**NY-603 Governance Board Meeting Minutes**

**October 15, 2021**

**10:30AM-12:00PM**

**Zoom Virtual Meeting**

* + **Welcome and Introductions (chat)**
  + **Updates on CoC Funding Round (local process)**
    - Circulo de la Hispanidad – looking to expand current PSH program
      * Still waiting for final budget to submit for Circulo de la Hispanidad program
    - Hope for Youth – applied for youth transitional to permanent rapid rehousing pilot program (asked to expand their program to add new beds)
      * Submitted to Ranking Committee for review
    - Estimated 500-700 available (CoC funding)
    - >1 million left on DV Bonus
    - **How to utilize funds - Leveraging housing capacity through the CoC (Discussion)** 
      * Partnerships with PHA(s) or medical services
      * How do we enhance capacity and strengthen partnerships with other community stakeholders? (They can be part of the solution to address homelessness)
      * We have a lot of PHA’s on Long Island
        + They may or may not have a homeless preference – can put vouchers aside for homeless populations
      * There are opportunities currently for emergency housing vouchers, but those will come and go and need to look at more opportunities as well
      * PHA’s – does anyone have any contacts? Or any PHA’s they would like to connect our team with?
      * We recognize that this would take some specific targeted outreach (what it would look like, what would it take, is it feasible, etc.)
        + Detailed conversations to work through the challenges different partners may be concerned about before considering applying
      * PHA’s (Public Housing Authorities), Health Services (i.e. Behavioral Health Programs), etc.
        + Please let us know if you have any connections and if they would be interested in discussing
        + Health Services can include Behavioral Health (there are a number of agencies that operate community-based behavioral health programs on LI)

Can be leveraged to create more permanent housing capacity

Expansions – could potentially be a possibility

* + - * Mike has been reaching out to different agencies, partners in the community, shelters that closed within the past year
        + The agencies’ whose shelter closed are not interested are applying for permanent housing
        + Need to use this money! (Not guaranteed to be available to us every year)
        + Any leads or agencies open to the idea – please contact Mike: [mgiuffrida@addressthehomeless.org](mailto:mgiuffrida@addressthehomeless.org)

Ideas: new agencies that are operating programs not through the CoC, up and coming agencies not aware of the CoC funds or might not be sitting at our meetings to learn about this, shelter operators that DSS can leverage their relationship with, etc.

* + - * Barriers:
        + Getting documentation from doctors (for clients’ behalf)

Relationships with doctors – receiving “weak” diagnoses (clients are not getting approved for higher level of care/supported housing)

* + - * + Money will be unused and sent back (because our systems cannot work together)

How do we get more applications? We need to have a stronger discussion because people are going unserved.

Requirements are so restrictive

* + - * + Housing vouchers – place clients in apartment complexes

Not many of those

Apartment complexes are throwing out clients (legal route to fix this problem)

We cannot afford to alienate every rental complex

Rehab-ing apartments and pointing to issues that have happened

Not limited to our residents

Not a successful apartment complex (Fairfield)

* + - * + OMH/Counties/SPA (hope to come together to put this on the table)
        + Do we invite housing developers to this table?

How can we work together?

To understand that there’s money on the table and there’s other ways to leverage funds and provide services

Jackie from UVBH – knows Fairfield

Motel conversions?

1 bedroom/single units (a lot of our clients need this option)

Voucher usage is project based

This is a year-long conversation (other communities are starting to do this)

HOME ARP money – purpose of this is for development

Tenant based rental assistance with it

More flexibility in this program

Housing stock is really challenging across the country

PHA partnership (set asides for on-going voucher) + HOME ARP (development)

On-going rental assistance + pair with CoC funded services

HOME ARP – coming to the table with the data to advocate for HOME ARP money for those experiencing homelessness + how else can we leverage this?

HOME ARP – development, what are we going to use for the on-going rental assistance? What are we going to use for supportive services?

Idea: new CoC programs – rental assistance and services

Acquisition – if you do not need to use CoC for acquisition, then do not use it for acquisition. Rely on HOME ARP and then use CoC funds for rental assistance and the services

CoC Acquisition program: longer life cycle and small amount of funding can be put towards acquisition and other funding can be put towards support services (may give time to align it with HOME funds before the support service portion of that contract might expire)

Talk to Alison Karppi – to see if the jurisdictions would consider and develop a plan around that

Developer may/may not be a traditional CoC partner but can possibly have to become part of the CoC equation (could be the support service provider or have a separate support service provider – and pair that with vouchers)

Health Care + PHA’s (does that have to be 2 separate programs or in the same program?) 1 project can meet both of those leveraging expectations or you can have separate projects where one is health care focused and one leverages vouchers. You only receive credit if you have both, but you can receive credit for both whether it’s one project that meets both of those thresholds or multiple.

Possibly pilot in a smaller location (i.e., Village of Patchogue have vouchers). Areas that are more progressive/done a lot of housing/has experience/homeless issue in their community that needs to be addressed/etc. Or going to the local rotary or chamber to talk about the needs of the community to get them on board too.

Need to prepare for next year

Clients need a lot of support/service supports

* + - * + Idea: Acquisition and Rehab – MATCH with something else (to give us a longer window to figure out the support services for staffing)
    - Letter
      * Writing and signing on for a collective letter
      * Advocacy for change
        + Outlining the challenges - i.e., funding, staffing, caseloads are increasing, etc.
        + Will the support services be enough?
        + These challenges will not go away
        + FMR
      * Thanh & Gabi - LICH SWK Intern
        + Work together to share this with Supportive Housing Network with NY (to see if they have any ideas)

Continue the conversation locally and raise this up in our local group

LICH can bring this up to our state group as well

LICH can help put together this letter

GB members to sign onto the letter after (if they wish)

* + **2022 Governance Board Structure and other steps towards Inclusion and Diversity- ICF/LICH**
    - **Survey responses**
      * Please fill out this feedback form and submit to Thanh via email: [tpham@addressthehomeless.org](mailto:tpham@addressthehomeless.org)
      * We will extend this out to the CoC as well for further feedback
    - Governance Board nominations
      * Extend current term? (3 or **6 months in December**?)
      * How long should we extend in order to create/re-develop what our board should look like?
    - **Next Steps**
      * Thanh to email the minutes and send the survey to the CoC
      * Thanh + Intern Gabi to meet to summarize the meeting to share with Supportive Housing Network with NY
        + Draft of letter – Greta & Sarah to help develop