

**Morris County Continuum of Care (CoC) Executive Committee Meeting  
January 26, 2017  
Meeting Notes**

**Meeting began at 10:05 a.m.**

**Voting Members Present:**

Jeffrey Bashe, Community Rep.; Terry Connolly, Community Soup Kitchen; Joseph Gallow, Market Street Mission; Russ Hall, Housing Alliance of MC; Jodi Miciak, United Way of NNJ; Meagan Quinn, Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance; David Scott, Market Street Mission; and Rebekka Zydel, Child & Family Resources, Inc.

**Voting Members Absent:**

Mike Armstrong, Community Hope; Nancy Magee, Community Foundation of NJ; Kesha Moore, Drew University; Gwen Rippey, Atlantic Health System

**Ex-Officio Members Present:**

Joanne Bjornson, Family Promise of MC; Dan McGuire, Homeless Solutions; Lou Schwarcz, Mental Health Assoc. of MC; Patty Sly, Jersey Battered Women's Service.

**Staff and Consultants Present:** Laurie Becker, Shelia Carter, Patricia Mocarski, Morris County Human Services; Jay Everett and Olu Oyedele, Monarch Housing.

**Others in Attendance:** James Gannon, MC Sheriff.

**1. Welcome & Introductions**

Mr. Jeff Bashe, Chair, opened the meeting with welcomes and introductions. Ms. Becker introduced new Morris County Sheriff James Gannon.

**2. Approval of Nov. 17, 2016 Minutes:**

Mr. Bashe asked for the approval of the November 17 Minutes. It was noted that Mr. Mike Armstrong was present and needs to be added to the attendance list. Mr. Dave Scott made a motion to approve the November 17 minutes with the noted correction. Mr. Russ Hall seconded the motion. All were in favor with no abstentions and no opposition. Motion carried.

**3. ED Membership Changes and Needs – Mr. Bashe**

Mr. Bashe introduced two new voting members. Ms. Gwen Rippey from Atlantic Health System is not here since she is waiting on approval on the conflict of interest statement. Ms. Kesha Moore, a professor at Drew University, will begin attendance at the May meeting due to a teaching conflict. Ms. Megan Quinn is also new and replaced Ms. Joan Bruseo from MC Office of Temporary Assistance as a non-voting member.

**4. Open Items from Prior Meeting(s)**

• **Approval of new Policies – Mr. Bashe**

Prohibition – Handout and policy states that the Continuum of Care supports the prohibition against involuntary family separation. Mr. Bashe went over the proposed

policy and made a motion that this committee should adopt this. Some discussion ensued. All were in favor with one abstention and no opposition. Motion carried. CPD-16-11 – Handout and policy is Notice on Prioritizing Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness and Other Vulnerable Homeless Persons in Permanent Supportive Housing – Mr. Everett went over this proposed policy. Mr. Bashe recommended the committee adopt this policy. Some discussion ensued. Ms. Zydel made a motion to adopt this policy. Ms. Connolly seconded the motion. All were in favor with one abstention and no opposition. Motion carried.

Housing First – Handout and policy states the Morris Continuum of Care places prioritization on projects that are a Housing First model for project implementation. Mr. Bashe recommends the committee adopt this policy. Ms. Sly suggested one change be made. To the first bullet point, add the word “safely”. It should read, “Move participants quickly and safely into permanent housing”. Ms. Miciak made a motion to endorse this policy with the suggested change. Ms. Connolly seconded the motion. All were in favor with no abstentions and one in opposition. Motion carried.

- **2017 Program Review Plan – Mr. Bashe/Mr. Everett**

Mr. Everett stated that this year a desk review of agencies will be done. Agencies will submit requested information. Once the agency’s information is received, a subcommittee will review and Mr. Everett will submit.

