**January 15, 2021**

**CoC Business Meeting Minutes**

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

**Zoom Virtual Meeting**

**Welcome and Introductions**

* Please sign in via the chat – Name and Agency
* Welcome to the first CoC Meeting of 2021!
* The new schedule was sent via email and can be found on our CoC Website: <https://www.lihomeless.org/coc-schedule-minutes>

**CoC Funding Round**

* Email from Greta
  + HUD would allow to extend/renew all existing CoC funded programs for 1 more year
  + Anyone who applied/did a local round in 2020 will be carrying that over for 2021 round
  + All existing programs that were funded in 2019 will be renewed (includes planning)
  + No opportunity for the 2020 round to do reallocations (no additional bonus funding)
* 2021 Funding Round
  + We know that there will be bonus funding
  + HUD has already released the registration notice (let CoC’s register for 2021 funding round and report any changes)
    - Deadline is today

**Shelter Updates- SCDSS/NCDSS (if county staff available for the meeting)**

* **Suffolk County**
  + Out of motels
  + Census is down (overall) 361 people
  + 415 singles in shelters last year, this year 463 singles in shelters
  + 498 families last year, this year - 372 families (probably due to eviction moratorium)
    - In May anticipating these numbers to go up
  + 6 people in motel (due to covid) – Partnership with Lindenhurst Motel
    - The motel manager will take COVID positive clients – provides 3 meals a day (partnership w/ nearby diner)
  + A rise in COVID cases at shelters (need to quarantine staff and shelters)
    - Difficulty with compliance (wearing masks and social distancing)
    - 2 liaisons at DOH (works 24/7 and will answer emails/calls pertaining to covid positive cases or someone that was exposed)
    - Issues at the schools (exposure at schools, buses will not transport these students)
    - COVID is more of an issue now compared to March
  + Vaccine Distribution
    - Have not heard much
    - Shelters have been reaching out
    - NYS sent something but there is no definite plan at the moment

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

* **Nassau County – Update from Angel M.** 
  + No updates – still allocating second round of funding
  + Incoming President Biden – proposing a new rescue package to possibly extend the eviction moratorium to September (currently May) and an additional 25 billion in rental assistance
    - Unsure how this will affect our programs – we cannot use this HP money until the eviction moratorium is lifted
    - Still figuring out if we can switch around the first and second round so we can use the first set of funding for the rrh programs
    - A lot is up in the air at the moment
    - Working hard to allocate the money we do have
    - Another influx of funding that may be able to pay up to 12 months of rental arrears (trying to figure out who could administer that money – does not appear that we need the same documentation such as eviction notice or court stipulation
      * The county is probably getting additional funding – unsure who will be able to administer it
      * Hopefully by next meeting there will be updates
* Contracts have started going out from Nassau and Town of Brookhaven for ESG funding
  + Homelessness Prevention Funding through ESG-CV – requires more strict documentation and imminent risk of eviction (because we are under a moratorium, those funds cannot really be utilized)
  + The last relief package – allowed us to renew coc funding for another year without a competitive process (included in that: funding through the treasury for emergency rental relief – available to municipalities, towns, states, counties with 200,000 or more residents)
    - On LI that included 8 jurisdictions: NC Consortium, SC Consortium, Town of Huntington, Town of Brookhaven, Town of Islip, Town of Babylon, Town of North Hempstead, Town of Hempstead, and Town of Oyster Bay – emergency rental relief
      * Does not have the same types of requirements as ESG (does not need a burden of proof with imminent eviction and can cover up to 12 months of rental arrears)
      * Application deadline: Gov’t entities had to request the funds, January 12th
      * Most of those jurisdictions did submit those requests – we will see when those funds will be released
      * Chris from ICF is working with some of these government entities to help come up with a plan of how it will be administered
* LICH – Update from Mike G.
  + Anticipated a roll out of RRH projects much sooner (slow process of applications and review)
  + We are prepared – waitlists, referral coordination, etc. on our end
  + Doing more diversion work with those HH’s in the interim (from the waitlist built ahead). We are prepared for an increase in referrals and coordination

