CoC Business Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2020

9:00AM-10:15AM

Virtual Zoom Meeting

**Introductions**

* Welcome everyone!
* Please sign in via the chat box

**2020 Funding Round**

* Unconfirmed what the funding process will look like this year
* May not see any HUD activity until maybe January
* May not have a 2020 Funding Round (unprecedented)
* May look like automatic renewals or plan for a 2021 funding round (unprecedented)
* If agencies are already receiving coc funds, you should expect to have those funds renewed
* (Continue to look at) HUD waiver options - to meet needs of people who are at higher risk of contracting covid during this time
* Question - waiver for leasing above FMR (does that mean that you have until the end of year to procure those properties? Or is it a continuation - will we be able to maintain that above FMR for the duration of the lease for the tenant)
  + If you need to make changes right now, request those changes and do what you need to do
  + No concrete timeline/guidance for how long any of these waivers will be in effect
  + Minimum expectation - end of current grant term (we do not know beyond that)
  + We can ask our TA providers this question and reaching out to HUD office directly

**Updates - Nassau County Department of Social Services**

* Lorraine spoke with the Deputy Commissioner of Parks Dept.
  + Still working out details of warming center plans (because of complications of covid)
  + Lorraine is on the committee for OEM and working with the Red Cross
    - Working with the Red Cross - for social distancing, capacity, etc.
    - As soon as they have this plan, we will share it with you (currently not up and running right now)
  + Cases continue to decline (653 homeless households, 753 adults & 480 children)
  + In comparison to last year, 716 cases: 800 adults and 600 children

**Region Updates**

* Overall census as lower right now
* Overall continue trend of family homelessness decreasing and single adult homelessness increasing
* This is also because of the eviction moratorium
* Once there are no longer legal protections in place, how well can we respond as a system to best use the resources we have available
* Work with ICF and HP cohort to discuss these matters

**Updates - Suffolk County Department of Social Services**

* Family - 376 families as of today compared with 496 from last year
* Moratorium on evictions is helping keep our numbers down
* Single - 505 as of today housed compared to 517 last year
* Seeing a slight uptick in single placements over the last week with the temperature going down - enough beds to handle it and do not see any issues with that moving forward
* Continue to see an uptick in SNAP applications for this month (November)
  + Getting 150 a day instead of 100/105
* Working with OTDA and 2 vendors on ESG-CV funding
  + We will find out more in the next couple of weeks about that
* Question - At the beginning of the pandemic, there was a change in protocols for THA where people were moved out of larger dormitory type facilities and put into motels to spread out people and there were no discontinuances of THA. Will those protocols be put back in place now that we are seeing a second wave?
  + Suffolk County - 1 site where it is a congregate dormitory setting (reduced census at this location and placed individuals in a motel as the infection rate has risen)
    - Discontinuance of THA - looking at individuals who are non-compliant and trying to work with them to make them compliant. During covid for all programs, OTDA has been clear that if an individual is non-compliant due to covid, we have granted good cause.
  + Nassau County - a lot of congregate care shelters in NC, working closely with OTDA, finished all new regulations that came down recently from the Governor’s office. We are encouraging all of our providers to apply for HHAP money for air filters and accommodations that are being recommended (to pay for these expenses. HHAP modified the process for this purpose)
    - Isolation site in NC and have not seen an increase. The increase is from people who are coming from out of state who need to quarantine in the last month.
* Question - Are there warming stations in SC?
  + The Warming Stations are run by the town
  + We have contacted them and have not heard from them to compile a list

**CV Funding/Planning (ESG/CDBG)**

* TA providers (ICF) helping our region plan, look at data, bring people together, etc.
* Look at different funding options available through ESG-CV
  + NC - had an application process and currently reviewing applications
  + Town of Brookhaven - had an application process and currently reviewing applications
  + Have not heard from either office to confirm $ amounts and agencies that will be approved
  + SC DSS - receiving money and working with our cohort and OTDA to determine activities they are going to take on or subcontracting (comprehensive plan that looks at all of the ways the money can be spent to ensure an adequate response)
    - In the process of working with OTDA (planning stages - on how to use ESG-CV funds most effectively)
  + If we do receive updates from ESG jurisdictions, (for any information that is needed for applicants, decisions made of funding, etc.) we will let you know via email

