**April 21, 2023**

**CoC Business Meeting Minutes**

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

**Recording:** [**https://youtu.be/hUm3Dc11pLs**](https://youtu.be/hUm3Dc11pLs)

**Attendees listed at end of document**

2022 CoC Funding Round: HUD Debrief Summary

* Strong in coordination of partners, strategies and ideas in ending homelessness
* Lost points on data driven outcomes, most significantly length of time homeless which continues to be higher on average on LI than other areas, as well on first time homelessness and PSH programs increasing participant incomes
* Governance board will be looking at strategies going forward and will be sending out HUD debrief
* Presentation on HUD CoC funding round (saved in Business Meeting folder)
* Do not know yet what 2023 funding round will look like or guiding principles
* Agencies planning to apply: contact CoC planning staff as soon as possible
* Anticipating release of NOFO in late May or early June
* HUD Priorities include: reducing disparities & equity work, inclusion of people with lived experience, leveraging existing resources in the community such as housing or healthcare
  + Leveraging housing:housing paid through other funding source such as vouchers from a public housing authority with services provided through CoC funds (housing unity identification, post-move case management)
  + Leveraging healthcare: PSH with bulk of support services provided by healthcare entity, can include mental health services
  + Significant points dedicated to leveraging housing or healthcare, difficult to be competitive without these points

Presentation on Engaging People with Lived Experience (slides saved in Business Meeting folder)

* Organizations currently engaged within the CoC include non-profit service providers and government entities but people with lived experience are important stakeholders as well
* People who have experienced homelessness have expertise that others without that experience would not have and are highly knowledgeable about navigating the homeless response system
* Providers should be engaging people with lived experience to understand what is working and what is not, and come up with relevant solutions for those “hard to reach”
* Charity vs. Justice – charity puts providers on pedestal while justice acknowledges systemic issues and brings equity back to the table. People who experience homelessness are often seeking justice, not charity. There are many ways that justice can be withheld from people experiencing homelessness, and it is important to create justice pathways within organizations. Example: Discharging families from services on Friday at 4pm (DSS)
* Benefits for people with lived experience involvement in homeless service system – Helps give a voice back and empowers to create change, help prevent re-traumatization, access peer support and provide peer support to people receiving services. Risks need to be acknowledged: re-traumatization, becoming homeless again, not being listened to, but reasonable accommodation and compensation can help. People with lived experience bring urgency to the situation and have a “no man left behind” attitude towards helping people.
* Benefits for homeless response system – recognizing the humanity of people experiencing homelessness who are often the most vulnerable (no family support, disability), can help folks feel visible and feeling heard again. It becomes a full time job navigating a system meeting dead-ends constantly. We are not even in touch with each other of who still has capacity to help people and just sending people away.
* Authentically engaging people with lived experience – Sharing power, actual or perceived. Figure out who are making decision and how to include others. Need to meet people where they are at and provide physical and psychological safety so people can engage. Equipping people to fully engage requires knowledge sharing. Trust is paramount. Where do people go to feel safe or get help? Those place are often not within the non-profit world. Acknowledging that, providers can find ways to work along side them and support exits from homelessness in ways that people need. It is important to value the time and knowledge people are providing by being involved – compensation is very important. Power sharing where everyone at the table has power so their ideas can be heard and acted upon. Creativity with hiring outside of your network, changing job descriptions, and sending questions in advance.
* Pathway to authentic engagement – Power analysis and seeing who is not in the room is important and must be done in a way that does not tokenize people. Our CoC is somewhere in between “checking the box” and authentic engagement. It takes a lot of time to get there.
* Justice is a theme that should be highlighted. Justice is needed for those who will fall into homelessness in the future to make sure the process is less traumatic. Streamlined access to resources to reduce burden on people experiencing homelessness is needed.
* Building trust - Systems are not set up in a way that work for people. We have the opportunity to have providers and people with lived experience to work together because there is an alignment of the “why” we are doing this work. Terri was working on her page she hosts on Facebook to get resources to the community and started talking a lot with Mike and finding their alignment, and Mike recruited her by approaching in a gentle way to LICH staff. There was already trust in Mike as he showed he was working to help people in her group and stand for justice. They saw the value in her lived experience and made accommodations for her so it would work out.
* Ways to engage – Use a combination of approaches to have sustained interactions. Different methods will work for different people. Examples: listening sessions, board membership, hiring at all levels. Direct care staff for people with lived experience may not sustainable, even if they can be more efficient at engaging people and finding resources.
* Racial justice and equity – Disparities in who experiences homelessness means we need to focus on racial justice and equity. DEI training was available last year and will be available again this year. Restructuring the governance board has been an opportunity for power sharing and centering equity.
* Going outside your existing network can be important for engaging people with lived experience. Samantha followed the following to connect with the CoC, Terri recognized right away that she was a “solutionist” and had the “no man left behind” attitude. Terri suggested the street outreach team and Samantha ending up joining the team shortly thereafter. Samantha and Terri are always collaborating on ways to advocate and make the system better.
* Accommodations – Need for a hybrid positions for people with lived experience due to trauma and disabilities, which are more likely due to time homeless. Results will still be the same if not better, even if methods of doing things are outside the box. Adjusting the work environment to increase productivity is the same as a corporate environment.
* Compensation – It is important to dedicate enough resources to engaging people with lived experience, including budget, staff, time and space. Fair rates need to be followed: look at what you pay your employees. Consider untraditional ways of compensating, including gift cards.

