**NY-603 Monthly CoC Business Meeting**

**May 20, 2022**

Link to recording: <https://youtu.be/pz5rM8BnUK4>

**Attendance:** Participant attendance was recorded based on those that recorded their full name and any affiliation, using the chat box feature. Attendees listed at end of minutes.

**Community Partner Presentation, Legal Hand:** Presented by Fern Fisher, attorney and former judge and Sandy Guillame, community outreach specialist.

* Legal Hand is a call-in center, available in Nassau, Suffolk, Albany
* Call, text, email, or chat. Open Monday-Saturday, Tuesday night until 7pm.
* Most people contact via phone (about 70%)
* Have served over 1000 people since January 2021
* Trained community volunteers (not lawyers) assist neighbors with problems that affect their lives, diverting people from interfacing with the legal system when possible, providing legal information and referral to legal advice and services
* Legal information – tell people what their options are, but do not help them choose
* Issues that people contact asking about:
* Eviction, help finding housing, issues with housing vouchers and subsidies
* Family issues, child support
* Consumer – debt management, suing
* Some calls on immigration, personal injury, and other issues
* Eviction crisis is facing LI historically, and is poised to get worse since the eviction moratorium was lifted in January 2022
* There is limited number of rent stabilized units on LI, 1500 in Nassau, none in Suffolk, 5 rent controlled units in Nassau per recent FOIA (freedom of information act) request
* Most cases are holdover – tenants either do not have a lease (verbal agreement instead) or the lease is expired. Cases proceeding is mostly a matter of landlords getting the right paperwork submitted.
* Evictions from non-payment is an emerging issue. ERAP wiped out arrears for some tenants, but they are now in arrears again after not paying going forward and there are no further funds.
* Protecting affordable housing that does exist is important. Landlords are refusing to make repairs in vouchered units and tenants often give up and vacate those units.
* HUD and towns/districts have the power to address this, but there is not a coordinated effort in LI to get landlords to make repairs.
* District court judges do not order repairs in district court, can only give tenant decrease in rent. This does not lead to more repairs being made.
* In NYC tenants have ability to start case to make landlord make repairs in coordination with the City of NY. The tenant does not have to wait for city to make case. On LI, Tenant can only rely on town or village to enforce or go to supreme court action.
* NYS laws indicate that if every lease or oral agreement, LL is promising to rent and maintain unit in habitable conditions.
* Nassau County is opening a resource center for landlords and tenants that have court cases. Legal Hand will have a desk while in court to get info
* Role for advocates: Be active, engage with courts to ensure they enforce rights that tenants have, most tenants do not have lawyers. Engage with court – ask for meetings. Talk to legislatures to change law to get same protections as NYC (such as having eviction papers served through court).
* Guardian ad litum is a protection not enforced LI. They are someone who can act in the stead of a person with mental health or physical issues that cannot represent themselves in court or cannot physically get in court. In NYC, trained guardian ad litum is appointed and supervised by the court. In LI this is required by the law but not enforced. APS does not provide these services.
* Legal Hand can provide referrals to Nassau Suffolk Law Services, Empire Justice, and HWCLI. They are partnered with HWCLI.
* Question: Concern has brought in close to $1 million of ERAP funds but is still in court with tenants who continue to not pay their rent, with no change in income. What can be done? What resources are available?
* Funds through DSS and Project Anchor for arrears may be available
* LRAP might be an option for the landlord
* Education – connection to information and services through schools, BOCES, etc. Legal Hand does know your rights workshops. The CoC website has several pages with resources for people experiencing or at-risk of homelessness. LICH will distribute list of programs with homeless prevention funds.

**CoC Funding/Capacity Building/Planning - 2022 Funding Round**

* Renewals need to start drawing down on funds.
* Agencies with new contracts have not gotten contracts or awards yet.
* About half of HUD representatives have retired, including senior analysts. They will be sending information on new representatives in coming weeks.
* NOFO may be released soon, probably within the next month.
* The ranking committee has been meeting, the third meeting is upcoming. The have been focusing on the regional gaps and scoring criteria, trying to make sure all criteria are aligned across different types of programs
* In 2021 Tier 1 was 100%, less funding for bonus programs (non-DV) – we did get some (more than other regions). We did get large allocation of DV bonus funds for 2-year period. This upcoming year DV funds will be for a one-year period.
* There has been discussion and advocacy around youth set asides, but no movement so far.

**COVID Funding/Response**

* NCDSS / SCDSS updates – not present on call
* ESG-CV – jurisdictions not present on call. HUD has raked back some funds in Town of Brookhaven and Nassau. They were notified they must draw down 50% of funds by June 15th to risk losing funding. Town of Brookhaven has already reallocated some funds. ESG-CV was extended from end of August 2022 to end of August 2023. Please contact jurisdictions for further information on funding and programs available.

EFSP – HWCLI not present on call. Funds can be used for homeless prevention and utilities arrears. There was a delay in getting funding to region. HWCLI has selected grantees for funds, will try to get list to distribute to everyone. It seems that first allocations were distributed. Categories include, rental arrears, mortgage arrears, utilities, and food. FSL received their first allocation for use at their food pantries and for food gift cards in Suffolk.

