

Continuum of Care Committee Meeting
November 17, 2016
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
United Way Community Room

Attendance: Jessica Mockabee (York County Human Services), Robert Woods (United Way of York County), Amy Hampson (Y/A HealthChoices), Missy Gosnell (Community Member), Laura Ruhling (YWCA Harrisburg), Crystal Ouedraogo (Bell Socialization), Robin Rohrbaugh (Community Progress Council), Tiena Blasé (Community Progress Council), Danielle Dennis (NAMI York), Tina Beddia (YWCA York), Valerie Krug (YWCA York), Marcella Kinard (Bell Socialization), Felicia Dell (York County Planning Commission), Kelly Blechertas (York County Planning Commission), Michelle Shearer (TrueNorth Wellness), Debbie Loucks (York Area Housing Group), Shelley Peterson (Community Progress Council), Colleen Clay (York County Human Services/Wellspan Bridges to Hope), Vicki Klinedinst (United Way of York County)

Welcome/Introductions: Chair, Ms. Mockabee welcomed everyone and asked for introductions. Last month's meeting minutes were approved.

EFSP Update

Ms. Klinedinst reported no updates for this month.

Subcommittee Reports

CoC Application: No update.

Review and Ranking: No update.

HMIS: Ms. Blechertas reported the 2016 AHAR year data is nearly complete and will be submitted in advance of the 12/1/16 due date. Data will be shared with the group in December.

10 Year Plan – Theme 2 Discussion and Updates: Mr. Woods reviewed Theme 2 – Increase Access to Stable and Affordable Housing and there was discussion about stagnant action steps.

December's meeting will cover Theme 3 – Increase Economic Stability.

Coordinated Assessment:

Ms. Blechertas reminded everyone that agency-maintained waiting lists will cease on 12/1/16 for those agencies participating in Phase 1. Empty units from 12/1 on, should be reported to Ms. Blechertas, and the Prioritization & Referral Committee will convene to make referrals to those units. Ms. Blechertas anticipates permanent supportive housing units will be straight forward, but acknowledges that filling rapid re-housing units will take some adjustments.

Ms. Blechertas also reported that she received 80 housing triage forms from 2-1-1 for the month of October, and a majority were not "HUD Homeless" but instead were looking for Homeless Prevention services to stay in their housing.

Recuperative Care (Medical Respite)

Ms. Blechertas reported that site visits were being conducted at potential sites that had responded to the Wellspan RFP for this project, and a better update would most likely be available in December.

Ms. Mockabee also reported that a “think tank” has been put together with community partners and Wellspan employees to determine if there is a way to make personal care homes more affordable or available for low-income residents. This group has just begun meeting and is being driven by Dianna Benaknin on behalf of Wellspan.

Veterans

Biweekly conference calls continue with the YWCA of Greater Harrisburg, the Lebanon VA and Volunteers of America to identify veterans seeking assistance. Work is being conducted with Lifepath Christian Ministries to ensure veterans staying in the men’s shelter know where and when to seek assistance from outreach workers.

Sheltered Point-in-Time Survey

Ms. Blechertas announced the PIT date as Wednesday, January 25, 2017 for the sheltered survey. All those staying in housing on the night of the 25th should be counted. Interview forms and bed surveys will be completed on paper only this year, due to Ms. Blechertas potentially being on maternity leave for the tallying process. Materials will come from Ms. Blechertas and a timely return of materials in early February is requested.

Unsheltered Point-in-Time Survey

Ms. Mockabee announced that the service-based/street count will be conducted on Thursday, January 26, 2017 – asking the question of where you stayed the night of the 25th, to avoid duplication. Ms. Mockabee asked the group if they felt the structure of the count should change, but most agreed the current format fits the CoC’s needs. The 2017 count will have a focus on trying to count more youth (both those under 18 and those 18-24) and it was discussed that we need a better way to get schools to participate.

Formal planning will begin soon.

HAP Fund Expenditure Discussion

Ms. Mockabee explained that HAP contacts at the county level have been notified that the state budget is behind on revenues. A mid-year cut to HAP funds has not been announced, but communities have been asked to spend frugally for the time being, in case a cut is administered.

The Rental Assistance Program (RAP) at Community Progress Council would be greatly impacted by this. Ms. Peterson from CPC reported that the agency had predicted approximately \$191,000 in direct pay

outs for rental assistance in the 16-17 fiscal year. With the program opening on October 1, 2016, CPC has already paid out approximately \$41,700 in just two months.

As a result, the Human Services office and CPC have made the following changes to the Rental Assistance Program. Beginning November 28, 2016, the following will be prioritized:

- Families with children under 18, or, elderly who are 65+, who can meet documented affordability, with an order of possession, will receive RAP funds.
- Individuals and families with mental health diagnoses will still be assisted by HealthChoices dollars
- Disaster recovery will be handled with Red Cross funds – and homeless Case Management will be provided
- All-adult households will be denied RAP funding but offered homeless Case Management services
- Coordinated payments with the Assistance Office will continue

Ms. Mockabee and Ms. Peterson will continue to monitor expenditure levels and wait for more information from the state.

General Discussion on Needs, Programs, and Ideas

Discussion surrounding potential ideas to utilize approximately \$150,000 reallocated from HOME dollars at the York County Planning Commission. Dollars could be used for new affordable housing (but this is difficult in York County, as the County does not score high for tax credit incentives), first time homebuyer assistance (but there is a fear that too many sources offer this resource), or tenant-based rental assistance – TBRA - (not currently utilized in York – may be a good fit? Could be assistance up to 3 years).

TBRA would be the most flexible option.

Update on Regional Housing Meeting on 11/9/16

Bob Woods, Amy Hampson, and Marcella Kinard all attended the regional meeting to discuss medical assistance housing payment support. Medical assistance could be used to pay for case management and peer support, as well as training people providing those services in housing supports.

Patrick Keenan, who presented information on using medical assistance for housing at our July CoC meeting, was a presenter.

The initiative is just getting started and is not available yet to be billed.

Agency Announcements

Ms. Mockabee announced that a small group would be meeting to discuss SOAR application and training for the CoC on November 22, at 2pm in the Human Services conference room.

A follow-up meeting for the homeless outreach event that took place in October is being held in January – the RAYAC and CoC combined group would like to make the event annual.

TrueNorth Wellness has a capital campaign running to build a new autism center in Hanover. Hoping to start up in September 2017.

CPC has been gifted free billboard advertising space by Lamar – they aren't sure where the billboard will be, so keep an eye out for that. It will be advertising the Homebuyer Program.

Meeting Adjourned - **Next Meeting will take place on December 15, 2016 at 1:00 pm at the United Way Community Room.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelly Blechertas