overflow shelter space.
- In preparation for the 2018 HUD CoC Program NOFA, a Pre-Application Kick-Off Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 25th at 10am in the Homestead Grays Conference Room (1 Smithfield St).
- Annual monitoring is beginning in April and will run through the summer. Providers have already been contacted by the monitors regarding scheduling, and monitoring will include the programmatic oversight as well as data monitoring.
- April 18th-19th, Pittsburgh is hosting the National Human Services Consortium Spring Conference. Erin Dalton and Andy Halfhill will be presenting on the Data Warehouse during the plenary session, Joe Elliott is presenting on Coordinated Entry and the Allegheny Link, and Rachel Rue is presenting on a right-sizing tool for examining hap analysis for shelter beds.
- DHS, as the CoC Collaborative Applicant, is applying for the HUD Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP). Application is due in mid-April and a Youth Action Board has been established to help with planning and development. If selected as one of the communities, the CoC would be able to apply for additional project money that could become part of annual renewal funding.

4. Community Strategic Plan—Jane Downing, Joe Lagana

Jane Downing noted that while a significant portion of CoC focus has been on HUD rules, regulations and applications, there are other large federal mandates that impact CoC consumers, including the federal mandate to school districts under Every Student Success Act (ESSA), through the Department of Education. Schools can serve as an important early warning system, and if we could mobilize communities around the schools to help them with interventions, we will maybe prevent people from having housing instability. One of the additions to ESSA was saying schools are responsible for identifying youth, including young people aging out of foster care. Because the

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HUD system doesn't count youth until 18, the onerous is put onto schools, and of course no money is attached to the requirements.

When developing our Strategic Plan, the consultants recommended better relationships with the education system, and within our CoC the logical collaborating group is the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU), which covers 43 school districts (Pittsburgh Public Schools is separate). Initially, the conversation was around coordinating transportation for students whose family had to move due to homelessness, to keep kids at original schools. However, we also see other levels of partnerships, both in policy and program. Joe Lagana shared areas of collaboration, in addition to the efforts around transportation, including both efforts that have already begun and items identified for further discussion and development:

- Each district has a local homeless education liaison who supports the identification of youth experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness and ensuring those students receive the services they need. The liaison is the primary contact between homeless families, school and LEA staff, shelter workers, and other service providers. Through this position and the requirements of ESSA, Allegheny County school districts regularly identify approximately 3,000 students as homeless, a stark difference from the counts within the homeless system. The disparity is due to definitions, and there is an ongoing need to clarify the definitions, their interpretations, and action items.
- Stakeholders need to become advocates; Mr. Lagana shared a list of Bills being presented that address youth and young adults experiencing homelessness (Attachment A).
- Integration of schools into Coordinated Entry process.
- Expanding district participation in the Data Warehouse to better coordinate data and further identify areas for opportunity.
- Youth leaving jails and going to homelessness indicates an opportunity for multi-system coordination.

5. Public Comment

- None

6. Allegheny County CoC Overview Presentation

Following the conclusion of the CoC business, HAB leadership presented an overview of the CoC for new members. The slides presented can be found in Attachment B.

Next CoC Meeting

Tuesday, May 29th, 2018—10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Human Services Building One Smithfield Street, Pittsburgh