

The Chautauqua County Homeless Coalition



Promoting a uniform response to the needs of the homeless in our community

Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2017 – Called to order 10:00 a.m.

In Attendance:

Bill Vogt - COI	Josh Miller – COI
Gina Ward – STEL	Jesslyn Esquilin – COI
Shannon Higbee – Housing Options Made Easy	Jon Anderson – HHS/DSS
Kristy Woodfield - Law NY	Patti Yokom – Chautauqua County Youth Bureau
Amy Rohler - CHH	John Noel - COI
Robin Rafan - DHHS	Jeff Hollern – City of Jamestown

1. Welcome & Introduction:

Bill Vogt facilitated today's meeting. Attendees introduced themselves.

2. Review of Minutes:

Minutes from the November 2, 2016 meeting were reviewed by all attendees. There were no changes or additions.

3. Membership Update :

Current Signed Membership Agreement	
American Red Cross	Housing Options Made Easy
Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc.	Legal Assistance of Western New York
CHRIC	SNAP! Cattaraugus Community Action, Inc.
Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System	Southern Tier Environments for Living, Inc.
Chautauqua County Department of Health & Human Services	St. Susan Center
Chautauqua County Youth Bureau	The Resource Center
City of Jamestown Department of Development	The Salvation Army
CODE	Veterans Administration
Dunkirk Housing Authority	Willow Mission – First UMC Dunkirk
Erie 2-Chautauqua Cattaraugus BOCES	YWCA of Jamestown

4. HMIS Data:

- a) Data & Statistic Review: Question was made regarding HMIS data from schools. Patti is trying to reach out to BOCES. Every school has a homeless liaison and it was suggested that they come to Homeless Coalition meetings so we can get connected to them, especially if their numbers are high, so they can be aware of the services provided.
- b) HMIS Participating Agency Data Review: Documents the HUD will accept for HMIS are letterheads from shelters or an organization letter as well as a consumer's written statement - if someone was sleeping behind a business, they are able to write that up to be used also as an affidavit. Working with DHHS to get on board with HMIS.

5. Coordinated/Centralized Assessment:

Bill reported that the committee has not met.

6. Other Business:

- a) HUD definition of Chronic Homelessness: A single individual (or head of household) with a disabling condition who has either a) experienced homelessness for longer than a year, during which time the individual may have lived in a shelter, Safe Haven, or a place not meant for human habitation. Or experienced homelessness four or more times in the last three years.
- b) Union Gospel Mission Update- Prior to today's meeting, Lieutenant Quattrone reported that the mission building will be transferred to UCAN within the month (unless something unexpected happens), and they are hoping to have it ready for occupancy shortly thereafter, with a realistic goal of February 1st.
- c) 2017 PIT Count (Point in Time) – This year's count will be held Thursday, January 26th from 4 am to 8 am. This is an unsheltered count of individuals on the streets and will cover 17 different areas within the county. There is a volunteer training on January 19th at 10 am at Connections North. We will need volunteers who are willing to get out of their cars and search in known places (rather than just driving by). Volunteers will be checking lobbies, barns, bus stops, etc. Last year's count was successful due to a high number of volunteers. Important to consult with local law enforcement regarding the count. There are surveys that volunteers will use to collect the required data. There will be more information at the upcoming volunteer training.
- d) Code Blue – Emergency regulation put in place by OTDA that any time the outside temperature is below 32 degrees, individuals must be provided shelter (day or night). All law enforcement during non-business hours are authorized to house homeless individuals/families in local hotels until the next business day when the individual/family should connect with DHHS for help finding long-term shelter. Code Blue sites will be coordinating on January 12th. Please contact Michelle Shoemaker at 716-661-8830 with questions.
- e) List of meeting dates for 2017 were distributed.

7. Adjourn:

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by. All in attendance voted in favor of adjourning. The meeting was adjourned at 11:10am.

The date of the next meeting March 16, 2017