**Coordinated Entry System**

* CES Team – LICH
  + From the beginning of 2020 to date, we made 36 PSH and SPA referrals through the CoC (singles and families combo)
  + 200 referrals to various RRH providers
  + Since our last meeting last month, we made 3 CH family referrals to PSH and handful RRH referrals (not too many because of the holidays)
  + Several single females referred to FREE HHAP program (those clients will view unit this morning)
  + Resource Google Document
    - Tap into various resources from our partners
    - Categories of importance: housing searches, legal advocacy, landlord mediation, employment, homeless prevention, utilities, immigrant population, re-entry, benefits, credit/budgeting, moving costs and furniture, etc.
  + PIT Count – Next Friday
  + Please let Jessica know if any clients you are working with are approved for SPA supported level of care
* CE Steering Committee
  + Sent out a Save the Date for February
  + Build a collective resource guide and looking at the current assessment tool (diversion within the tool) with TAC
    - Make changes/enhancements to further consider any local aspects that may be missing
* DV CES - TSCLI
  + Referred 2-3 HH’s to Brighter Tomorrows RRH program
  + Employment Specialist – working with clients on the waitlist and helping clients with interview skills and setting up interviews for them, etc.
  + Just hired a second Housing Specialist (starts on 1/25)

**HMIS Updates**

* Continue to use COVID awareness screening tool on HMIS
* User Agreement Process (underway)
* Upcoming Trainings:
  + New User – 1/21 (9AM-12:30PM)
  + 2/11 – New User and Intermediate (9AM-12:30PM; 1:30PM-4:30PM)
  + 3/11 – New User and Intermediate (9AM-12:30PM; 1:30PM-4:30PM)
  + Please contact Roxzelle for more details: [rbannerman@addressthehomeless.org](mailto:rbannerman@addressthehomeless.org)
  + Possibility of replacing intermediate training on alternating months with trainings that focus on intake and discharge process on HMIS to impact data quality, etc.
  + LSA - AHAR Assessment (report that goes to Congress – deadline today)
  + HMIS Team Contacts:
    - Wayne Scallon – [wscallon@addressthehomeless.org](mailto:wscallon@addressthehomeless.org)
    - Roxzelle Bannerman – [rbannerman@addressthehomeless.org](mailto:rbannerman@addressthehomeless.org)
    - Dan Gore - [helpdesk@addressthehomeless.org](mailto:helpdesk@addressthehomeless.org)
* 2021 HIC - January 22, 2021

**CoC Training and Support**

* + **PIT Count – still scheduled for January 22nd** (please refer to the contingency plan if there is a shutdown or inclement weather)
  + All Street Outreach partners were contacted and indicated whether they were going to participate this year
  + PIT Training – January 14th via Zoom (will be recorded and posted on the CoC Website), this will go over outreach safety, team locations, the 2 survey tools, etc.
  + Please contact Thanh Pham for more details: [tpham@addressthehomeless.org](mailto:tpham@addressthehomeless.org)
  + **COVID Resource Page (i.e. warming centers, food pantries, testing sites, local and state resources, etc.)** on LIHomeless.org <https://www.lihomeless.org/covid-19>
  + **HUD Weekly COVID Response Office Hours** <https://www.hudexchange.info/news/office-hours-covid-19-planning-response-for-homeless-assistance-providers-fridays/>
  + HUD Waivers: Memo <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Availability-of-Waivers-of-CPD-Grant-Program-and-Consolidated-Plan-Requirements-to-Prevent-the-Spread-of-COVID-19-and-Mitigate-Economic-Impacts-Caused-by-COVID-19.pdf>
  + Additional Waivers: <https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CPD/documents/Additional_Waivers_for_CPD_Grant_Programs_to_Prevent_COVID-19_Spread_and_Mitigate_COVID-19_Economic_Impacts.pdf?utm_source=HUD+Exchange+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=0a4b21aecc-COVID-19-Waiver-HOPWA-5.27.20&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f32b935a5f-0a4b21aecc-19249601>
* Link to customize waivers: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/covid-19-grant-agreement-amendments/>
  1. Local field Office email to send waivers: [CPD\_COVID-19AmendmentNY@hud.gov](mailto:CPD_COVID-19AmendmentNY@hud.gov)

*The Continuum of Care (CoC) Program is designed to promote communitywide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, and State and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless individuals, families, and communities by homelessness; promote access to and effect utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness.*