

Minutes  
Scranton/Lackawanna County Continuum of Care  
Board of Directors Meeting  
May 14, 2019

The Board of the Lackawanna/Scranton CoC met at Cedar Point on May 14, 2019. The following members were present: Andy Hurchick, Megan Manley, Tom DiMatteo, Krista Somers, Jason Kavulich, Lisa Durkin, Jessica Wallo, Peg Ruddy, Steve Nocilla, Justin Marino, Nancy Lawton-Kluck, John Byrd, and Sr. Susan Hadzima.

Justin Marino, the new CoC Director introduced himself and expressed his excitement at working with everyone in the future. Introductions were done and Justin welcomed Tom DiMatteo from the VA Medical Center who is replacing Crystal Arcarese as VA representative.

Jessica Wallo presented information from the Point-in-Time that was conducted on Jan. 30, 2019, the date determined by HUD. The information has been submitted to HUD and a presentation will be made to the Board regarding trends, changes, and possible reasons. Comparison of data will be made with other counties. This year there were 186 homeless individuals and 19 families; in 2018, the number was 159 and 18 families; in 2017, 197 individuals and 17 families.

Next item for discussion was the Move On Program for Permanent Supportive Housing clients. This program would give priority to these clients for Section 8 housing or in housing projects. These individuals would be ready to graduate from the PSH program and be identified as having the skills and potential to succeed on their own. At the same time, they would still be connected to supportive agencies if needed. This program would also open new spots in the PSH programs for the chronically homeless. Conversations have taken place with different city officials but the program has not moved forward. The suggestion was to begin by a discussion at the next Multi-Disciplinary Team meeting.

The Veteran Resource Center has acquired a property on Prospect Ave., purchased through the Land Bank to create eight individual units for veterans. Money is available for rehabilitation. This would be a transitional housing facility with rules a bit more flexible for vets struggling to live independently. There would be some common space to promote companionship. Vets would need a VASH voucher to apply. Some vets have incomes too high for them to qualify. Some are 100% disabled and in need of supportive services yet there is nothing available for that population. More information will be coming.

A Health Care Subcommittee is being initiated for the CoC to look at health concerns of those who struggle with both housing and health care issues. The Pathfinder program is one option. CSS has funding to begin working with Scranton Primary for health assessments, assistance with applying for Social Security, and accessing the Health Care Navigator. St. Anthony's is extending time at for shelter residents struggling with health care issues and is looking for help from CoC providers. Volunteers for the subcommittee include Lisa Durkin, Maria Welch from Geisinger, Krista Somers. Joe Hollander will gather the group. Anyone else interested should contact Lisa Durkin.

Next the Board discussed the work of the Scranton Homeless Coalition. They were invited to the Housing Coalition meetings and have attended a couple of meetings. The Coalition seems to be gathering information from various sources and looking for gaps in the system. The CoC hopes to keep them at the table with us and to keep open the communication between us. The group has raised concerns regarding government statutes and funding. They continue to look for extreme weather options, creating a shelter space with fewer rules, and most recently, getting IDs for those released from incarceration. The suggestion was made to have a meeting with them to discuss the challenges of working with this population particularly those struggling with addiction and mental health issues.

The next regular Board meeting will be Tuesday, July 9 at 10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sr. Susan Hadzima, IHM  
Secretary