Mr. Everett said that this year a questionnaire will go out that would be a comparison of what the agency is supposed to have accomplished and whether they are adhering to the program and CoC requirements. Mr. Bashe suggested that comments from last year’s review be sent to the agencies with a request for actions taken in response. There will be a subcommittee to review the submissions and put together responses. The responses will then be brought to the full committee for approval.

Mr. Bashe, Ms. Miciak, Mr. Hall, Ms. Connolly volunteered to be on the subcommittee. (Ms. Magee was added later on.) Mr. Everett will ask that program and fiscal information and a packet be sent to each agency and returned for review by the subcommittee. This will be done in the next couple of months, hopefully by the March 23 EC meeting.

- **2017 CoC Application Update – Mr. Everett**

Mr. Everett stated does not know HUD’s timetable but anticipates that HUD will move soon on the 2017 CoC applications. Ms. Sly indicated concern about the impact on HUD with the new Trump administration. Mr. Everett stated that we do not know how this will play out. Some discussion ensued relating to Federal, state and county government. Perhaps nonprofits should outline major issues in a white paper. Mr. Schwarcz suggested that a few members meet with Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen and have a discussion with him. Mr. Hall said that there is an informal meeting set up with the Congressman via a Housing Alliance meeting.

- **Point-in-Time Count Review – Mr. Bashe/Mr. Everett**

Mr. Everett said the decision was made at the CAS meeting to go forward with the one night count. The possibility of having a longer period was discussed. This year we will continue with the one-day count, but possibly in the future a seven-day count may be done.

Mr. Bashe asked if there was an issue of out of county folks coming to Morris County. Morris County numbers appeared to be high and not sure why. Talked about adding more questions for next year but decided to keep all the same this year. .

- **Updating the Lead Agency/Monarch job description – Mr. Bashe/Ms. Becker**

Mr. Bashe and Ms. Becker are working on a list of CoC tasks. It is in a timeline form and shows deadlines, responsibilities of the county and of Monarch. There is additional HUD CoC funding for planning and technical assistance for the next year and we want to be sure to utilize the funds for the services most needed. The county will have to post an RFP for the funding due to the increased amount available. It should go out mid-February with a short response time.

## **5. Committee/Sub-Committee Reports**

- **Community Assistance Services (CAS) Mr. Bashe**

Reports were given by each sub-committee and much of what is reported at that meeting is covered on the normal EC agenda. The PIT Count strategy was discussed and agreed as described above.

- **Coordinated Assessment – Ms. Bjornson**

Materials from the Coordinated Assessment subcommittee meeting in Jan. were distributed. They will work with Monarch on new requirements. NJ 211, MHAMC and Family Promise were granted coordinated assessment awards.

Concern expressed over the crisis in the last few weeks about Code Blue and the fact that some warming centers were not open. Ms. Becker stated that the County has no control over whether the warming centers stay open or close. Normally OTA will place people in hotels if there is a severe weather emergency. Ms. Bjornson stated that 211 calls the Code Blue. After hours (when OTA is closed) then 211 handles the placement of the person. They will place the person for the night. In the morning, the person would go to OTA to apply for services.

Ms. Becker stated the Code Blue involves the police, the towns, etc. OEM is also involved and is the County coordinator. OTA and 211 help with hotel placement. Discussed ensued and multiple members agreed something needs to be done about this. Although there is a plan in place, it seems not to be very effective. Ms. Becker will send information to Mr. Jeff Paul, OEM, and Ms. Carpinteri. Mr. Bashe asked Ms. Becker to keep the committee updated on this. Perhaps a letter should go to Mr. John Bonanni about this. Ms. Becker suggested a meeting with Mr. Jeff Paul, Ms. Bjornson and Mr. Bashe to further discuss.

- **Data Quality Subcommittee Report – Mr. Bashe**

Distributed the meeting notes from the last meeting on Jan. 10, 2017. The Data Committee wants to create by-laws. Ms. Zydel stated she is not sure why the Data Committee needs separate by-laws. Mr. Bashe is not sure either but will discuss with them. He stated the committee is doing a great job.

