HHC Annual Membership Meeting

Minutes

June 26, 2024

Membership Agencies:	ACR Health, Altamont, Auburn Housing Authority, Catholic Charities of Onondaga County, Cayuga Community Health Network, Cayuga County DSS, Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency, Center for Community Alternatives, Center for Justice Innovation, Chadwick Residence, Chapel House, Christopher Community, City of Auburn, City of Syracuse NBD, Client Advisory Board, CNY Fair Housing, Farnham Family Services, Greater Syracuse Tenant Network, Helio Health, Hiscock Legal Aid Society, Housing Visions, InterFaith Works, La Liga, Liberty Resources, Onondaga County DCFS, Onondaga County DSS, Rescue Mission Alliance of Syracuse, Soldier On, The Salvation Army Syracuse Alliance System, Vera House, Veterans Affairs, Victory Christian Transformation, Volunteer Lawyers Project, Youth Action Board, YWCA of Syracuse and Onondaga County

1. **Welcome**

   The meeting was called to order by Chair Joe King @ 1:35 pm. Megan Stuart thanked Joe King for his leadership as board chair for the past several years.

2. **HHC Transition and Officer Slate Presentation**

   HHC has been doing strategic planning for the past 9 months at the board level to bring this information today about the current collaborative applicant, Homeless Management Information System lead and Coordinated Entry Lead here locally to hold a vote. Megan Stuart shared a presentation that can be seen here. Megan reminded the coalition members of the mission, vision and values of the HHC, and gave an overview of the history of the coalition's staffing, locations and grant amounts.

   The Housing and Homeless Coalition works in the categories:

   - Advocacy, strategy and leadership

   - Continuum of Care Program

   - Coordinated Entry

   - Homeless Management Information System

   - Convening

   Due to the growth that the HHC has seen in scope of work, size of staff and budget, and the expanded regulatory expectations for from the department of Housing and Urban Development

and the Central New York Community along with the intention of fully stepping into the HHC's sole mission, which is to end homelessness, the HHC Advisory Board believes that it is time for the HHC to match the other CoC's that are independent, which will also expend opportunities for other grants.

The proposal is for the Housing & Homeless Coalition to create a new 501©3 organization with accompanying bylaws and that organization will serve as the collaborative applicant, HMIS lead and Coordinated Entry lead for the CoC NY-505. There will also be a vote to accept the new executive committee officer slate today.

The executive committee officer slate proposal is as follows:

- Stephanie Pasquale, Allyn Foundation, Chair

- Kristian Allen, Catholic Charities of Onondaga County

- Renee Jensen, City of Auburn, At Large

- Sue McMahon, City of Syracuse, At Large

All members have been on the executive committee previously. One designated voter will be sent a direct message in the zoom chat with a link to the voting form. Votes are anonymous and will be tallied during the meeting. The vote needs a majority approval to pass.

The voting form link was shared privately with each agency's listed voters.

3. **Point in Time and Housing Inventory Count Report**

Sarah Schutt shared a powerpoint presentation. The Point in Time (PIT) count and the Housing Inventory Counts are reports that are mandated by the federal government. The PIT Count is a yearly census of people utilizing homeless services and living in places not meant for habitation. The HIC is a report of our community's resources dedicated to serving people who are literally homeless on the night of the PIT, and housing coming online in the next HUD year. This Annual Homelessness Assessment Report is sent to Congress, so the federal government receives all of this data to make decisions around funding and the services that serve people experiencing homelessness. It provides a snapshot view of how many people are experiencing homelessness across our continuum and it gives a complete view because it also includes aggregated data from our domestic violence providers.

The Point in Time count was shared from 2019 to 2024. Homelessness has increased by 63% from 2019 and 29% from 2023.

The unsheltered homelessness numbers increased by 23 people from last year. The total unsheltered homelessness number was 52 leading to a 79% increase. The county specific homeless population is as follows:

- Oswego: 174 people = 15%
- Cayuga 258 people = 21%
- Onondaga 760 = 64%

Family homelessness is on the rise for the first time in recent history. It was consistently decreasing since 2015 until the pandemic struck. This is the first time that adult-only households were surpassed by family homelessness. Family homelessness increased by 53% while single individuals only increased by 14%.

Youth homelessness has seen a decrease in unaccompanied youth, but overall is still increasing.

Chronic homelessness (individuals with a disabling condition and have been in a literal homeless situation for 12 months or more or who have had 4 episodes of homelessness in a 3-year period which adds up to 12 months of homelessness. There was an increase of 11% since 2023.

Veteran homelessness has also seen a slight increase.

Our race breakdown changed due to the HUD data standards however, 40% identify as black or African American and nearly 55% identify as white. The disparity shows between the census information with 8.5% identifying as black African or African American and 82.2% identify as white throughout our CoC geographic area, therefore, black African or African American people are much more prevalent in the homeless response system.

The **Housing Inventory Count** (HIC)

- Changes in Emergency Shelter

    - Emergency Shelter beds increased with the need to house more families in Hotel/Motel placements under Department of Social Services (514 beds)

- Changes in Transitional Housing (53 beds);

    - OCO Joint TH-RRH project added (7 beds)

    - New Center for Community Alternatives TH-RRH project will be brining 3 more beds this year

- Changes in Rapid Rehousing – beds increased (56 beds); 13% increase

    - OCO Joint TH-RRH project added (8 beds)

- • RRH projects had openings and/or searching for housing – can't report these beds, only those who were housed

- • Changes in Other Permanent Housing (393 beds)

  - • Onondaga County Rental Supplement Program (422 beds)

  - • Housing Visions projects (80 beds)

- • New Projects coming

  - • Rescue Mission ES for 12–17-year-olds LGBTQIA will be starting this year.

So overall, there has been an increase in available units. The importance of tracking this metric is funding applications that provide points for the application when we prove that this metric is working and to prove that we are increasing our units to gain more funding to help more people.

Overall homelessness has increased by 63% since 2019, and over 150% since historic lows in 2021.

For the first time in recent history, the number of people in families in shelter is higher than single individuals, 192% since 2019.

Only 4.5% of people experiencing homelessness on the night of the count were unsheltered.

Onondaga County continues to have the highest percentage of the Continuum of Care's population. Increases were seen in Cayuga and Oswego counties as well.

Black, African and African American households are disproportionately represented in shelter (40% in shelter: 8.5% of the 3-County Census)

Despite increases in permanent housing beds available in our community, the growth is not meeting the needs of people experiencing homelessness.

4. **Voting Results**

   The director shared that both votes were passed with majority which established that the HHC membership body accepts the Housing & Homeless Coalition of Central New York as the Collaborative Applicant, HMIS Lead and Coordinated Entry Lead upon the approval of the non-profit entity. The next steps are to file with the IRS for the non-profit designation and craft the bylaws.

5. **Adjournment**

   The meeting was adjourned at 2:23 pm.