

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

Michelle Griffith
Ocean Advisory
Board

Mark Harding
Soldier On

Kim Santora
Contact

John Tritto
Ocean County
Board of Social
Services

Full Membership Meeting Minutes Monday September 16th, 2024| 10am – 12pm

Presentation: School Meals-Dan Dychwald, NJ Office of Food Security Advocate (OFSA)

Presentation: Domestic Violence Training-Karen Davis-St. Francis

Input from the Group on the Strategic Plan-

We wanted to gather community feedback for the recommendations section for our plan. The bulk of the data has been analyzed and now its what do you see in the community as the priority and the need. What's important to keep perspective on is that we have more people entering homelessness every year, then we see exiting-that is a huge problem. If we can't prevent folks from entering homelessness, that's a huge issue. Our system is already overrun. There is quite a bit of funding that flows into the homeless service system. We looked at local county funding, we looked at state funding and we looked at federal funding. The county wants us to look at all of these funding streams and make sure we are effectively using our money. For example, if the Community Development Office gets CDBG dollars and can use these dollars for service provision, then we can focus the Homeless Trust Fund money on vouchers. So we are looking for direction on is the type of housing models that work, what the barriers are that you are seeing in the community, and the different housing models that might be more effective so that we can make recommendations for how the funding should be utilized.

Connie Fahim-helping people stay in their homes is most effective.

Employment, transportation is important to help stay in their homes.

Barriers that might prevent people from being able to increase their income via employment that would help them stay in their home

Kasey-what you are getting at is ancillary services that are out there like transportation, health care benefits, that we may not think of as being part of stability in housing. This is a critical piece in housing. OHP Diversion program includes these pieces.

Laurie Singer-employment programs-that would help people increase their incomes-CDL courses, etc.

Toi Collins-we are also seeing a lot of seniors that don't have the ability to increase their monthly income, so I think more permanent housing subsidies are severely needed.

Kasey-There are people who have the ability to increase their wages, but to Toi's point there are a lot seniors and people with disabilities who did

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not have that capability and there is a strong need for permanent supportive housing. I will highlight that at the end of this week, our CoC Builds application is due that is for non-profit developers to apply for up to \$5 million in federal money to develop supportive housing

Angelica Webber-can we get more funding into case management for social services that would help with documents, transportation to get people to and from appointments, etc. There used to be a woman named Maria from OCBOSS who dropped off food baskets and helped out in other ways. There is a lack of affordable housing in Ocean County, can we foster relationships with landlords and motels.

Maria (senior services) – SS has not kept pace with increase in rent. It would be helpful if we could help seniors stay in their apts. A subsidy to help them subsidize their rent.

Kasey-Data has shown a need for prevention, particularly with these populations

Heather (BOSS)-Marie is still at BOSS, she is an aide and provides food baskets and other ancillary services when someone has in an emergency need. There are 4 other aides, as well. They requested funding for home repairs for Seniors.

Alan (DOE)- offer public service announcements, so that people know where to call. Maybe conversion of hotels into condos with a percentage them as supportive housing.

We will be putting together our recommendations for the strategic plan within the next month or so. And the plan will be shared out to the public once it has been approved.

Rose-the plan will go out in front of the Homeless Trust Fund and will put in front of the Board of Commissioners.

Approval of Minutes of July 15, 2024- Motion by Mark Harding 2nd by Elizabeth Golla; HPAC voted to approve

Executive Board Update- July meeting we worked on the review of the Local Selection applications.

I sent out the updated By-Laws. Motion to approve the updated By Laws- Maria (senior services), 2nded, Elizabeth Golla, HPAC voted to approve.

I sent out the membership form to everyone. I do need those filled out and sent back to me. We haven't had a properly compiled list in quite some time, so if everyone could just get that back to me, I'd appreciate it.

State Update-Jackie from HMIS-site administrators training is next Tuesday 24 and 25th. General Users training is the 18th and 26th. Also producing an online learning system. Hoping to have a pilot available in December. We are making sure everyone's bed inventory's are correct.

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Code Blue/Red- We have a survey out there for any agency that is interested in running a warming center this season. The survey is due this Friday September 20th. You must have an address to fill out the survey. We are looking to have 150 code blue spaces

Federal Updates- we are currently working on the CoC NOFO and we also have the CoC Builds NOFO-both are due this Friday September 20th

County Updates – Rose- just wants to ensure everyone that there will be enough Code Blue beds this year. Please come to us if you have any questions. There is a lot of misinformation out there.

Heather- BOSS has funding for prevention, security, 1st months rent. We requested some funding for home repairs to keep seniors safe in their homes.

Workgroups & Committee Reports

- **Permanent Housing Committee** – New chair for the committee.-Nina Rizzo from HABcore. The next meeting won't be until November. We will make some changes to the committee and will let everyone know about what we are doing with the sub-committee. We would like to have more members in the group
- **Veterans Committee** -met last Monday, we have 7 new veterans, have not housed any in the last month. Next 2 meetings fall on holidays. We will probably reschedule at least one of those. Anyone interested in joining the committee, please reach out to Mark.
- **Outreach-** met last Wed. starting to focus on night of remembrance, Dec. 21; we will form a workgroup at our next meeting. We will start up a work group for PIT.
- **Coordinated Assessment** – Last week we did celebrate housing our 100th client through RRH! We are working on putting together welcome home baskets for RRH clients. Randi wanted to thank everyone who came out to the Zoning Board meeting regarding the Shelter.

Agency Updates & Announcements- Connie Fahim-put information in the Chat about Home energy assistance. Best time to come to their office is in the morning. Ocean Inc, will be going out and about throughout the county regarding Home Energy Assistance. Oct. 1, they will be at Ocean County Library with all of their programs. Senior Isolation transportation program and Veterans transportation program.

FPOJS-has funding for prevention, diversion. If you are referring to FPOJS, we've had over 1800 calls this summer, which is how many people we normally serve in a year, so we are taking some time to get

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back to people. We do call everyone back; it is just taking us a few days to return calls. Just ask people to be patient, we will return their calls. We still have our family shelter in the southern part of the county and we are about to open our family shelter program in Toms River so we will be doubling our capacity.

Laurie-TRHHC/AHA-Agency Day Mobile Showers, and agencies this Thursday

Meeting Adjourned 11:24am