

**Westchester County Continuum of Care Partnership to End Homelessness
Monthly Meeting Minutes**

May 20, 2020

Attendees: Annette Petters-Ruvolo (Co Chair) Karl Bertrand (Co Chair), Allison McSpedon, Judy Mezey, Helen Frankel, Nicole Granata, Alba Guevara, Anahaita Kotval, Barbara Pose, Elissa Ramos, JoMarie Tarchoun, Tiece Thomas, Craig Wong, Doreen Lockwood, Jesse Johnson, Yoav Spiegel, Cynthia Knox, Freda Macon, Sylvia Bolivar, Jane Lindau, Walter Ritz, Melinda Bellus, Toni Griffiths, Maria McGinty

Topic #1:	Discussion:
Announcements/Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annette Peters-Ruvolo, Co-Chair, started the meeting at 9:30 a.m. via Webinar. • Nicole Granata motioned to approve meeting minutes for April. Jane Lindau seconded, all in favor, zero opposed. • Annette announced the CoC Planning – RFP was released and due 5/26 • Karl Bertrand, Co-Chair, announced ESG Eviction Prevention to be released by Commissioner of Westchester County Planning on 5/21 • Karl announced the Eviction Prevention Network meeting is on Thursday 5/21 via Zoom

Topic #2:	Discussion:
PIT & HIC Data was Submitted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yoav Spiegel reviewed and explained the HIC and PIT submitted data. Summary comparison 2016-2019 PIT count of the homeless found the number of sheltered decreased by 165. Lowest # since 2011. • Forty-Seven (47) fewer families were counted on the night of the PIT count this year. Some discussion about the small number of remaining families (approx. 6); they have remained homeless due to complicating factors such as being undocumented or not engaging with services. • Yonkers and Mount Vernon had the highest increase of number of unsheltered homeless; Yonkers had an increase of 21, Mount Vernon 7. • Yoav continued to debrief the board on the 2020 HIC Handout. • The number of RRH beds continues to decrease; the Data/Systems committee plans to take this on in the next month to examine challenges. • Melinda Bellus of LSHV shared that one factor leading to decrease was the passage of the NYS Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act in June 2019. There were nearly no new eviction cases in June or July 2019.

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Topic #3:	Discussion:
COVID19 Waiver recordkeeping policy/procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City of Mount Vernon suggested we amend to include temporary changes. Yoav drafted, Annette distributed to the Board prior to the meeting and the Board reviewed & voted. Anahaita approves to add to written assistance policy, Sylvia Bolivar seconded. All in favor; none opposed.

Topic #4:	Discussion:
Coordinated Entry Moratorium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moratorium put in place at the start of the Coronavirus outbreak expired on May 15th. The policy of requiring housing providers to provide a determination within 2 weeks or 3 attempts will continue to be waived until June 17th, at which time the board will review.

Topic #5:	Discussion:
Changes to Prioritization to Support & Respond to COVID19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Karl Bertrand debriefed the board on HUD's suggested changes to prioritization in coordinated entry. This may be a faster route out of shelters into permanent housing. Karl proposed the idea of taking COVID19 risk as a temporary factor into prioritization. Triece Thomas will review and propose specific ideas at the next Data Systems Committee meeting on June 3rd.

Topic #6:	Discussion:
FY19 NOFA Scoring debrief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yoav debriefed board on 2019 CoC scores. Points were lost for reasons that we are unaware of. This is the first time in 3 years CoC has received a score above the median. We did not get the permanent housing BONUS funding this year. Anahaita asked for reasoning for rapid rehousing decrease. Yoav explained part of the reason is NYS defunding ESG rapid rehousing projects in Westchester late last year. Annette explained the Data Systems committee has been looking at this issue from different angles and are working to address the decrease in RRH beds.

Topic #7:	Discussion:
Status Reports from Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allison provided an update to the board. Housing is going better than expected. People have been able to be moved and landlords are sharing vacancies with workers which is very

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	helpful. Continually making sure everyone knows the updated policies on waivers and inspections. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annette reminded everyone to feel free to use the DCMH support line 914-995-1900
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Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m

Respectfully submitted: Tiece Thomas

Date: 5/20/20

Next Meeting: June 17, 2020

Time: 9:30 a.m

Location: Zoom Webinar