

The Chautauqua County Homeless Coalition



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

Meeting Minutes

November 2, 2016 – Called to order 10:00 a.m.

In Attendance:

Bill Vogt - COI	Josh Miller – COI
Gina Ward – STEL	Lori Del Nero – COI
Shannon Higbee – Housing Options Made Easy	Jon Anderson – HHS/DSS
Karen Anderson - VA	Patti Yokom – Chautauqua County Youth Bureau
2 VA Interns (accompanying Karen Anderson)	

1. Welcome & Introduction:

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

2. Review of Minutes:

Minutes from the September 12, 2016 meeting were reviewed by all attendees. There were no changes or additions. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Gina Ward and was seconded by Josh Miller. All in attendance voted in favor of approval.

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: HMIS data from 10/1/15 through 9/30/16 was presented for review. An update of the ongoing HMIS Data Monitoring Plan showed data quality at 99%, which is above our goal of 96%. Gina suggested the possibility of a user training to ensure that disabilities are more accurately reported.
- b) HMIS Participating Agency Data Review: HMIS Data Completeness Report Cards were reviewed for each participating agency: COI, Housing Options Made Easy, Southern Tier Environments for Living and YWCA of Jamestown.

5. Coordinated/Centralized Assessment:

Bill reported that the employee working on the coordinated assessment is no longer employed by COI, however has volunteered her time to finalize the tool. We hope to have it available at the next meeting for presentation and training.

6. Other Business:

- a) Possible CoC Merger: Gina reported that HAWNY is open to the possibility of a merger with our CoC. As part of the merger, they would be looking for full coverage with HMIS. This would include active participation of HMIS data entry with DSS for any individuals they serve who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, including vouchers that are issued. The goal is to provide full representation throughout Chautauqua County. Jon Anderson from DSS was in attendance at today's meeting and will discuss this further with Diane Anderson (DSS).
- b) Code Blue: Thomas Vitale was presenting our initial plan to utilize local libraries as warming stations to the library directors. We are awaiting the outcome of this presentation from Thomas. COI has offered to be the point of contact for resources that might be needed for individuals using the warming stations.
- c) Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program: This grant is through the US Department of Health & Human Services for new and innovative approaches for youth homelessness (youth aging out of foster care, high school drop outs, probation supervised, etc.) There is a short time to apply and ten grants will be awarded throughout the country. A sub-committee has been assembled to work on this, but the CoC's approval is needed to submit the application. A motion was made to approve this submission by Gina Ward and was seconded by Shannon Higbee. All in attendance voted in favor of approval.
- d) Union Gospel Mission Update: Jim Quattrone was unable to attend but emailed an update on the shelter. He reported that things are still moving along, although slowly. At any time the building should be signed over to UCAN, but the exact date is unknown. UCAN's goal is to provide emergency shelter by Thanksgiving and "transformational housing" around the first of the year.
- e) Southern Tier Environments for Living: Gina reported that they have a 1 bedroom opening in Pine Valley and a 2 bedroom in Olean that will be available soon.
- f) Housing Options Made Easy: Shannon reported that they have 4 new beds available in Cattaraugus County.
- g) Safe Harbor Initiative: Patti reported on the online survey that was sent out by the University of Niagara County and requested that everyone please participate and forward appropriately as all responses will be helpful. Lori will forward the survey to the group.
- h) Veterans Committee: This is a new sub-committee to address Veteran homelessness that will start reporting at our next Homeless Coalition meeting. Josh Miller is the lead contact. Karen Anderson volunteered to serve on the committee and a request for additional members will be sent out. Those interested in participating should contact Josh - jmiller@chautopp.org.
- i) PIT Count: Gina announced that the next PIT count will be held the last Thursday in January. We will again be looking for volunteers to assist with the count. More information will be sent out as soon as it is available.

7. Adjourn:

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Shannon Higbee and was seconded by Jon Anderson. All in attendance voted in favor of adjourning. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.

The date of the next meeting TBA.