

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

**June 17, 2020**

**Attendees:** Annette Peters-Ruvolo (Co Chair) Karl Bertrand (Co Chair), Alba Guevara, Allison McSpedon, Anahaita Kotval, Brittany Hodgins, Chris Rivera, Craig Wong, Dahlia Austin, Daniel Gore, Doreen Lockwood, Elisa Ramos, JoMarie Tarchoun, Judy Mezey, Larry Mosely, Maria McGinty, Marlene Zarfes, Melinda Bellus, Nicole Granata, Patricia Mims, Jesse Johnson, Ruthanne Becker, Sylvia Bolivar, Tajae Gaynor, Trice Thomas, Yoav Spiegel

Topic #1:	Discussion:
<b>Announcements/Updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annette Peters-Ruvolo, Co-Chair, started the meeting at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.</li> <li>• Craig Wong motioned to approved May’s meeting minutes. Anahaita Kotval seconded. All in favor, zero opposed.</li> <li>• Karl Bertrand announced Westchester County received additional ESG funds bringing the total that Westchester County will receive to \$8.3 million. It was suggested that Board members review the National Alliance to End Homelessness recommendations for possible adoption.</li> <li>• Anahaita Kotval reminded all that LUW soup kitchen continues to operate Mon-Fri 10:30am-12pm with grab-n-go lunches. People may have been confused because of the Thursday dry goods giveaway sponsored by Grace Church.</li> <li>• Nicole Granata announced that HDSW is operating a large diaper bank and welcomes everyone to spread the word. Annette to send out detailed info. today.</li> </ul>

Topic #2:	Discussion:
<b>Check in: racial injustice &amp; COVID: how are we coping?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Karl provided an open forum for attendees to express how staff and people we serve are doing amid the racial injustices and COVID.</li> <li>• Anahaita Kotval, LUW has been focusing on their staff. They have been speaking with staff, offering self-care workshops, and offering personal time.</li> <li>• Allison McSpedon, during case conferencing meetings, staff openly express differently managing additional stress of racial injustice daily.</li> <li>• WRO asked that if any staff experiences discrimination while housing an individual to contact WRO immediately.</li> <li>• Judy Mezey, the City of White Plains, discussed Governor Cuomo's orders for municipalities to develop a strategy to address racial injustice and policing.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tajae Gaynor, CLUSTER, announced there will be an event in Yonkers on 6/19 from 12pm to 2pm. This will be a march in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter Movement and celebrating Juneteenth.</li> <li>• Allison and Tiece are currently working on forming a workgroup to address racial disparities within our system and look into other CoC's efforts in this area as well as TA/training opportunities provided by HUD.</li> <li>• This topic will be a standard topic on future Board Meeting agendas to explore methods of change.</li> </ul>
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Topic #3:	Discussion:
<b>RRH Process Improvement Update and Next Steps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Craig Wong, DSS, continues to work with Westhab and shelter staff on referring individuals and families to RRH and developing a sustainable flow for referrals.</li> <li>• RRH had 15 new referrals in 2 weeks. They will continue to assess the procedures and workflow to maintain referrals/capacity.</li> </ul>

Topic #4:	Discussion:
<b>Coordinated Entry COVID19 policy review – may require vote by mail</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tiece presented the proposal for changes to the coordinated entry prioritization process.</li> <li>• Ideas included: Award additional points to persons who are 65+ and/or have the underlying health conditions listed by the CDC (lung condition, diabetes, blood disorder, respiratory disease)</li> <li>• Board did not feel comfortable voting to temporarily amend CE Process to place the existing high-risk individuals at the top of the priority list for referrals at this time</li> <li>• General concerns over prioritizing these individuals over those who have been waiting longer to be housed.</li> <li>• Jesse Johnson, Westhab expressed concerns regarding ranking position lowering if RRH expected to take individuals who are better-served in PSH.</li> <li>• Tiece will draft additional requests and information.</li> <li>• Board will review all the details of the proposal and vote by mail.</li> </ul>

Topic #5:	Discussion:
<b>Moratorium expires today – extend or let expire?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The moratorium will be extended until next board meeting on July 15<sup>th</sup>.</li> </ul>

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Topic #6:	Discussion:
<b>Meeting on Priorities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Target date set for June 30<sup>th</sup> for the Meeting on Priorities. This will be a zoom meeting with more details to follow.</li></ul>

**Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m**  
**Respectfully submitted: Triece Thomas**  
**Next Meeting: July 15th 2020**  
**Time: 9:30 a.m**  
**Location: Zoom Webinar**

**Date: 6/17/20**