**February 15th 2023**

**Attendees: Karl Bertrand (Co-chair), Craig Wong (Co-chair), Cynthia Knox, Warren Kent, Judy Mezey, Tajae Gaynor, Annette Peters-Ruvolo, Yoav Spiegel, La Tonia Rosado, JoMare Casarella, Robert Edwards, Yelitza Taveras, Randolph Scott, Craig Wong, John Sutton, Kathleen Sutherland, Helen Frankel, Kathy Pandekakes, Walt Ritz, Brittany Hodgins, Joseph Lobello, Kathryn Valencia, Willa Brody, Anahaita Kotval, Angela Bailey, Winnie Wilson, Karl Bertrand, Allison McSpedon, Jenny Badree, Cindy Forshner, Alicia Alore-Grachan, Michael Dones, Grace Perry, Elane Falcone, Tiffany Brown, Nikita Singletary, Colin Dacres, James Coughlin, Richard Nightingale, Elissa Ramos, Marlene Zarfes, Coretta Essilfie, Daniel Grenell, Lilian Dejesus, Sylvia Bolivar**

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| **Topic #1:** |  |
| **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 December & January minutes with a revision to add Colin Dacres, WestCop as present in January’s meeting. Colin Dacres motioned to accept, Annette Peters-Ruvolo, DCMH seconded. All in favor zero opposed.
* Helen Frankel, FSSY announced FSSY 2022-2023 Hoarding Initiative in partnership with the City of Yonkers, Yonkers Office for the Aging and other community organizations to provide free too low services to moderate income seniors. Services include clean-up, organizing, extermination, legal assistance and mental health referral services.
* Helen Frankel, FSSY announced FSSY new program Access to Home for Heroes Program. This program will pay for accessibility modifications and emergency home repairs for the primary residence of veterans with disabilities. Eligible veterans may be renters or homeowners, with low or moderate income, with service related injuries or health related disabilities.
* Elissa Ramos, Westhab announced Westhab Inc. Patriot Housing Grant Per Diem housing program is closing on March 31st 2023.
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| **Topic #2:** | **Discussion:** |
| **Good News Segment**  | * Jenny Badree, PD&D announced an individual experiencing homelessness for approximately 37 years was recently housed. Special thanks & congratulations was given to Lawrence Anokye, TGC Senior Outreach worker who worked closely with the individual to secure housing.
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| **Topic #3:**  |  |
| **PIT Count 2023**  | * Jenny Badree PD&D reported the PIT count held on January 25th & January 26th 2023 was successful, data will be provided at the next board meeting.
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| **Topic #4** |  |
| **CoC Board Members**  | * Karl Bertrand & Craig Wong, co-chairs introduced newly nominated board members Robert Edwards, Dept. of Social Services Program Administrator of Employment & Training and Kathleen Sutherland McKento Vento School liaison/Portchester School District consultant. Both members provided the attendees with their background/work experience.
* Co-chairs called for motion to accept Kathleen Sutherland & Robert Edwards as CoC Board members. Walt Ritz, Hope C-S motioned to accept, Annette Peters-Ruvolo, DCMH seconded. All in favor zero opposed.
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| **Topic #5** | **Discussion:** |
| **Strategic Advisory Committee**  | * Richard Nightingale, Westhab Inc. announced that the Strategic Advisory committee will consist of executive director’s/chiefs executives or principal decision makers of direct service homeless/ housing providers who currently receive CoC funding.
* The objective of the committee is to support the CoC’s mission of coordinating all of the stakeholders, systems, and resources available to prevent and end homelessness in Westchester County by engaging executive leadership of direct service homeless housing providers to collectively the advised the CoC on trends, system improvements etc.
* The advisory committee will be meeting bi-monthly and CoC Co-chair Karl Bertrand will relate topics covered to CoC board members.
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| **Topic #6** | **Discussion:** |
| **Statewide CoC’s Low Barrier Shelters**  | * Karl Bertrand, Co-chair reported CARES NY is exploring issues on implementing statewide low barrier shelters. Low barrier shelters requirements for entry are limited or minimal.
* Karl Bertrand, Co-chair reported that the CoC Lead workgroup sent an email to OTDA representations requesting the following:
* To survey counties exploring the extent to which low barrier emergency shelters are available
* To expand Code Blue requirements or change the code blue regulations so that they remain in effect for a standard block of cold months rather than a daily basis.
* Material with information and suggestions was provided to the Board members via email.
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| **Topic #7** | **Discussion:** |
| **FY2022 System Performance Overview**  | * Karl Bertrand, Co-chair reviewed the FY2022 System Performance Overview.
* Material with the data was provided to the Board members via email.
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| **Topic #8** | **Discussion:** |
| **Potential New Federal & State Funding**  | * Karl Bertrand, Co-chair announced the Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals program is a competitive grant program administered by the SAMHSA center for substance abuse. The goal of the program is to help communities expand and strengthen treatment and recovery support services for individuals/families experiencing homelessness who have substance use disorders or co-occurring mental and substance use disorders. Applications are due on Tuesday March 21st 2023.
* Annette Peters-Ruvolo, DSS announced Safe Options Support: CTI Teams request for proposal was released in January. Material with detailed information was provided to the Board members via email.
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| **Topic #9** | **Discussion:** |
| **Eviction Prevention Update**  | * Karl Bertrand, Co-chair reviewed the current volume of Westchester County eviction cases post moratorium sourced from LSHV court database.
* Material with the data was provided to the Board members via email.
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| **Topic #8** | **Discussion:** |
| **RSP update**  | * JoMarie Casarella, DSS reported Coordinated Entry referrals are still being made to the RSP programs.
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| **Topic #8** | **Discussion:** |
| **HCR EHV update**  | * Karl Bertrand, co-chair provided an EHV update.
* Material with the data was provided to the board members via email.
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Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am

Respectfully submitted: La Tonia Rosado                        Date: 2/15/2023

Next Meeting: March 15th 2023

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