**Coordinated Entry - LICH**

* Updated CES transfer policy - sent out to PSH and RRH providers earlier this week
  + Most notable change - potential for PSH and RRH transfers to PHA’s through town of Brookhaven (housing choice program)
    - Not yet taking those transfer requests but we will keep everyone updated when we will be taking them
    - If you didn’t receive an email please email Jessica, [jlabia@addressthehomeless.org](mailto:jlabia@addressthehomeless.org)
* Referred all remaining CHI families to FREE
* 2 remaining singles from CHI closing programs that are waiting to be transferred
* 25 households pulled from RRH waitlist since last Business Meeting (NC and SC singles and families)
* Referred 2 covid high risk single men in SC to PSH vacancies since last Business Meeting
* Biweekly case conferencing - next meeting is December 2nd (helps us move cases along and action steps on cases we are stuck with)

**Changes from CDC Guidance**

* Last month - smoking added to cdc list of underlying conditions or situations that would make someone at higher risk of covid-19
* Obesity - BMI of >30kg but less than 40kg
* Pregnancy had previously been listed as a possible condition that is now bumped up as a confirmed higher risk of covid-19
* Response to CDC guidance changes - reflected in HMIS health screening asap
* Working with TAC - finalize an assessment tool that is a clear objective way that we are aligning with our prioritization so we are doing so consistently where people get a specific score (makes it easier for us and TSCLI to prioritize appropriately and effectively)
* HH’s currently experiencing homelessness that fall under high risk according to the CDC - 30 single adults actively working with on placement and 12 families
  + Age where CDC is now specifically saying >65 years old you are at higher risk, 19 CH single adults and 67 non CH single adults
  + Of the non-CH single adults, almost half of them are residing in motel settings (able to self-isolate and a little safer from COVID-19 in that sense and a portion of veterans that have more access to PSH resources, etc.)

**Coordinated Entry - TSCLI**

* Working closely with LICH to reprioritize our list to follow covid guidelines
* In the process of preparing top families on the list for placement with the RRH program when openings do become available
* Diversion work with Housing Specialist and in the process of hiring another HS
* Currently have 46 people on our list
* We have a new referral form if anyone is interested

**CE Updates (General)**

* Working with the TSCLI - identified every HH that could be eligible for either of our assessment processes and housing as a result of that assessment
* Looking to make sure we are identifying all HH’s that are actively fleeing DV that may not be entering shelter system and identifying all HH’s residing on the street and have nowhere else to go
* Working with CE Steering Committee on CE advertising materials - how to connect to CES, etc.

**HMIS Updates**

* Please make sure to continue to use the covid-19 assessment tool on HMIS
* We add to the underlying list of medical conditions as we receive them
* HMIS trainings
  + Registration Process has changed - please let us know if you like it!
  + Upcoming dates:
    - New User - Nov 30th
    - 2 on Dec 11th (morning new user training, afternoon intermediate report building training)
    - Last training of this year - Dec 14th (New User Training)
    - Please contact Roxzelle for any questions : rbannerman@addressthehomeless.org
* Annual HMIS agreement renewal
  + Trying to figure this out to make it more efficient
* HMIS and ESG-CV funding
  + Wayne reached out to all funders and agencies (for those who are receiving funding for programs)
  + Please contact Wayne if you have not heard from him and operating services and programs, [wscallon@addressthehomeless.org](mailto:wscallon@addressthehomeless.org)
* Wayne is working on LSA submission to HUD
  + HMIS portion of AHAR which goes to HUD and Congress (to determine the amount and allocation of funding)
  + Have to look at every program’s housing inventory and cleaning up data quality issues, etc.
  + Wayne may reach out to some agencies (specifically uploading agencies) if we notice anything that needs to be corrected in your database - please treat that as a priority

**CoC Training and Support**

* Please let us know what types of trainings you would like and any questions you may have (i.e. RRH, etc.)
* 2021 PIT Count
  + Will discuss this with the GB today and safety (how to best conduct the PIT count)
* The Keys Conference
  + Recordings and materials will be sent/uploaded once we receive them