

Morris County Continuum of Care (CoC) Executive Committee
May 22, 2014
Meeting Notes

Voting Members Present:

Jeffrey Bashe, HSAC; Bill Byrnes, F. M. Kirby Foundation; Joseph Gallow, Consumer Advocate; Jodi Miciak, United Way; Patrice Picard, Cornerstone Family; Frank Pinto, Morris County Dept. Human Services; David Scott, Market Street Mission and Rebekka Zydell, Child & Family Resources. Absent: Joan Bruseo, OTA.

Ex-Officio Members Present: Mike Armstrong, Community Hope and Lou Schwarcz, Mental Health Association. Absent: Betsey Hall, Homeless Solutions, Inc.; Patty Sly, Jersey Battered Women's Services.

Guests: Joann Bjornson, Family Promise, MC; Elaine Johnson, Homeless Solutions, Inc. and Taiisa Kelly, Monarch Housing.

Staff: Laurie Becker and Shelia Carter, Morris County Human Services.

1. Rebekka Zydell, Chair opened the meeting with welcomes and introductions. Members approved the March 27, 2014 meeting notes with Rebekka, Jeff and Patrice abstaining.
2. Status of HUD CoC Priorities
 - a. Coordinated Assessment—Joann Bjornson provided an update on committee progress in development of a tool that will serve as a common “face sheet” for agency assessments for “homelessness vulnerability”, coordination of services and referrals. A trial run will begin with Edna's Haven, Our Place and the Office of Temporary Assistance by June 2014. Joanne will give more updates at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Taiisa noted that the deadline for the coordinated assessment process to be included is spring 2015 as this information must be included in the CoC application's exhibit 1.
 - b. Performance Standards— Rebekka presented the CoC Committee's recommendations. Discussion points raised by the Executive Committee: how to identify different types of transitional housing, uniqueness of affordable housing in Morris County, the benefit to separating out Veterans from other individuals served. However, given HUD's requirements and deadlines, the Committee voted to adopt the CoC Committee's standards as submitted with the caveat that they serve as a baseline and are to be reviewed and adjusted annually as needed.
 - c. Policies and Procedures – Jodi presented a draft Continuum of Care (CoC) Manual. After substantial discussion regarding the manual and its Table of Contents, the Ad Hoc Committee will continue to develop each section. Jodi and Taiisa will take the lead to complete this project.

3. Homeless Plan – Laurie Becker reviewed the Homeless Plan Introduction and will be accepting further suggestions by email from members of committee for improvement. A new draft will be provided at the next meeting.
4. Community Funding to Address Homelessness – Was tabled.
5. Service Gaps -- Women’s Emergency Shelter
6. Systems Advocacy on Homelessness – Lou Schwarcz reported his concerns about legislation just introduced pertaining to boarding homes--A2239. He advised that if passed, this legislation could give boarding home owners more leeway to evict tenants based on behaviors. He suggested that everyone read the bill and consider advocating against it.
7. Other business:

Revisited the topic of nonvoting Executive Committee membership per the by-laws. After discussion that included a reminder that the Committee can invite anyone they wish as a guest, it was agreed that changes to the by-laws would be revisited at a later date.

Next steps:

What	Who	When
Coordinated Assessment	Joanne to give update	July 24 meeting
HUD Ex Com letterhead	Rebekka will create	July 24
Policies and Procedures	Jodi to lead with Taiisa, Jeff and Bill – will give update	July 24
Homeless Plan introduction	Laurie will take the lead to edit w/committee members	July 24

Next meeting: July 24, 2014 at 3 p.m., MCDHS, 30 Schuyler Place, Morristown