

Minutes
Scranton/Lackawanna County Continuum of Care
Board of Directors Meeting
March 9, 2021

A virtual meeting of the Board of the Lackawanna/Scranton CoC took place on March 9, 2021 at 10 a.m. The following members participated: Joe Hollander, Kim Cadugan, Lisa Durkin, Andy Hurchik, Alexis Kelly, Justin Marino, John Byrd, Eileen Wilson, Krista Somers, and Sr. Susan Hadzima. Joe Hollander, Chair, welcomed everyone and turned over the meeting to Justin.

Eileen Wilson presented a Power Point detailing the Lackawanna County Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) Program which covered the following areas: Eligibility Criteria, Financial Impact-Income Loss or Significant Costs, Explanation of Rental and Utility Assistance, Required Documents, Application Process, and Landlord Information. Any questions will be addressed by calling 211. Eileen explained ways this program was different from the previous CARES Act program. A tenant or landlord can apply online or by paper application available at United Neighborhood Centers or Catholic Social Services. The funding is a combination of state and federal funds and is available for households/individuals at or below 80% of the Area Median Income. Board members were encouraged to spread this information as broadly as possible. The Power Point presentation will be included with the minutes.

Next the Board did the annual review of the CoC Policies and Procedure, PSH and RRH, Written Standards and the Governance Charter. No changes were suggested. With a motion by Andy Hurchik, seconded by Lisa Durkin, the documents were approved as presented. These documents are found on the United Neighborhood Centers website.

Justin reviewed some of the results of the Point in Time/Housing Inventory Count which took place on Jan. 27, 2021. These figures are due to HUD by April 30, 2021. The totals are in process; however, 140 were reported as sheltered in transitional housing, safe haven or emergency shelters. The unsheltered number is still uncertain. Justin is working in reviewing program records in HMIS and will reach out to providers with any questions.

It appears that the 2021 NOFA will be a full competition similar to what has been required in the past. More information will be forthcoming.

Justin reviewed the HUD HMIS reporting that has been submitted. The Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA) was submitted Jan. 2021 and the System Performance Measures in March. That information will be finalized with HUD and then shared with the Board. The ESG Caper is typically due around March 26, 2021. The City will be in contact with those agencies receiving ESG funding with instructions on submitting these reports in SAGE. A link will be sent out from OECD. The COVID ESG money for RRH

and Rental Assistance should be available very shortly. This funding will require additional reporting and be separately listed in HMIS.

The moratorium is still set to end on March 31, 2021. That will definitely impact a large number of people. Some may even be notified 21 days prior of a pending eviction. These tenants may qualify for the ESG Homeless Prevention money.

An issue was raised regarding the requirement of the Scranton Housing Authority to submit original documents when applying for public housing and Section 8. These may include ID, Social Security cards, and Birth Certificates. Documents could be tied up for a period of time and there is the risk they would not be returned. The suggestion was made that perhaps CoC member organizations would be authorized to make copies of the documents, verify they are official and these document would be submitted with the application. Justin will discuss this issue at the PHA/MDT meeting scheduled for March 10, 2021 It was also noted that the Housing Authority may accept copies if the caseworkers submit the application for the client.

Next CoC Board meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2021 at 10 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:45.a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sr. Susan Hadzima, IHM
Secretary.