

Auburn, Cayuga County Homeless TaskForce

Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2022

Present: Renee Jensen, City of Auburn; James Breslin, Gavras Center; Nicole Gee, Street Outreach; Christina Bennet, CAP; Grace Wiseman, Intern with City of Auburn, Kathryn Dennis, UW of Cayuga County; Jessica Brooks, Soldier On; Ruth Stewart, RHY Cayuga Counseling; Tim Donovan, Community Member; Liz Vuillemot, AHA; Mary Rathbun, Cayuga DSS; Olan Mack, Chapel House; Lindsay Kasmer, VA; Mariana Paniagua, HHC; Gary Mann, Rescue Mission; Olive Sephuma, IFW; Grace Carlic, IFW; Kimberly Dunn, Chapel House; Stephanie Hutchison, AHA; Erica Ryan, Homsite; Megan Stuart, HHC; Steve Woodward, Cayuga BOCES;

Next meeting: Date, time, Location

1. Welcome and Introductions

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

2. HHC Updates

Miranda Eddy shared that the Youth Action Board is still looking for representation from Cayuga and Oswego county. Renee recommended Ruth Stewart may be able to recruit.

Nicole and Gary shared about the Point In Time count. Training will be on January 20th via zoom @ 2:30 pm. The count will be held on January 26th from 7-11 pm. The meeting hub will be Rescue Mission. Volunteers either need to be vaccinated or have a negative COVID test within 72 hrs. The volunteers will be grouped together within vaccination status or working together. PPE will be provided with N95 and hand sanitizer.

At the end of the night, if there are places in question, the next day surveyors will go visit the spots to see if anyone is still there. Information will be left in those locations. Everyone is required to attend the training.

Tim will try to collect some donations for the PIT volunteers.

3. CoC Funded Agency Updates

Chapel House: 23 clients, 8 DA, 10 positive exits. Roles has the normal average with 7 positive exits. PSH program has clients and is looking to find more affordable housing. They have met with some new landlords. The STEHP program has 22 families. 36 total positive outcomes for 2021. They hired two new case managers and are always looking for shelter aides for nights and weekends. Cayuga Community has a human service program that can use this for their intern opportunities.

Olan thanked the community partners because staff partners have helped out as Chapel House staff had been out with COVID.

CAP: Currently, the ESG programs are full. Homeless prevention has all 12 positions full. HUD program signed in two with a couple graduating. Still looking for available housing. 2 individuals are currently in hotels. No updates from Danielle.

4. Agency Updates

Cayuga DSS: They are currently seeing the highest number of homeless people. The count has doubled from last year. 19 families, 13 are in hotels, 2 are transitioning to RM in the next week. 98 single individuals. 80 in hotels. They have really had to advocate to find places for people. There have been COVID staffing issues.

Cayuga Community Health Network: Nicole has been consistently at DSS. 24 clients have been helped. Some people have needed help with paperwork. 1 unsheltered man has refused help. She has met with a lot of different agencies: volunteering at pantries, attending luncheons, and helping people gain employment. She is able to provide individuals with PPE and vaccine education.

Homsite: They are working on prioritizing section 8. If provided a referral letter, the applicants will be moved to the top of the waiting list. Agencies are welcome to check the status and add them with an applicant and referral letter.

Gavras Center: The successfully submitted an HHAP application. James thanked partners for all the shared data. ESSHI received an extension. They have been working with people who are housing vulnerable and working toward educating their employees in orientation about resources. He would like to propose a 3-5 minute training video with resource education and where else people can go if they can't access resources.

Community Announcements:

Tim shared about Catholic Charities of the finger lakes coat drive. The drop-off was Sacred Heart Church. The coats will be available for those who need them. Please contact Catholic Charities if you have a need

There is a community trailer available for moving needs. It is being housed at 282 Grant Ave with Chapel House.

The Citizen publishes the weekly lunch menu for those who need food. There are updated venues in the Citizens.

The Knights of Columbus just completed an annual soup kitchen on Tues from 4-6. It's been slow but they were able to feed several individuals and families.

He also thanked everyone for helping those in vulnerable states.

James is cycling off the Chapel House board of directors so he would like to extend an invitation to people in this committee. If you have any interest in serving on this board, please contact him.

5. Adjournment

Since the next meeting won't be until March 9th, if you have any community updates that you would like to share, please send them to Renee and she will see that they are sent out.

Meeting adjourned @ 11:52 am.