**Coordinated Entry System**

* CE – Only 1 referral to CoC PSH from street, 11 referrals to RRH from waiting list. Street outreach growing – 8 workers b/w Nassau & Suffolk If you have folks being SPA approved, Jess keeping list of homeless in that category. There is a low number of SPA approved females in Nassau. The CE steering committee has been working on the new assessment since December. Frontline staff going to be piloting in next couple of weeks, and then tweaks will be made before finalizing and rolling out the assessment.
* EHV – 101 households have leased up! 60 in Suffolk, 41 in Nassau. 27 % utilization rate of overall vouchers – 377 issued. 276 need to lease up – many porting, at least a dozen. 64 leased up in April alone, rate has been increasing month over month. There was an increase in voucher value to 110% FMR. People are coming close to maxing out time with vouchers. If anyone has leads on units, landlords, please send Jess’s way.
* DV-CES, TSLI - 78 households on list – down from over 100. 16 singles, 62 families, 40 are literally homeless, 38 actively fleeing. Was able to refer 2 larger families to PSH, Mercy Haven.

**Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)**

* Upcoming trainings (all remote). Contact Roxzelle with an questions and to sign-up.
	+ Monday, May 23, 2022 – New User training – 1:00pm
	+ Wednesday, June 15, 2022 - New User training – 1:00pm
	+ Wednesday, June 29, 2022 – Intermediate/Reports training – 1:00pm
* Remote trainings take about half a day. Seats are available for all 3 upcoming trainings.
* HMIS staff are encouraged to take advantage of training videos on Awards Homepage
* One of trainings intermediate – goes into reports and report building, important if you have staff with more experience with software and want to be able to pull data out of system
* Feature on Foothold just released in Awards – report scheduler. Schedule reports to run – on recurring schedule & will go right to inbox. Only available to run from template, not canned reports such as APR.
* HMIS data standards – updated every other year, will be updated again Oct 2023. HUD working on them and asking admins & users to chime in on suggestions for changes for next release Not just for HUD programs, also SSVF, VA, runaway & homeless youth. Link for submitting comments:
	+ [www.hudexchange.info/program-support/my-question/](http://www.hudexchange.info/program-support/my-question/)

**DEI training series**

* Tentative Virtual Racial Equity Training- 6/29 & 6/30 and in person is tentative for 7/6 & 7/7
* Virtual will be two half days, open to CoC Funded Agencies. Two people may attend per agency. In person training will be for select groups.

**Other Announcements**

* Cori from PSEG – emergency HEAP extended to end of August, heating & electric related heating. Customer office closed but advocates are back in field in Suffolk at FSL, Bellport Alliance, Wyandanch Resource Center & locations in Nassau. They are trying to coordinate to DSS & DOL to be there at same time. Can contact advocacy number to find which location at which days for walk-ins.
* Val from FSL – Keys Conference planning committee met for first time, have not made any decisions yet about theme, date or virtual vs. in person. Nominations for Helen Martin & Tradewinds scholarships sent out.
	+ Greta – Hope to focus conference on self-care, compassion fatigue, etc – please be on the look out for those type of speakers

**Attendee sign-ins:**

Vicki, SuburbanHousing

Kelly Callahan, The Safe Center

Greta Guarton, LICH

Dolores Kordon, Brighter Tomorrows

Samantha Murphy, Huntington Youth Bureau Sanctuary Project

Chanee Hammonds, Wyandanch Homes and Property Development Corporation

Elizabeth Lunde, Concern for Independent Living

Catherine Albanese, Family Service League

Wayne Scallon, LICH

Gena McSorley, Catholic Charities of LI

Mariah Prensa, Brighter Tomorrows

Matthew Malamed, LICH

Carrie Garcia, LICH

Donna O’Hearon, Mercy Haven Inc

Sandy Guillaume, Legal Hand Inc

Daniel Stern, Concern for Independent Living

Danielle Devine, HELP USA Equity Homes

Michael Damm, LICH

Rose Cicchetti, LICH

Jessica Labia, LICH

Romarie McCue, The Retreat

Vicky Elfe-Camacho, LICF and SCO

Stephen Brazeau, Hope House Ministries

Patrick McCaffrey, Project Anchor

Debbie Sanderson, TSLI/HHB

Amy Grosshandler, SAIL

Justin Hornung, Suffolk County Community Development Office

Karin Campbell, Lutheran Church of Our Savior Mineola

Fern Fisher, Legal Hand

Nicole Vitucci, Family Service League

Deirdre Trumpy, MOMMAS House

Robert ODonnel, EOC of Suffolk

Deidre Stevens, Long Island Community Fellowship

Gabrielle Fasano, SUS

Terri Tupper, LI Connections

Erin Basham, Options for Community Living

Diane Krasnoff, Bethany House of Nassau County

Andrea Kerr, FCA

Salina Barnao, New Ground

Lystra Madoo-Devine, Federation of Organizations

Ariel Sotelo, Circulo de la Hispanidad

Wayne Scallon, LICH

**----- After 9:20 AM -------**

Cori Crocilla, PSEG

Kathy Henry, Mental Health Association of Nassau County