

Auburn Cayuga County Homeless Task Force

Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2021

Present: Renee Jensen, City of Auburn; Drew Scharoun, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, James Breslin, Gavras Center; Darline Podolak, Unity House; Denise Nevidomsky, CAP; Jessica Wagner, CAP; Liz Vuillemot, Auburn Housing Authority; Mary Rathbun, Cayuga County DSS; Meadow McDowell, Soldier On; Megan Stuart, HHC; Olan Mack, Chapel House; Pam Sanchez, Cayuga County DSS; Tracy Chang, 211; Tracy Boise-Cook, Sherriff's Office; Kathleen Dunn, UW Cayuga County; Rhonda Delaney; Grace Carlic, InterFaith Works, Ruth Stewart, Lindsay Kasmer, Veterans Affairs; Miranda Eddy, HHC;

Next meeting: November 10th, 11 am, Auburn City Hall

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 11:02 am. Introductions were made.

2. Presentation from Sleep in Heavenly Peace

Drew Scharoun from Sleep in Heavenly Peace presented. It is a 501c3 group of volunteers dedicated to building, assembling, and delivering hand-made beds to children and families in need. There was a little girl who was sleeping on the clothes that she wasn't wearing. He posted Luke Mickelson started in 2012. Helped by Mike Rowe (Returning the Favor)

Good quality sleep is important. It helps keep children healthy -physically, emotionally, and mentally, and also reduces stress in the household.

2-3% of most city populations have needs for beds. Many of the families are not low-income, but are living paycheck to paycheck or being supported by other family members. This program supports gap-income families.

They rely on donations, volunteers, building days, applications, delivery volunteers. Auburn Key Bank is partnering to build some beds. Saturday, October 2nd from 10 am-3 pm. There is an application for beds at www.shpbed.org. The families must be in a permanent housing situation, children from 3-17. They cannot provide beds for children younger than 3 years. They have several partnerships with mattress companies to purchase the mattresses at cost.

They can receive new knitted or crocheted blankets. Their shop is located in Finger Lakes Mall.

They work with Cayuga Counseling, Sheriff's office, CAP, City of Auburn Police, Auburn Hunger Task Force. The mailing address is 144 Genesee Street, Ste 102 #323 Auburn NY. They have programs in the following cities: Buffalo, Rochester, Auburn, Syracuse, Utica, Mechanicsville, Rye, NY.

Length of time for the waiting period is dependent on funding. COVID affected the mattresses availability as well. 6-8 weeks from application to delivery. Delivery is where they need the majority of help.

Waiting List: There is a waiting list- 66 people, 30 families

Tracy B shared that Cayuga Counseling has a Safe Sleep program for children 3 and under to receive a porta-crib.

Average \$250 per bed, \$500 for a bunk bed.

3. HHC Updates

Megan Stuart shared that the CoC has officially opened the RFP for local competition. There was an informational meeting last Wednesday. The recording is on the website. Applications are due on September 24th @ 5 pm. Just under \$500k in bonus funding. \$1.1 bonus carved out for DV. Applications for RRH, PSH, Transitional to RRH (we do not currently fund), Coordinated Entry on.

If anyone is interested, Megan is willing to meet this week. This does cover Oswego, Onondaga and Cayuga Counties.

<http://www.hhccny.org/coc/coc-funding-competition/>

4. CoC Funded Programs

Chapel House: Olan shared that the men's shelter has 28 individuals, 8 of them have been housed. ROLES: 24 individuals, 8 housed. PSH 8 individuals/families. 5 individuals matched from CE, and they are in the process of looking for housing at this point.

CAP: Denise did not have an update to share at this time. HEAP begins in October 1

5. Agency Updates

Cayuga County DSS: Mary shared that the numbers are high, currently 19 families 7 at RM, waiting on repairs on apartments. 12 families in hotels. 61 singles, 24 in shelter, 37 in hotels. People are coming in from out of county/state. All have case management and in CE. The numbers are not usually high so they are not sure what is affecting it. The moratoria ending is

ERAP is ongoing. Landlords have received several payments. CAP and Rescue Mission helped people apply online. Several people in court have indicated that they have applied which has stalled their evictions.

6. New Business/Announcements

Grace Carlic from InterFaith Works is the new Community Navigator. She covers all three counties with a focus on immigrant, economic, civic, and social engagement. There is a roundtable discussion on Sept 23rd @ 11:30 am. Her email is gcarlic@ifwcny.org and her phone is 315-449-3552 x220

The City of Auburn opening competitive proposals for CDBG. Renee will have more information at the next meeting. Community meetings will be held in the next month for feedback. This will shape their federal funding.

Auburn held a roundtable for human services. American Rescue Plan Funds and they are looking to distribute. They heard great feedback. Housing, food programs and mental health, Substance misuse programs. Respond and prevent COVID. They are working to do break-out groups to focus on specific areas: housing, food programs and mental health, Substance misuse programs.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 pm.