

Minutes
Scranton/Lackawanna County Continuum of Care
Board of Directors Meeting
March 13, 2018

The Board of the Lackawanna/Scranton CoC met at Cedar Point on March 13, 2018. The following members were present: Shannon Quinn-Sheeran, Michael Hanley, Andy Hurchik, Peg Ruddy, Joe Hollander, Dorette Harris, Nancy Lawton-Kluck, Virginia Turano, Bill Browning, Gary Drapek, and Sr. Susan Hadzima.

Shannon began by providing CoC Updates:

* The training held in January on Housing First, Critical Time Intervention and Goal Setting presented by our consultant, Suzanne Wagner, was well attended with very positive feedback. The most frequent comment was wanting more time in training. Staff attended from our CoC as well as from CoCs in other counties. A suggestion was made to charge a \$10 fee for those from other CoCs to offset costs. Nancy offered the possibility that Geisinger could help in underwriting the costs if caseworkers from Geisinger participated.

* Next scheduled training is Wednesday, March 28th at 9 a.m. on the topic of Gender Identity/Equal Access to be presented by Paul Datti from the University of Scranton.

* The committee working on a Move On Program with the Housing Authorities continues to meet. The program would provide a vetting process for PSH clients to assess their readiness to move onto independent living. The goal is for the Housing Authorities to give priority to these targeted clients for receiving a Housing Choice Voucher. The next step is a meeting between representatives of the Housing Authorities and a couple of Executive Directors from the CoC. Jason is working on setting up that meeting.

Shannon provided information on the evaluation process used last year to rank the program applications. The questions were designed to evaluate HUD's priorities such as housing stability, increase of income, working as a system, serving those in greatest need. Certain items were collected but not scored last year. Client Satisfaction surveys collected last year will be scored this year looking for a 50% or higher response rate of return. Shannon asked for any feedback on the questions. She will be working on updating the process.

The annual Point in Time was conducted on January 31, 2018. Preliminary numbers indicate that 166 people were homeless compared to 197 in 2017. There was a balance between homeless families and homeless individuals. Only four people were unsheltered that night. Discussion followed on factors impacting the number of homeless this year: Keystone Mission kept open their day room; Bethel was open and sheltered around 18 people; a transitional housing program operating in 2017 was closed this year. Shannon will present more information regarding the Point in Time at the public COC meeting to be held on April 10, 2018.

Discussion of an agenda for the public meeting included information on the Extreme Weather Protocol as well as the Point in Time.

Shannon spoke of a monitoring process for the CoC programs that should be done on an annual basis. She is working with a consultant to develop monitoring criteria similar to HUD's own monitoring process. Bill Browning also offered the County's assistance.

Bill Browning spoke of changes in the subpopulation with whom they are working seeing larger families with an average of four children. Previously the average was two children. The larger number has been consistent over the last 18 months.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2018 at 10 a.m. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sr. Susan Hadzima, IHM Secretary