

Ocean County Homeless Prevention and Assistance Coalition

Executive
Committee

Nina Hagen
Ocean County Jail

Rose Bulbach
Ocean County
Department of
Human Services

Kathryn Colhoun
Ocean
Partnership for
Children

Mark Harding
Soldier On

Kim Santora
Contact

Full Membership Meeting Agenda Monday January 22nd, 2024 | 10am – 12pm

- I. **Welcome & Introductions**
- II. **Approval of Minutes from November 13th 2023** -Motion -Elizaeth Golla, 2nd Connie Fahim minutes were approved
- III. **Strategic Planning Discussion-** 2023 had some big strides; American Rescue Plan funding dedicated to housing insecurity; we had passing of homeless trust fund. In line with that the County has asked Monarch to help prepare a Strategic Plan to help us streamline the work we are doing and to give us updated data. We started working on that late last year, but we wanted to get your input.
Connie Fahim, Ocean Inc. ;Legislation-Community Wealth Preservation Program-signed by Gov Murphy-levels playing field for foreclosures. May be a starting point for our conversation. Michele Blausner, OCBSS, Affordable housing is crucial and there is none. FMR still doesn't meet market rate prices.
Support Services-what are people seeing?-there could be more case management specific to the homeless population; people aren't aware of the resources that are available to them. Families are exhausting all of their resources; so we need case managers that are knowledgeable. Maybe a liaison between families and the system. MHA-Ocean does have supportive services igallagher@mhanj.org ; 732-244-0940; money for storage units is a huge need; does anyone have funding for this? EA can pay for that; Family Promise can pay for that; ARPA currently has funding with flex funds for certain specific populations.
Alan Ferraro-Housing is difficult to find. We don't know all of the services. 1. Can there be a central location that can field all these calls in the county. 2. Can we pay families to take in their homeless family members? (Like Medicare pays family members to help their elderly relatives). Or money to add an addition to the home to house family members.
AHA has contracted with Home Sharing to bring it to Ocean County.
We are going to see an influx of foreclosures and many more people in need, so these kinds of flexible programs will be great.

What housing models do you see are needed?- Noelle-backgrounds are a huge barrier to individuals/families; families' income is a barrier; Alan-clients say they have exhausted everything. Katie Colhoun-resource navigator bumps into all kinds of barriers. There is no housing to navigate. Are landlords involved in Master Leasing? Habcore does it quite a bit in Monmouth County. Master Leasing would be something to look into Ocean County.

Clients are tired of going around in circles and not getting housing. Housing is what they want! Do we need to explore 3 months paid in full. Does it make sense to do a resource mapping? The Outreach sub committee has a working document, but it so hard to keep it up to date. We've been talking about directories for years and the county has so many of them. 211 is supposed to be revamping, as well. Families

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have trouble thinking about other services when they don't have a home. We need to be a leader to look for flexible ways to utilize housing. Maybe we need a dedicated team that makes the calls for the families/individuals so that they don't run in to all of the "no's" themselves. Wild ideas are the answer-keeping people at home is the answer.

We will schedule 2 working groups to flesh this conversation out and have more strategic conversations.

- IV. **Executive Board Update**-new members were nominated. John comes from OCBSS. Michelle is chair of Lived Experience of our Advisory Board
- V. **Membership**
 - a. **Michelle Griffith**- Motion-Katie Colhoun; 2nd Alan Ferraro; All in Favor
 - b. **John Tritto**-Motion, Noelle Huber; 2nd Allan Ferraro; All in Favor
- VI. **State Update**- General User meeting this Thursday at 10am; site admin training will be on Jan 31 at 10am; Anyone entering in HMIS for RRH or Permanent Housing, make sure to update move in dates and bed inventory. jrobinson@njhmf.gov
- VII. **Code Blue**- 15 days in Nov, , 12 in December, 21 days in January so far. The 2 largest sites have been seeing an avg of 30 and 25 clients nightly. Over the weekend we did have a new site open at Harbor House, Just Believe is running it; it's specifically for women and families. They had 6 people last night. We will be calling Code Blue, Jan 23rd, tomorrow night for Point in Time Count regardless of temperature.
- VIII. **Federal Updates**-LSA deadline is Jan 24. Introducing Tiffany Johnson; EHG received a grant from OHP to hire a data analyst. Tiffany will be the CoC's data analyst. Hoping to pull the housing inventory chart in April so we will have to do a really big push to correct all of those issues that Jackie mentioned so that we can pull some usable data.
- IX. **County Updates**- We have a new Commissioner, Frank Sadeghi , we'll be getting him up to speed shortly; Send people to OCBSS if clients tell you they weren't qualified, they can sign a release and then we can talk to you as their care manager. There is quite a bit of funding to keep seniors in their home. Heather Lynn is the supervisor of that senior funding.
- X. **Workgroups & Committee Reports**
 - o **Permanent Housing Committee**
 - o **Veterans Committee** The veteran subcommittee last met on 1/8/2024. We added 3 new veterans to the by-name list and exited 3 into permanent housing. The next meeting will be on Monday, February 12th, at 2pm.
 - o **PIT** – 3pm we are having our last meeting for 2024 focusing on Outreach to discuss where everyone is planning on going. Trying to coordinate our efforts. We are packing donations today at 12 at SJLS. PIT starts Tuesday night. We've sent out a flyer with all of the event sites. PIT survey goes through next week.

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- **Outreach-** We continue to meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 10am virtually. Code Blue sites are looking for donations
- **Coordinated Assessment-**We have Agency day the 2nd Thursday of every month. We will have that this Thursday, along with doing PIT surveys. And hoping to have the Home Sharing social worker hired shortly. 38 different households are being added to CE each month. It would be most helpful to have more case workers on board with us on our Case Conferencing meetings. We will work around some messaging to get those people to the table

XI. **Trends/Emerging Needs-**

XII. **Agency Updates & Announcements-**events at Ocean Inc-first time Home buyers workshops; check their website calendar of events

XIII. **Adjournment-Motion-** Allan Ferraro; 2nd Tricia Bradley ; All in Favor

Next meeting: **March 18, 2024 10am**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82448958899?pwd=ajVyZTBXR2tnOHpYd0taSnI4OURsZz09>

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