**February 16, 2024**

**CoC Business Meeting Minutes**

**9:00am-10:15am, Zoom**

**Recording:** [**https://youtu.be/7cgFwqlT\_hU**](https://youtu.be/7cgFwqlT_hU)

**Attendees listed at end of document**

1. **CoC Funding Round** (CoC Planning Team) 
   * 2023 Review and Reflections on HUD Funding Awards
     + Two new programs funded: New Ground and EoC of Nassau for new PSH programs, including leveraged housing to qualify for bonus funds.
     + Increased capacity to serve chronically homeless households in CoC. New programs able to serve households eligible for vouchers and Nassau, and survivors of domestic violence in Suffolk. This is helpful as the PSH model helps with long-term housing stability but there is limited turnover to serve new households.
     + Several programs cut by HUD, all DV projects, based on regional needs and program evaluation determined by the Ranking Committee.
       - HUD funding increasingly based on data-driven outcomes, with challenges in the shelter structure leading to longer homelessness periods in the region.
       - Challenges applying the TH-RRH model locally, with limited access to eligible populations such as youth and DV households.
     + Next steps: HUD to send renewals first, followed by new program contracts; mid-year contracts and start date decisions expected.
     + Debriefing on last funding round done by the previous Ranking Committee; nomination process for new members and potential expansion of committee size underway.
   * Preparing for 2024 Funding Round
   * If you are interested in CoC funds, please let us know.
   * Most programs cut were applied for under DV bonus. Over the past 2 years, we left close to $1.5 million in DV Bonus funds on the table, so those funds are still available. Existing DV programs can reimagine their programs and reapply, or other projects can apply for expansions. New providers are welcome to apply as well. These are set aside funds.
   * There will be an emphasis on leveraging healthcare for the local funding competition in 2024.
2. **HEALI – 1115 Waiver and Social Care Network Designation**

* A new Medicaid waiver allocates $6.69 billion for health-related initiatives, with $3.7 billion designated for Health Related Social Needs (HRSN) activities reimbursed by Medicaid.
* This initiative requires the establishment of Social Care Networks to foster regional collaborations between health and social care ecosystems.
* The Health Equity Alliance of Long Island (HEALI) will serve as a Social Care Network, screening Medicaid members for eligibility and utilizing the United Us platform for a closed referral system.
* Certain Medicaid members, including high utilizers, those with chronic conditions, and Health Homes program enrollees, will be eligible for additional services.
* HEALI plans to apply to become a Social Care Network by 3/27, with awards announced in June for a contract beginning in August 2024 and ending in March 2027.
* Community-based organizations are encouraged to join HEALI by completing a letter of intent and survey to ensure the network meets community needs.
* Organizations can also access United Us for free to make and track referrals for their clients.
* The next HEALI meeting will be a Town Hall on 2/21 at 10 am.
* [Survey](https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/6Q0b4WQ)
* [Email list](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SCN_HWCLI)
* Contact: [Sam Klein](mailto:sklein@hwcli.com)

1. **CoC Training** (Mike Giuffrida, LICH): Supporting Peer Staff / People with Lived Experience as Supervisors

* Previous training focused on removing barriers for Persons with Lived Experience (PLE) and integrating them into the workforce.
* Current training aims to support PLE in their roles and maintain their engagement as key stakeholders in ending homelessness.
* Peers and PLE offer unique perspectives and valuable services, drawing on personal experiences to engage with services effectively.
* Supervisor roles typically emphasize administrative tasks but should also focus on professional skill development, mental and emotional support, and advocating for staff value.
* Challenges for individuals returning to the workforce include benefit reductions, trauma responses, transportation and childcare issues, and social anxieties.
* Addressing biases and stigmas associated with homelessness is essential, fostering psychological safety within teams is important.
* Evaluation should assess the organization's value of PLE and their contributions to ending homelessness.
* PLE and direct service staff often have critical insights into homelessness solutions, emphasizing the importance of psychological safety for open dialogue.
* Establishing boundaries and confidentiality is crucial, along with clear expectations and consistent supervision.
* Training areas for supervisors and PLE include trauma-informed care, diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB), effective communication, and self-care.
* Agency considerations can include safety nets for crises, PLE participation in committees and support groups, flexible schedules, and recognizing PLE leadership.
* Safety, equity, support, and a strength-based approach should guide organizational practices.
* Feedback from PLE highlights the need for understanding and support during life challenges, avoiding consistent labeling of crisis situations, and providing proactive assistance.
* Examples from Hope House Ministries demonstrate successful integration of PLE into their programs, emphasizing participants' desire to contribute to the work.

