

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

**April 15, 2020**

**Attendees: Annette Peters-Ruvolo (Co Chair) Karl Bertrand (Co Chair), Allison McSpedon, Judy Mezey, Dahlia Austin, Ruthanne Becker, Helen Frankel, Tajae Gaynor, Nicole Granata, Alba Guevara, Brittany Hodgins, Joe Kenner, Anahaita Kotval, Doreen Lockwood, Maria McGinty, Barbara Pose, Elissa Ramos, JoMarie Tarchoun, Tiece Thomas, Craig Wong, Doreen Lockwood, Jim Coughlin, Chris Rivera, Jesse Johnson, Marlene Zarfes, Kristina Yamin, Shaquona Truss**

Topic #1:	Discussion:
<b>Announcements/Updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Annette Peters-Ruvolo, Co-Chair, started the meeting at 9:40 a.m. via Webinar.</li> <li>● Craig Wong, DSS motioned for approval of March’s minutes. Seconded by Jim Coughlin, Westhab. Meeting minutes for March approved by all, zero opposed.</li> <li>● Westhab will have a mobile food truck provided by Feeding Westchester on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 92 Waverly St, Yonkers, NY (Castle Royale Parking Lot)</li> <li>● Lifting Up Westchester continues to provide grab and go meals at 33 Church Street (Samaritan House location)</li> </ul>

Topic #2:	Discussion:
<b>Status Reports from Members</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Lifting Up Westchester</b> informed the board of the challenges the shelter continues to face as a result of COVID19, but relieved that there are now more options in terms of placements, including motels for those symptomatic or testing positive and responsive contact people in place at DSS. Lifting Up Westchester is tight on staffing but otherwise continue to be stable and maintaining order. Community donations of cleaning supplies have been very helpful. No reported client deaths from COVID19.</li> <li>● Allison McSpedon, PDD, spoke with Miguel Velasquez from <b>DSS</b>, who informed her the Drop-In census has been lower than normal. Shelter capacity has also been reduced to help practice safe distancing. <b>Westcop</b> is managing the motel for DSS in Elmsford. Occupancy is 25 people and for singles only.</li> <li>● <b>Greyston</b> reported one resident death due to COVID19. Annette to reach out after today’s meeting with resources for staff and residents.</li> <li>● <b>Westhab</b> reports clients are seemingly doing well. They are experiencing difficulty obtaining disinfectant supplies. Community donations have been helpful with cleaning supplies. No reported resident deaths from COVID19 but there have been some staff and residents who have tested positive for COVID19.</li> <li>● <b>Hopes Door</b> has received help with supplies from the County. Brittany Hodgins explained she completed a form and sent it in.</li> </ul>

	<p>Annette will connect board with form and email to send to for a hopefully faster response to requests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Elissa Ramos from <b>Westhab</b> housing providers are doing well with no reported deaths and no positive results of COVID19. Concerns are arising due to RRH clients losing their jobs and not being able to pay rent. Paying an extra amount in rent for clients may pose a financial issue in the future. The program would have to pay for more rent than accustomed to. Karl noted we need to be looking at ESG/CDBG for eviction prevention.</li> <li>● Overall issues: some food instability, police response times is much slower than usual, supplies needed, tenants struggling w anxiety/behavioral issues causing conflicts w neighbors/landlords.</li> <li>● Some moves are happening as they can, but very slow. Some clients are not willing to move into apartments during COVID19. Some landlords are unable to get repairs done. There is a fear of losing apartments if no one is living in them. Members who have had success will share their contacts for movers and furniture stores delivering.</li> <li>● <b>Homestead</b> is stable; however, one resident did pass away from COVID19. Some residents are refusing to pay rent even if they are still employed. Homestead has received cleaning supplies.</li> <li>● <b>JoMarie and Allison reported on CE:</b> referrals are still being made but a little slower than prior to COVID and move-ins are slower. Street O/R is about the same in terms of numbers of individuals that we are aware of and working with.</li> </ul>
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<b>Topic #3:</b>	<b>Discussion:</b>
<b>CoC Planning- Resources and Federal funding available</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Annette reviewed HUD’s recent waiver granted to CPD’s including CoC projects and the Moratorium we have put in place regarding CE deadlines.</li> <li>● Karl reviewed newly available funding for Westchester CoC Partners including FEMA Public Assistance, Supplemental ESG, and Supplemental CDBG and offered assistance to any provider needing help.</li> </ul>

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m

Respectfully submitted: **Triece Thomas**

**Date:** 5/15/20

**Next Meeting: May 20 2020**

**Time: 9:30 a.m**

**Location: Webinar**