Coordinated Entry and HMIS Updates available in CoC newsletter.

Find CE Referral form for chronically homeless households here: <https://www.lihomeless.org/ces-referral>

To be discussed next meeting:

* Riverhead Zero Tolerance Policy: <https://longisland.news12.com/riverhead-to-enforce-stricter-penalties-for-quality-of-life-crimes-in-downtown-zero-tolerance-zone?fbclid=IwAR3tRfxc9-GPQgC-0xZeaFqxUYVQTfC52NbpeX1pHPbAl3MfL9NKLOqXfWQ#lg8ejnzlxtasr3ubvet>

**Attendees**

Daniel Stern, Concern

Eira Severino, LICH

Catherine Albanese, FSL

Lexi Catrone, Huntington Sanctuary

Santrea Bush, Bright Tomorrows

Brian Inserro, FREE

Deirdre Trumpy, MOMMAS House

Diane Krasnoff, Bethany House

Greta Guarton, LICH

Ricky Demirakos, SAIL

Thalia Olaya, The Retreat

Steven Garofolo, LICH

Elizabeth Lunde, Concern

Samantha Grimaldi, LICH

Raymond Weinmeier, Bridges of NY

Jesse Delman, Bridges of New York

Judelca Batista, LICH

Chase Schare

Cara Cantor, Hope for Youth

Wayne Scallon, LICH

Nicole Falkman, CHI

Nicole Maggiotta, The Safe Center LI

Ruth McDade, MHAW

Stephanie Leon, SEPA Mujer

Nicole Belfiore, FSL

Kathleen Gavigan, LICH

Kristin Ohrtman, HELP Suffolk

Rose Cicchetti, LICH

Madeline Walton, SAIL

Petal Bowen-Walcott, LICH

Terri Tupper, LI Connections & LICH

Maria Puleo, LICH

Sydney Dyer, ECLI-VIBES

Victoria McGinn, Suburban Housing

Shirley Lara, EOC-Suffolk

Yadira Meza, Circulo de la Hispanidad

Angel Macchia, Nassau County OCD/ESG

Darrel Suanders, SAIL

Anna Barbieri, Catholic Charities

Kelly Gildea, Suburban Housing

Chanee Hammonds, Wyandanch Homes & Property Development

Alexis Goglas, LICH

Jessica Labia, LICH

Valerie Chamberlain, FSL

Donna O’Hearon, Mercy Haven

Stephen Brazeau, Hope House ministries

Jamie Haruthunian, Nassau DSS