Ms. Bjornson stated she has heard positive feedback concerning the Data meetings. These meetings help bring all to a more equal playing field. Mr. Bashe said that good data is critical and the training provided through these meetings is valuable. Think lessons can be learned and the CAS is making good progress and getting good results. Mr. Bashe said HUD values this.

- **Permanent Housing Subcommittee Report – Mr. Hall**

Handout distributed showing Morris County Housing & Rental Assistance Inventory. There are four SHRAP vouchers committed. Members are trying to understand what vouchers Morris has and the status of the vouchers countywide. In addition, they are looking at what housing Morris County has and who controls it.

Mr. Tansey went to DCA and got a list of multi-home landlords in Morris County. These are the best numbers we have and are working on refining this further. They are looking at how the supply of housing can be expanded. There are vouchers available but many landlords will not take the vouchers. They are working with Fair Housing and trying to expand the supply of landlords that will take vouchers.

The goal is to try to expand the number of landlords that will take vouchers. There are enough vouchers but not enough housing. There are fifty vouchers available through DCA, but agencies are struggling to find low rent apartments and landlords willing to lease to our clients. Ms. Zydel suggested reaching out the NJ Realtors. Maybe they could meet with the landlords and property managers to encourage them to work with us.

- **Systems Performance Monitoring – Ms. Miciak**

Mr. Bashe, Ms. Zydel, Mr. Everett, Ms. Moore and Ms. Miciak met to discuss further updating Systems Performance Standards and the Scoring Tool. System Performance Standards will be finalized at the March EC meeting. Ms. Zydel stated that the standards are adopted we can start to use them. The Scoring Tool will include more criteria, which will help the score process and update the guidance document. Mr. Bashe said the Scoring Tool will be longer, more precise, specific and clear. Applications will change too. The goal is to present this all by March. The work is ongoing.

- **Veterans Homelessness – Mr. Bashe**

Report distributed with the key points from the Jan. Veterans subcommittee meeting. They are trying to identify the veteran's population and are making progress. At the current time (Jan.), there were six individuals on the list identified as homeless.

Mr. Bashe indicated that there is also a need for a Youth Homelessness Sub-Committee. Ms. Zydel suggested that the Director of Roots and Wings might be a good addition to the CAS. Ms. Becker suggested getting someone from the Youth Shelter as well.

## **6. Other business/systems advocacy**

- **Project Homeless Connect –**

Mr. Bashe stated that we are grateful to MHAMC and know they need more help to do more of the advanced planning. There was discussion on this but no decisions taken.

- **Housing 1<sup>st</sup> Consortium – Mr. Schwarcz**

They are processing a handful of applications. The DCA bureaucracy is a barrier and the landlords are a barrier. They got 50 vouchers and do not think they should get more at this time since there is a challenge to find apartments for the 50 vouchers. Ms. Connolly said there are many barriers since folks need their license, social security card, etc.

A new Health Initiative may be required focused on health and safety on the street, which is not being addressed. Atlantic Health is working on a survey and to work on this. Mr. Schwarcz is interested in participating in this survey and possibly other health initiatives. Ms. Rippey will update the EC in March on a current initiative at AHS.

- **Freeholder communications – Ms. Becker**

The draft Ruth Davis Drive RFP will be reviewed by the Advisory Leadership group on Feb. 2. The RFP will then go for approval to Department Director Ms. Carpinteri.

Ms. Becker asked if we might flip the meeting agenda and put System's Advocacy first so there will be more time to talk about what is going on in the community regarding homelessness. Ms. Becker asked the Sheriff if he could help with the Code Blue situation. Ms. Connolly, Ms. Quinn, Ms. Bjornson, Mr. Scott, Mr. Bashe are all interested in meeting about the Code Blue.

### **Adjournment –**

Ms. Terry Connolly made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Russ Hall. All were in favor and meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.