

Auburn Cayuga County Homeless Taskforce

Meeting Minutes

July 13, 2022

Present: Renee Jensen, City of Auburn; Alyssa Magliono, Helio Health; Mary Rathbun, Cayuga County DSS, Kim Dunn, Chapel House; Rick Hansinger, Chapel House; James Breslin, Gavras Center; Shari Weiss, Cayuga Community Health Network; Katya Cornelius, Cayuga County DSS, April Rowlands, Goodwill of the Finger lakes/211; Christina Bennett, CAP; Liz Vuillemot, Auburn Housing Authority; Nicole Gee, Cayuga Community Health Network; Darlene Podolak, Unity House; Kathleen Zettlemoyer, CAP;

Next meeting: September 14th, 11 am, Auburn City Hall

1. Announcements

The meeting was called to order @ 11:01 am. Introductions were made.

2. HHC Updates

The Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project grant was successfully submitted. The HHC Team should receive the results by the end of summer.

The HMIS Data Administrator is currently on vacation but she will present the Cayuga-specific Point In Time data at the next meeting.

Megan Stuart shared the update about the special notice for the Supplemental NOFO, which is specifically designed for two special populations: unsheltered and rural. New projects serving Cayuga County residents are the only projects who can apply for rural funding. All states will have the top 10 CoCs funded. There is \$322 million available nationally and for our CoC, the carve-out is around \$8 million for the unsheltered and \$300k for the rural for a three-year funding cycle. Severe service needs, advancing equity and housing first models. The project types that are eligible to apply are PSH, RRH, TH-RRH, SSO-CE, SSO-SO, and HMIS. This is going to require a 15-page plan for the entire CoC for how we plan to serve the populations with severe service needs, with a focus on housing first and equitable models.

We will not have the bonus points for having over 1000 individuals unsheltered in our CoC so everything else we submit will have to be perfect.

The unsheltered carve-out is either full funding or no funding.

The rural carveout can be funded project by project. If the application scores high enough, we could get rural and not the unsheltered.

There is more funding allocated from Congress to the CoC so we expect more bonuses in the regular NOFO process.

The HHC evaluated funding in each county versus the population of those experiencing homelessness and found that Cayuga is under-funded from CoC dollars in comparison to the other counties.

3. CoC Funded Agencies

Chapel House: They are still looking for more shelter aides, They are offering a more competitive salary so please encourage people to apply. Both locations have been under renovations. Men's is almost complete. Still working on the Grant project. 12-15 individuals in the men's shelter; same for Roles. PSH is steady at 23. The STEHP program is full.

CAP: HUD RAP has 13, working on several openings. One is DV, and 1 from DSS, and the last 1 found housing through Ian at Chapel House. ESG programs are both full, prevention does have a security deposit and rent, so some funding is still available; they can help with up to 6 months of back rent.

4. Agency Updates:

DSS: They are currently serving 97 households, and 132 people in 5 motels. In the last 2 months, 25 people have moved into permanent housing. 19 exited to unknown locations. 44 households, 9 families, all the others are single individuals. These numbers are about average since evictions are starting. Grant hotel is still planning on contracting with the county.

Cayuga Community Health Network: More clients are out and about with the warmer weather. Still checking on the encampment, possibly where the 19 individuals exited to unknown destinations from DSS landed. They have been able to skip DSS and go directly to Homsite and secure housing, but the issue is finding landlords willing to rent to those individuals. The landlords talk with each other. The mobile crisis only operates from 9 am to 9 pm and they are working on expansion. But since Nicole is a one-woman show, it's been difficult to answer those calls.

Helio Health: COTI program (315-401-4288) is 24 hours operational, and they will travel to help people in need. Open Access (315-471-1564) can do assessments over the phone.

Gavras Center: They are currently redeveloping the old middle school that will have 21 units for Developmental Disabilities. They received their last capital grant. It will be about a 2-year timetable. There will be units designated for those experiencing homelessness.

211: 988 direct dial is going live on July 16th. It is functional right now in Cayuga County.

The state is expecting about a 40% increase in mental health crises. They are expecting calls from people who are just curious. They are working on MOUs with the 911 call centers. April offered the 211 data to the HHC.

City of Auburn: FY 21 for CBDG just ended, along with the coronavirus funding that provided homelessness assistance, parental assistance, and other programs. Ending means that they are gearing up for the new funding stream of \$1.2 million for human service agencies. There are two different applications: one is direct benefit, and the other is agency financially affected by COVID.

Agencies can apply for both streams of funding. Direct financial can include capital improvement and system upgrades with a program limit of \$40k. For the financial impact application, the program limit is \$100k. The grant information is direct from the Department of the Treasury and can be very technical. If anyone needs assistance with it, please contact Renee.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:37 am. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 14th at 11 am.