

**Morris County Continuum of Care (CoC) Executive Committee**  
**October 2, 2014**  
**Meeting Notes**

**Voting Members Present:**

Jeffrey Bashe, HSAC; Joan Bruseo, MCOTA; Jennifer Carpinteri, Morris County Dept. Human Services; Joseph Gallo, Consumer Advocate; Jodi Miciak, United Way; Patrice Picard, Cornerstone; David Scott, Market Street Mission; Rebekka Zydel, Child & Family Resources. Absent: Bill Byrnes, F.M. Kirby Foundation.

**Ex-Officio Members Present:**

Mike Armstrong, Community Hope; Betsey Hall, Homeless Solutions; Lou Schwarcz, Mental Health Association; Patty Sly; Jersey Battered Women's Services.

**Guests:** Taiisa Kelly, Monarch Housing and Joanne Bjornson, Family Promise.

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

- 1. Rebekka Zydel, Chair opened the meeting with welcomes and introductions.**
- 2. Motion to approve the July 24 minutes** was made by Patrice Picard and seconded by Jeff Bashe. All were in favor with no abstentions and no opposition.
- 3. NORWESCAP Rapid Re-Housing presentation**– Postponed to the Oct. 14 full CoC meeting.
- 4. 2014 CoC Application Status**  
Final applications will be submitted through ESNAPS by 10/29/2014 The Committee has made funding allocation decisions and notification to applicants will be sent out tomorrow. There is a mandatory webinar for the applicants.
- 5. Coordinated Assessment – Joann Bjornson**  
There was a presentation made to the full CoC membership and they recommend approving:
  - Morris County Homeless/At Risk of Homelessness Client Entry & Access of Services Process;
  - Morris County Continuum of Care Coordinated Screening Tool Roll Out Plan; and
  - Morris County Coordinated Screening Tool for Homeless and At-Risk of Homelessness.

Rebekka Zydel asked for a motion to approve the three documents distributed. Jeff Bashe made a motion to approve the documents and Patrice Picard seconded the motion. Motion was carried with no abstention and no opposition.

- 6. Executive Committee Liaisons to the CoC full membership**

After discussion about the need to better connect with the full CoC committee to complete tasks, Joan Bruseo and Jodi Miciak volunteered to serve as liaisons. They will be actively involved in the CoC workgroup as policies/procedures/practices are developed. Joan and Jodi will chair the Executive Committee companion workgroup and lead the development of the coordinated assessment pilot, establish evaluation criteria and develop guiding principles. The documents will be reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee.

**7. Policies and Procedures for CoC**

Taiisa Kelly will assume the role of project coordinator. She will help keep the committees on track and coordinated. Some policies are standard and Taiisa can supply examples from other CoC's. Some information will need to be discussed and tailored to Morris County.

**8. 2014 CoC Letters of Intent**

After hearing applicants' presentations, the Executive Committee met and made recommendations on the Letters of Intent. Applicants will be informed shortly on the committee's recommendations and the results will be posted to the County website.

**9. Standards for monitoring projects**

Taiisa will lead a workgroup to develop the process for monitoring reports and start by gathering samples, including the document used by Morris County Human Services, for the workgroup to review. Rebekka, Mike, Jeff and Shelia agreed to participate in the workgroup. The monitoring tool needs to be developed and completed before December 31, 2014 to be used in early 2015.

Question asked about who would do these monitorings. It was suggested that someone from the County be involved. However, it was recommended that site visits be done by CoC members since the committee is an entity separate from the County. These details need to be worked out.

**10. Systems Advocacy on Homeless Services –**

The brief entitled "Systems Issues for Serving Homeless Individuals in Morris County, NJ October 2014" prepared by the Mental Health Association of Morris County was tabled for discussion at the next meeting to allow members to read and digest the information. Lou Schwarcz suggested having front line staff come to the next meeting to give more detail on the report. Rebekka suggested that since MHAMC isn't alone in this perhaps other agencies can provide their input to give a broader picture. Mike Armstrong suggested that this report be sent out to agencies for their ideas/reaction and input. Further discussion ensued. Betsey Hall said that this report is a great start and each member could take the report back to his/her agency for further suggestions and comments.

**7. Other Businesses**

Taiisa Kelly reported on the 2013 CoC scoring results, stating that Morris did well, rating around the national average. Taiisa stated she will try to find out who got the highest ranking in the country.

Morris County does have some weak areas:

- Developing new beds for the chronically homeless
- Creation of more permanent supportive housing.

Joanne Bjornson stated that there are many communities having the same housing problems and some (Washington DC and Bergen County for examples) are able to find solutions and get better scores. In some areas the Housing Authority works more closely with the system and is a bigger partner. Often elected officials are involved. It seems our county is missing some of the key elements. Mr. Bashe stated that it seems that there is a need for advocacy at a higher level.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:28 p.m. The next meeting will be on November 20, At 3:00 p.m.