

Auburn Cayuga County Homeless Taskforce

Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2023

Present: Renee Jensen, City of Auburn; Darlene Podolak, Unity House; Mary Rathbun, Cayuga County DSS; Tim Donovan, Community Member; Alyssa Magliano, Helio Health; Arlene Ryan, Community Member; Alexa Hicks, Chapel House; Kim Dunn, Chapel House; James Breslin, Gavras Center; Nicole Gee, Cayuga Community Health Network; Gary Mann, Auburn Rescue Mission; Liz Burke, Cayuga County Mental Health; Kathryn Dennis, United Wau, Jordan Marsh, 211/988; Chico Martinez, Peer Advocate, Edward Pickard, Auburn Police Department; Megan Stuart, Housing and Homeless Coalition; Miranda Spencer, Housing and Homeless Coalition;

Next meeting: March 8th, 11 am, Auburn City Hall

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Renee Jensen called the meeting to order at 11:01. Introductions were made.

2. HHC Updates

Miranda Spencer shared about Youth Action Board recruitment. She passed out flyers to those who were interested.

Tim shared about the Client Advisory Board is also working on recruitment and training for homeless peer advocates. Miranda shared that the Client Advisory Board members are trying to work toward a certification of homeless peer advocates and an evidence-based training. There is also recruitment for the CAB on going.

Megan Stuart shared the general membership meeting on February 15th @ 1:30 pm.

There is no update on the NOFO funding applications. The information should be coming any time now. The SNOFO will be released anywhere from February to April.

3. CoC Funded Agency Updates

Chapel House: Kim shared that they have 23 PSH households. Men's shelter served 106 last year; 56 CDBG unique individuals. 132 Roles individuals. PSH served 27. There are currently 4 families to be housed by Friday. Prevention served 41 households. CDBG funding for RRH served 20 individuals with about \$30k for rental assistance. EFSP still going: \$2k for RA, \$11K utilities available however back pay must be within 3 months. CDBG for Franklin house case management. They are currently working on the UW RFP and mini grants.

CAP: no updates. RRH reports 16 households.

4. Agency Updates

DSS: Mary shared that they are housing 21 families, 13 in hotel, 8 at RM, and 99 singles. 76 in hotel rooms. There are 10 out of 15 at Chapel House and 14 out of 16 at ROLES. They now have a service overseer, 1.5 FTE people helping case managers and the people at the hotels. They are looking for a human service examiner postings, and a data entry specialist positions to be filled.

CCHN: ESSHI received for 12 units for SMI individuals, 82 people served to date. A lot of people are coming from out of state. Community is starting to reach out through social media and Nicole is able to reach out. She serves about 5-20 people monthly. Meeting with the Sheriff Schenk to help inform and invite the community to help and what numbers are appropriate to call when they see someone struggling.

City of Auburn: They are in the middle of CBDG action plan writing. Renewal applications were due on Monday. They are working on shifting priorities. She has been looking at the past year 21- 8 progs for homelessness, rental assistance, street outreach. With \$94,459, 368 individuals reached and was aided by COVID funding.

UW: Annual RFP funding available due at the end of the month. The application is on their website. They are offering new mini grants up to \$1K. These are rolling grants, closing in March for the fiscal year. Two applications came in and the agencies received their funding within 2 days. She brought some info for the mini grants to pass along.

5. Point In Time Count

The Point In Time Count will take place on January 25th. It will be similar to previous years. Headquarters will be at Rescue Mission. There are a lot of new volunteers. Nicole and her colleague will be doing the next day surveying. 7:30 is the arrival time for volunteers the night of PIT.

There is mandatory training. There are three different training times that should work with most schedules.

- January 17th, 1 pm @ Rescue Mission: 51 Merriman
- January 24th, 10 am via zoom
- January 24th, 5:30 pm via zoom

Tim shared that there are several businesses providing food: Panera; Pavlo's and Mark's pizzeria.

Nicole has more new locations to add than previous years. The surveying is important. The buddy system is always employed.

6. New Business

James shared that there is a church talking to some landlords because some landlords are kicking refugees out after 6 months. He is looking to connect with the other agencies. DSS has some funding. The Knights Of Columbus are also helping with refugee resettlement.

Tim handed out resources with the AA/NA support groups and the Cayuga County mental health support. There is a traditional soup kitchen with the schedule. The annual coat drive has been a challenge but there are some churches and businesses that are participating. The flyer for the coat drive will be distributed after the meeting via email. Once the coats are collected, they are distributed to CAP, Chapel House, Rescue Mission, and other places who have expressed a need.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned @ 11:52 am.