CoC Business Meeting Minutes

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Virtual WebEx

May 15, 2020

Introductions

* Welcome everyone!

General Announcements

* HUD has weekly office hours every Friday - <https://www.hudexchange.info/news/office-hours-covid-19-planning-response-for-homeless-assistance-providers-fridays/>
* CoC Website for COVID-19 Resources + Food Resources - <https://www.lihomeless.org/covid-19>

2020 Funding Round

* Youth Demonstration NOFA – TBA in the next few weeks
* Unsheltered NOFA – Postponed indefinitely
* CoC NOFA – Unconfirmed, TBA, HUD’s focus is to keep everyone safe during this time from COVID-19
* Discussion of renewing programs for another year – Unconfirmed
  + Working with Ranking Committee to enhance applications for new programs (whether there were specific targets and objective criteria that were measurable - new applicants would have an understanding of how they would be measured and what the point value would be) – unconfirmed whether or not we will be using this for this year
    - Renewals in the event that we have a funding round – renewal criteria have not changed since last year
    - Suggestions/Discussions: Would you want us to publish a local RFP without a deadline? Do you want an abbreviated RFP (based on the concept that HUD will not cut funding so that we would know how much is available and the ranking committee can make decisions on that amount of funding)? Should we release an RFP with a deadline?
    - Ranking Committee Member – Something should get released, if we have programs that know that will be returning funding, we want to be prepared for new programs to reallocate that funding to, so getting the information out there in some way is important to do soon. Agencies will have a long time to plan if they would like to apply for a new program for that reallocated funding.
    - CoC Member - Can we take information from full application and abbreviate it?
    - CoC Member – I think we should get the information out ASAP

CES Updates

* LICH – New Case Manager, Welcome Pablo!
* Doing a lot of work at home, virtually, calling shelters and calling clients on their cell phones
* Dropping off food when it is needed in emergency situations
* Street Outreach – harder to make contact because clients do not have cell phones, team is practicing physical distancing, and has access to PPE
* Focus more heavily on house screenings, COVID-19 awareness screenings, making sure everyone’s mental health is okay
* RRH – providers are still pulling clients from the waitlist (mixed feedback), virtual viewings, landlord by landlord basis (some landlords are not moving people in/doing showings). Some landlords are more open to renting to programs now because it is more sustainable, and a lot of people have lost their income during this time.
* Nicole from TSC – 60 households on the waitlist, still taking referrals, collaborating with the Housing Specialist to get connected with the families and singles, working with TAC and how to operate CES better

HMIS Updates

* COVID-19 Awareness Screening Tool for Coordinated Entry – Available to every program in HMIS, it is a short questionnaire (potential contact with someone, potential symptoms, status section, etc.) Not a diagnostic tool/medical screening – form to help program manage some of the client activities related to potential COVID-19 symptoms and contact, etc. Not required by any funder and is optional, it can be helpful. There is a pop up that gives you information on the tool and where to find the tool on HMIS
* Trainings – Challenge to do HMIS trainings at home. Not many users who are requesting a New User Trainings for HMIS. Roxzelle did a training with new Case Manager, Pablo
  + Vendor Foothold Technology will offer trainings through Zoom – full class for that and will keep the class small (at first) to see how it goes and will expand it for a few more users (week of the 18th)
  + Please reach Wayne + Roxzelle by email (best form of contact)
  + If you have difficulties with new intakes/discharges – please contact Wayne and Roxzelle

CoC Training and Support

* Discussion of COVID-19 Response Meeting with special guests: Nassau and Suffolk DSS, USICH, LI CoC, TAC, Municipal Town Officials, etc.
* We will be having more meetings like this to touch-base so everyone can know what is going on and ask questions if they should have any. There will be one for next Friday on WebEx as well.
* The results of the survey that was issued will be given to National Alliance to End Homelessness to see how the new ESG/CDBG funds should be prioritized and how we as a CoC can support the agencies we work with
* Resources were sent in the meeting minutes
* Please submit your completed survey to Thanh: [tpham@addressthehomeless.org](mailto:tpham@addressthehomeless.org) by 5/20 COB

Closing Remarks

* Covid funding that was released under The CARES ACT – 1 billion dollars – Nassau county has completed their funding round by the time we had the meeting on the 8th. They are in the process of finalizing decisions on those applications and receiving information from HUD for eligible activities (Employment). The Town of Brookhaven got an allocation as well and has released an RFP
  + We received COVID funds for ESG – Approximately $672,000 that we can spend, RFP is online, and applications are due May 20th in case anyone wants to apply. We were thinking of putting the money into shelter operations (can pay for – deep cleaning of the shelters, any PPE equipment, pay for management company to oversee nights and on the weekends and pick up salaries for that)
  + We need to focus on homelessness prevention – there are a lot of people that need help paying their rent (RRH)
  + All the ESG/COVID money is to prevent, protect, respond to the coronavirus so anything you can think of but I didn’t mention that fit that category, please run it pass me and if I don’t have the answer I can reach out to HUD and find out. There is NO MATCH – which is very important and where the person would qualify for 30%, it moved up to 50% of the area needed income. The money can only be spent in the Town of Brookhaven.
  + Best way to reach Alison – 631-451-6596
  + Moving forward in 2020, we are going to be putting an RFP again for our 2020 funding have approximately 180,000 out there and would like to use it for homelessness prevention, RRH, and our shelters
  + Link to RFP has been emailed to CoC and on the Town of Brookhaven website