

# Auburn/Cayuga Homeless Task Force

## Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2021

Present: Renee Jensen, City of Auburn; Shari Weiss, Cayuga Community Health Network; Jordan Marsh, 2-1-1; Olan Mack, Chapel House; Sarah Schutt, Housing and Homeless Coalition; Liz Vuillemot, Auburn Housing Authority; James Breslin, Gavras Center; MacKenzie DeOrdio, CAP; Gary Mann, Auburn Rescue Mission; Tim Donovan, Community Member; Jessica Schafer, CAP; Christina Bennett, CAP; Lindsay Kasper, VA; Danielle Cornwell, CAP; Darlene Podolak, Unity House; Rhonda Delaney, Kimberly Dunn, Chapel House; Megan Stuart, Housing and Homeless Coalition; Miranda Eddy, Housing and Homeless Coalition;

Next meeting: March 10th, 11 am

### 1. Welcome

Renee Jensen called the meeting to order at 11:03 am. No presentation was scheduled for this meeting. Introductions were done.

### 2. HHC Updates

Sarah Schutt shared information about the virtual training for tenant hardship form to prove pandemic hardship that is scheduled for Friday, January 15th. There will also be local rental assistance information that will be helpful for housing workers. We are actively coming to the end of the HUD reporting process; the Longitudinal System Analysis is due this Friday the 15th, and system performance measures are due at the end of February.

We are still looking for youth with homeless expertise from Cayuga County. Gary shared that he has an individual who has been interested, named Vanessa. He sent the information to the HHC.

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project workgroup is meeting tomorrow 1/14 at 10:30am. This workgroup is for youth providers within the CoC who would like to be part in the application process to add HUD Youth CoC funding to our CoC. If you are not currently on our email list and want to be a part of this process, please email Megan Stuart or Sherrain Clark at the CoC to receive the zoom link for tomorrow's meeting.

HUD has passed the bill so that HUD funded projects will be renewed at the same rate from the 2019 competition. There will be a grant agreement from Hud that each agency will have to sign and return. Megan assumes that it will come when your typical payment year starts. We are preparing for a 2021 NOFA as HUD has said that it will be on the normal schedule. There has

pre-monitoring offered from Megan and Sherrain. HMIS monitoring will be happening soon as well, in preparation for Sarah's maternity leave.

### **3. CoC Funded Program Updates**

Chapel House: Kim Dunn reported currently pairing with DSS to expand the shelter and the number of staff. The job posting is on Indeed. Men's shelter has 14; 2 left to go to rehab. Roles has 13. They are working toward getting individuals out of hotels. They are working with 24 families, 3 pending. Permanent Supportive Housing has 17, 2 pending, waiting for apartments and 4 waiting to be taken off CE. No COVID issues, trying to keep all sanitization up and keeping clients socially distanced. Mealtimes are staggered and extended to keep people apart. Olan Mack shared that he is excited that congregate living situations have been included in the Gov's vaccination eligibility. There is an online process and the logistical set up because a lot of the clients do not have emails/internet access.

CAP: Currently 13 enrolled, 3 from CE, talked with DSS to see who they will be taking of the list today. The program will be full after that.

### **4. Agency Updates**

No representatives from Cayuga County DSS were in attendance. DSS did receive ESG and is working to implement that funding. We will provide updates.

Danielle shared that they are working toward ESG-CV with the county for Rapid ReHousing, for families with HMIS/CE to guide. She will share updates as they make more progress.

Unity House: For the people eligible for vaccines who did not have email, they made appointments for them and transported them to the vaccine clinic.

### **5. Announcements/New Business:**

James Breslin shared an update the Village Center Apartment project. The plan is for 33 apartments- 8 for homeless individuals with developmental disabilities. They are hoping to do a deal with Ithaca. They are interested in the business and HRC funding through the state. They already have a waiting list. They are optimistic. They received grant from CBDG for childcare. Please contact him or have the families reach out to him. They have homework tutors and case workers to help. The 1-A group have already had 5 people receive the 1<sup>st</sup> vaccination. The county has been overwhelmed but they have still done an amazing job.

### **6. Point-In-Time Count**

PIT count will be held a week from today. We are not doing the broad-based volunteer effort that we normally do. We are utilizing the front facing shelters and people who work together to canvass. Instead of trying to do the entire region of Cayuga, the night of the count, the city of

Auburn will be done. The next day, Gary and Megan will be doing the rest of the county. There is a plan between Rescue Mission, CAP and Chapel House. Gary is going to take last year's list of encampments. Any additional information of new locations should be given to Gary. Christina will take on the 24hr locations. Kimberly Dunn offered 4 people willing to volunteer. There is PPE available that was donated to United Way of Central New York. Kimberly will be able to come and pick that up from Syracuse.

Tim shared that the community support meetings for various addictions have been sparse due to the increased cases in Cayuga. There have been in-person meetings at the AA meeting location, however there is concern for the in-person meetings as several people who had tested positive had attended.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:43 am.