1. **Coordinated Entry Updates** (Jessica Labia, LICH and TSCLI Team)
   * LICH CE (Single adults, families, youth)
     + 5 referrals to RRH, 1 referral to PSH in past month
     + LI issued 30 housing stability vouchers, had to go through CE, referred at end of last year. First people are getting their vouchers this month.
     + Many clients are experiencing skimming or scamming of SNAP / cash benefits. Must report to DSS. Client should let DSS know and would be able to get the funds back with temporary cards
       - <https://otda.ny.gov/workingfamilies/EBT-scam-alert.asp>
       - If your benefits have been stolen: Immediately contact EBT Customer Service Helpline to report your card stolen and request a replacement EBT card by:• calling 1-888-328-6399• visiting ConnectEBT• or through the ConnectEBT mobile appAfter you have reported your EBT card stolen and requested a replacement card, you can apply for replacement benefits. If you already received a replacement card since your benefits were stolen, you do not need to replace your card again.
     + Case conferencing schedule
       - Rapid Rehousing Case Conferencing- 1st Thursday of the month from 12pm-1pm
       - Suffolk County Case Conference- 2nd Thursday of the month from 12pm-1pm
       - Nassau County Case Conferencing- 3rd Thursday of the month from 12pm-1pm
       - To participate in case conferencing, email Jessica Labia: jlabia@addressthehomeless.org
     + Continuing to work on DV Emergency Transfer Plan. Hopefully will have rough draft to present to Lived Experience Advisory, then get full CoC feedback. Will continue to provide updates as available.
   * TSCLI DV CE (Actively fleeing DV)
     + 108 households on waiting list, 22 singles, 38 families of 2
     + 1 client exiting RRH to EHV
     + First referral to SEPA Mujer for new RRH program. Plan to take 4 clients in next few months
2. **HMIS Updates** (Wayne Scallon, LICH)

* Annual agreements are past due, please send in as soon as possible
* Intend to close accounts for users that have not logged in for 90 days. Agencies encouraged to look at user list. Let HMIS admin know if there are any inactive accounts. Can help save money. Will be notified of closed accounts.
* Documents uploaded to AWARD homepage:
  + Pop-ups: Client centered approach to collecting gender and race and ethnicity for HMIS. Documents from HUD on best practices.
  + Document in useful links section of homepage: explainer on what HMIS and how it is used in the CoC
* Trainings
  + New user / refresher training on 3/14
  + Data quality training on 3/28. High recommended to understand common errors and how to fix them.
  + Links found on AWARD homepage
* HMIS Team Contact information

o Wayne Scallon wscallon@addressthehomeless.orgo Roxzelle Bannerman-Martin rbannerman@addressthehomeless.orgo Stephanie Reed [sreed@addressthehomeless.org](mailto:sreed@addressthehomeless.org)

1. **Upcoming Trainings** (Jessica Labia, LICH) 
   * Coordinated Entry – large overview training on 3/18 from 10-12pm. Invite will come by next week. Registration required.
   * Housing Focused Case Management – put out survey to help schedule this training.
     1. <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfht0-C3CpPrCkavN0xy8ad6vTf7WGalKGKzvUytIdavHO1bw/viewform?usp=sf_link>
   * Legal Hand training on tenant right to repair. EHV/voucher tenant may need this but there may be a lot of anxiety or trauma about approaching landlord.
     1. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/know-your-rights-workshop-right-to-repairs-as-a-tenant-tickets-828452633127?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

**Attendees**

Diane Krasnoff, Bethany House

Freddie Purcell, Brighter Tomorrows

Nicole Falkman, CHI

Molly England, ECLI-VIBS

Catherine Albanese, Family Service League

Nicole Belfiore, FSL

Stephen Brazeau, Hope House Ministries

Tara Corn, Friedberg JCC

Terri Tupper, LICH, LI Connections

Meaghan Obergh, LICH

Alexis Goglas, LICH

Petal Bowen-Walcott, LICH

Greta Gurarton, LICH

Carrie Garcia, LICH

Bailey Riekkinen, LIC

Wayne Scallon, LICH

Yolanda Smith, LICH

Judy Batista Reyes, LICH

Jonelle Redmond, LICH

Nicole Rodi, LICH

Angelina Lunati, LICH

Stephanie Warnken, Mercy Haven

Deirdre Trumpy, MOMMAS House

Mia Baines, NC OCD

Salina Barnao, New Ground

Romarie McCue, The Retreat

Mayra Chacha, SEPA Mujer

Gabrielle Fasano, S:US

Vicki McGinn, Suburban Housing

Elizabeth Bazini, TSCLI

Deborah Sanderson, TSLI/HHB

Kelly Smith, WellLife Network

----after 9:15am---

Danielle Devine, HELP USA

Ashley Stokes, Brighter Tomorrows

Carolann Johns, Resurrection House