**December 21, 2022**

**Attendees: Karl Bertrand (Co-chair), Craig Wong (Co-chair), Sylvia Bolivar, Monica Hughes, Alba Guevara, Tajae Gaynor, Freda Macon, Debbie Anderson, Natalie Ventura, Annette Peters-Ruvolo, Yoav Spiegel, JoMarie Casarella, Randy Scott, Helen Frankel, Walt Ritz, Delilah Hanna, Anahaita Kotval, Angela Bailey, Winnie Wilson, Allison McSpedon, Cindy Forschner, Cordetta Creighton, Grace Perry, Cassandra Rajacumar, Tiffany Brown, Jesse Johnson, Elissa Ramos, Kathy Pandecakes, Colin Darres, Ingrid Cajina, Jhalishia Slaughter, Leslie Liberatore, ? Rogers, Xiomera Montero, Nicole Masucci, Rene Jenkins, Marlon Molina.**

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| **Topic #1:** | **Discussion:** |
| **Announcements/Updates** | * Karl Bertrand & Craig Wong Co-Chairs called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.
* Co-chairs called for motion to accept November minutes with a spelling correction noted by Karl Bertrand. Natalie Ventura, CVR motioned to accept, Walt Ritz, Hope Community Services seconded. All in favor zero opposed.
* Karl Bertrand shared the Biden administration announcement of a $360 million increase in HUD spending on new “All In” initiative. The Interagency Council on Homlessness will develp custom community plans with an emphasis on NYC & LA. NYS is poised to bring in a large share of funding in the hopes of offsetting rental market issues.
* Grace Perry of The Bridge Fund announced that their offices will be closed until the new year to tie up end of 2022 business.
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| **Topic #2:** | **Discussion:** |
| **Good News Segment**  | * Allison McSpedon, WCoC Admin Team Member, shared that the December 20, 2022 Domestic Violence and LGBTQ+ training was well attended and well received by participants. An ongoing LGBTQ+ Cultural Competency training course is available <https://westchester-coc.talentlms.com/>
* Walter Ritz of HOPE-CS announced that the 2022 toy drive was a big success thanks to the generosity of donors. HOPE-CS will be accepting donations throughout the year for the 2023 effort.
* Karl Bertrand, co-chair, announced that Craig Wong, co-chair, was promoted at DSS to the role of Manager. In his new role Craig intends to continue to build upon the networking efforts between CoC and DSS staff to best serve our common clients.
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| **Topic #3:**  |  |
| **PIT Count Planning**  | * Jenny Badree, PD&D reported the PIT count is scheduled January 25th & January 26th 2023.
* Hiring of staff is nearly complete with a few openings for Spanish speaking Enumerators remaining.
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| **Topic #4** |  |
| **Gaps Analysis**  | * Yoav Spiegel, DCMH & John Sutton, DSS reviewed the recently completed Gaps Analysis. Findings remained similar to previous reports.
* Table 8 showing the Homeless Household to Available Unit ratio indicates Physically Disabled people & their families remain the highest need group followed closely by veterans who are not eligible for VA benefits.
* Annette Peters-Ruvolo asked if GA data can be compared to published AHAR reports from other CoCs to learn if this is part of a larger trend or if this is a unique local/regional finding.
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| **Topic #5** | **Discussion:** |
| **ERAP** | * Karl Bertrand, Co-chair shared that the Yonkers ERAP opportunity closed and that the state ERAP program will be closing in January.
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| **Topic #6** | **Discussion:** |
| **Rental Supplement Program**  | * Debbie Anderson, CHI provided an RSP update
	+ As of 12/21/22 the 100 household capacity program has received 61 referrals, of these:
		- 20 have been approved/are in housing search
		- 12 were declined by clients
		- 14 were pending documentation toward approval
		- 17 had not yet responded to attempts to communicate
* Shelter and housing providers are reminded to respond to all correspondence.
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| **Topic #7** | **Discussion:** |
| **HCR EHV Criteria Change & Update**  | * EHV Steering Committee member Yoav Spiegel shared the following criteria change recommended to the board by the committee:
	+ Discontinuation of the criteria for 12 or more continuous months of homelessness with no breaks for candidates who are not DV fleeing
	+ Commencement of the criteria of 12 or more months of homelessness with up to 3 breaks breaks for candidates who are not DV fleeing
	+ Motion to accept the change was made by Helen Frankel of FSSY and seconded by Anahaita Kotval of Lifting up Westchester. All in favor, none opposed.
* A review of the current EHV program status was provided by Jesse Johnson of Westhab (see attachment for full details)
	+ 565 referrals have been completed
	+ 192 households have moved in to housing through the program
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Meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am

Respectfully submitted: Allison McSpedon                        Date: 1/18/2023

Next Meeting: January 18, 2023

Time: 9:30 a.m. Location: Zoom Webinar