

Minutes  
Scranton/Lackawanna County Continuum of Care  
Board of Directors Meeting  
November 14, 2017

The Board of the Lackawanna/Scranton CoC met at Cedar Point on Nov. 14, 2017. The following members were present: Shannon Quinn-Sheeran , Michael Hanley , Kim Cadugan, Andy Hurchik, Craig Hoenie, Paul Kania , Peg Ruddy, Stephen Nocilla, Lisa Fumanti Francis, Nancy Lawton-Kluck, Crystal Arcarese, Sr. Therese Marques, RSM, Dorette Harris, and Sr. Susan Hadzima.

Introductions were made and Shannon welcomed Dorette Harris who is new to the Board.

First order of business was the CoC updates:

Training had been held in October on Trauma-Informed Care and County Assistance Office. Feedback was positive. The goal is to have trainings four times a year, tapping into a considerable amount of resources, to increase the tools and community awareness in helping the homeless. Next training is week of January 8<sup>th</sup>. Shannon is seeking feedback on timing and topics. HUD asks in the NOFA for information on our trainings. They also want to know how the CoC deals with transgender issue. Suggestions were made for topics and presenters including Dr. Hilton and Margaret Maurer on substance abuse and nontraditional drugs and Legal Aid for eviction prevention, resources available in courts and appeals for SSI.

The Coordinated Entry Technical Assistance is continuing with an assigned TA. He reviewed the document put out by HUD and is working with our agencies to develop policies. Training is required for people doing the Coordinated Assessment. Issue was raised regarding greater coordination with VA and HUD. They have different entry systems.

Question was raised about the HMIS system and victims of domestic violence. How is anonymity safeguarded for those clients and at the same time, accounting for these clients in the HMIS data used for all reporting?

Craig Hoenig informed the Board that he will be leaving Penn Legal Services and therefore, the Board and his position as president. Joe Hollander, the Vice-President, could become President. Penn Legal Services may be able provide a new Board member in the further. Paul Kania also resigned from the Board. Jason Kavulich will attend the meetings of the Housing Coalition. It was suggested that Barb Durkin be invited on the Board. Mike Hanley agreed to contact her.

The Board then discussed possible strategies to reach functional end to Chronic Homelessness in the County. Presently there are 8 individuals and 1 to 2 families on the Chronic Homeless List. The agencies are checking client information before putting them on the list. Clients may self-report disability and the agency that puts them on the list would need to work with the client in obtaining the necessary documentation.

The goal of reaching functional end to Chronic Homelessness was felt to be achievable for Lackawanna County if a move-on program were created. This would require available resources to foster self-sufficiency including possible housing subsidies. The CoC would work with the Housing Authorities to create a move-on program. Further clarification is needed regarding what the CoC wants to ask of the Housing Authorities to include accepting applications for Section 8 during closed periods and giving higher preference to the homeless. HUD requires criminal background checks on all potential tenants.

Caseworkers could provide needed information to Housing Authorities. A suggestion was made to see which of the low-income housing providers have options for our type of client. We may be able to start with some of these providers. Case conferencing is presently done at the Chronic Homeless meeting. Caseworkers need to see what clients may need or what else could be done in preparing them to graduate the program and move on.

A follow-up meeting will be planned to prepare for a meeting with representatives from the Housing Authorities.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Jan. 9, 2018 at 10 a.m. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sr. Susan Hadzima, IHM  
Secretary